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Rabbi Yosef Wolvovsky, executive director of the Chabad Jewish Center in Glastonbury, danced on the Colchester Town Green last Wednesday, Nov. 27, as he hosted the sixth annual Hanukkah celebration of the lighting of the community menorah.

## Area Residents Celebrate Hanukkah

by Melissa Roberto

Temperatures were in the 30s and rain was falling last Wednesday night, Nov. 27, but Jewish residents from Colchester and surrounding towns were in high spirits as they proudly stood in the Colchester Town Green to watch the lighting of the first candle on the giant community menorah.

This was Colchester's sixth annual Hanukkah celebration organized by Rabbi Yosef Wolvovsky, executive director of the Chabad Jewish Center in Glastonbury. Colchester was the first stop of the week for Wolvovsky and his wife Yehudis, who traveled to Middletown, Tolland, Ellington and Glastonbury the following four nights.

Per Hanukkah tradition, Wolvovsky and his wife handed out hot latkes and cider but according to the Rabbi that wasn't the only way the crowd could keep warm.

"It gets you warmer when you scream loud!" Wolvovsky told attendees as he asked them to recite "Happy Hanukkah!"

The celebration of Hanukkah is to commemorate two major events of the Jewish. In 165 BCE, a small group of the Jewish called

the Maccabees were outnumbered by the Greeks but were able to challenge their oppressors and overcome the Greek tyrannical rule. The second is the celebration of the Hanukkah miracle. After the Temple of Jerusalem was defiled, the Maccabees discovered a small jug of oil that was meant to fuel the menorah for only one day, but instead it burned for eight days.

A first this year at the Colchester lighting was the accompaniment of live music. Colchester Elementary School teacher Roz Etra played the accordion. This prompted Wednesday's celebration to begin with a game in which attendees were asked to sing "I Have a Little Dreidel," but to replace the word "clay" with a new material the dreidel could be made out of. One woman requested the dreidel be made of ice.

"Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of ice," the crowd sung, "and when I tried to spin it, it spun so very nice."

When the time came to light the first candle, the combination of rain and heavy winds made

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## High School Track Coach Begins New Chapter

by Elizabeth Bowling

Monday marked the beginning of the 2013-14 indoor track season and this year East Hampton High School's team is under new leadership, as the head coach of the past 15 years has retired.

Bill Wilkie turned over the title of head track coach to Kim Libera after resigning in June, at the end of his 12th outdoor track season.

The 54-year-old retired as both the indoor and outdoor track coach so he could take on a new position: assistant indoor and outdoor track coach at Eastern Connecticut State University, a Division III program that he said is "really starting to grow."

Wilkie, an East Hampton resident, also closed down his home remodeling business, Bill's Remodeling and Home Repair, upon taking the new job.

But while the indoor and outdoor track programs have someone new at the helm, Wilkie will remain on board as East Hampton's cross country coach – a position he's held for 16 years.

Wilkie broke into East Hampton's running program when he became the head coach of the EHHS cross country team in the fall of 1998. In the winter of 1998, he also took on the title of indoor track coach. He rounded out the three-season school year when he became the outdoor track coach 12 years ago in the spring of 2001.

Wilkie said he took on the third coaching position because "it was really hard to work with the kids from September to March and then walk away and not be involved with the last season."

He added, "I think it's better for the athletes to have continuity of coaching."

But when last year's outdoor track season concluded in June, his resignation went into effect.

Wilkie recalled when the head track coach at Eastern, Kathy Manizza, first reached out to him about joining her coaching staff for the upcoming year.

Manizza, who's in the midst of her second year as head track coach at Eastern, approached Wilkie during the spring season last year. The two discussed the job offer throughout May and June, and by mid-June, Wilkie made his final decision.

Wilkie and Manizza had crossed paths previously, as "track and field's a small world and Connecticut's a small state," Wilkie said, so Manizza knew Wilkie was used to dealing with a lot of new athletes each year – each outdoor season at EHHS yields a team of about 80 to 100 kids (which is about 20 percent of EHHS students) and the indoor season must have a cap of 60 athletes– so she reached out to him.

Wilkie said his "ability to deal with a lot of events and a lot of athletes" is his strong suit

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The former head coach of East Hampton High School's indoor and outdoor track teams, Bill Wilkie, officially retired from the position in June to take on the title of assistant track coach at Eastern Connecticut State University. Wilkie, pictured here on the EHHS track, will continue coaching EHHS cross country.

**Holiday Shopping Guide Inside**



**Colchester Elementary School teacher Roz Etra joined in on the annual lighting of the menorah this year by providing live accordion music. The rain didn't stop her or attendees, as they danced and sang along to Etra's Hanukkah tunes.**

### Hanukkah cont. from Front Page

it difficult. Wolvovsky stepped high on a ladder to light the first candle on the nine-foot tall menorah, but wasn't lucky the first, second, or third times that followed.

In the meantime, kids enjoyed answering Hanukkah questions during a free raffle hosted by Wolvovsky. The winners received Hanukkah-related items.

The menorah could be lit either by hand or electronically. And though the candle was not lighting, Wolvovsky wasn't giving up lighting it by hand.

"We'll keep trying until we have no other options," he said.

While the rabbi tried to light the candle, family members, close friends and children enjoyed each other's company. Colchester mother Hilery Slattery, who brought her two daughters, Myriam, 15, and Tybal, 12, said they all especially enjoyed Etra's accordion playing. Tybal and Myriam both had Etra as a music teacher when they attended elementary school.

"My girls were so excited to see Mrs. Etra," said Slattery.

Etra said the accordion is just one of several instruments she plays. The music teacher often travels to soup kitchens and nursing homes in area towns including New London and Norwich to supply holiday music. Etra said she enjoys doing this because it's a way to "spread some joy."

"That's what I do," the music teacher continued. "It doesn't matter what type of music it is. 'Tis the season."

Slattery, alongside close family friends Elisa Balaban and her three sons, JJ, 18, Michael, 16, and Jordan, 15, have been attending the Colchester lighting since it began in town six years ago. Michael Balaban said "probably" his favorite part of the community lighting on the green are the hot latkes.

Slattery explained the eight days of Hanukkah are full of many traditions, one of which is

to cook special foods in oil in honor of the oil miracle. The two mothers said in addition to latkes, doughnuts fried in oil is another family favorite Hanukkah treat.

"It isn't the healthiest holiday!" Elisa Balaban said with a laugh.

Eventually, the candle was lit. Wolvovsky was all smiles as he turned to the crowd saying, "And you thought it would never happen!"

"It's really a miracle when you have to work for it," said Colchester resident Jerry Blum.

Blum furthered he felt it "means more" to light the candle by hand than electronically. He then told the crowd what he felt were the two Hanukkah miracles of the night.

"We're in a country where we're allowed to be together and we are here in this town to celebrate our religion," Blum said.

The celebration came to a close, but Wolvovsky told the crowd a miracle had occurred that night.

"It got done!" Wolvovsky said of lighting the candle. "This is the miracle of Hanukkah! Colchester 2013!"

After the celebration Wolvovsky concluded he was "extremely impressed that people came out despite the difficult weather."

"It was a tough night but we're not afraid of tough nights," Wolvovsky furthered, "and really the story of Hanukkah is overcoming adversity, overcoming difficulty and people today proved that the spirit is still there. The original menorah was lit by fire. We wanted to stick to the original even if it meant taking a little more effort."

The eight days of Hanukkah have since ended, but Wolvovsky is already looking forward to next year's lighting with the hopes for better weather, he said.

The Chabad Jewish Center in Glastonbury hosts events all year round. For more information about the center and its events, visit [chabader.com](http://chabader.com) or call 860-659-2422.

### Track Coach cont. from Front Page

on the ESCU coaching staff.

According to Wilkie, ECSU's co-ed track program was made up of 25 student-athletes last year; this year, that total more than doubled, to 65, and next year the program is projected to have 80.

"The team is really developing," he said. "I can definitely see Eastern being one of the stronger track and field programs in the state of Connecticut in a few years. The program's doing all the right things to make changes."

After eight weeks of training, ECSU's first meet of the season is tomorrow, Dec. 7, and Wilkie said he's looking forward to finally competing.

"There's a big difference between high school and college; in high school eight weeks is your entire season," Wilkie laughed.

In another high school-to-college comparison, Wilkie said, "It's a big step [for athletes] from high school to college in some regards. It's a big step as far as the commitment of training and the volume of training that they do. I think I have the ability to kind of guide them through that process."

In a happy reunion, Wilkie is working with three EHHS alumni who are now members of the ECSU track team – Chelsea Morsey, who graduated EHHS in 2012; Nikki Chambers, 2011; Mike Dolde, 2011; and Evan Glaude, 2010 – and maybe more alumni will join them. After all, Wilkie said at least one graduating EHHS track athlete goes on to compete at the college level "just about every year." He estimated that about 25 of his athletes have done so over the course of his coaching career.

He said he hopes that some of his former athletes "will find their way to Eastern."

"There's a lot of talented athletes here at the East Hampton program," he said. "Just because the coaches have changed, I don't see this program slowing down at all."

He went on to wish his successor the best of luck, assuring that "she's got a great environment to coach here. She's got a great bunch of athletes. I hope her all the success in the world."

EHHS Athletic Director Shaun Russell affirmed that the new track coach, Libera, is a "long-time cross country [and] track and field coach." She has more than a dozen years of experience coaching at Glastonbury High School, South Catholic High School in West Hartford, Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Middletown and Tolland Middle School.

Russell also reflected on Wilkie's coaching career. "We were very fortunate to have someone of Bill's ability coach here," he said.

Russell went on to acknowledge that Wilkie was a "huge reason" for the success of the school's running programs, as well as their participation rates.

Russell called Wilkie a "quality coach" and "role model" for students.

And even though he's moving on, Wilkie said he'd "absolutely" come back to watch EHHS track meets.

In fact, Wilkie said EHHS track athletes can expect to see him recruiting at upcoming state championship meets, sporting an ECSU baseball cap.

As one of five ECSU track coaches, Wilkie is responsible for recruiting, though his involvement is focused on technique events (like jumping, throwing, decathlons and hurdles) as well as sprints (including sprint relays).

His contract is year-by-year, he said, but he thinks he'll stay at ECSU for a while.

"I think it's a good fit up there," he said. "I enjoy working with the coaching staff that's there. The athletes there are really enjoyable."

But Wilkie knows he will miss his 15-year involvement with the East Hampton track program. "It was sad to leave here, even though I was excited to go on," he said.

He added that he couldn't pinpoint his fondest memory because each athlete walks away

from each season with a shining moment. And because hundreds of students have gone through the program, he has too many fond memories to choose from, he said.

"I'd be really hard-pressed to give you one fond memory, because I've got hundreds of memories," he said. "It's really been an incredibly fun 16 years coaching here. Every season, every meet that we go to – there's just great things that have happened."

However he was able to mention what was generally his favorite aspect of coaching at East Hampton – the relationships.

"I'm going to miss the day-to-day contact with the student-athletes for sure," he said. "In the day-to-day practices, you get to know the kids so well."

He added, "It's a really close-knit team. You might think that's hard to do with 100 kids, but it's a really tight-knit group."

That tight-knit feel wouldn't have been possible without the help of Wilkie's three assistant coaches: Roger Abraham, Joe Holloway and Pat Rubega.

Wilkie said the help those three provided was the "best assistant coaching I've ever had" and "another reason it was hard to move on."

In an effort to leave behind some words of wisdom to his former athletes, Wilkie suggested they "keep setting their goals really high and make the commitment to do the work to achieve them. It's amazing what high school aged kids can accomplish when they really put their mind to it."

Between the indoor and outdoor track teams, Wilkie's teams won a total of 15 conference championships, and were runner-up state champions twice.

In his continuing 16-year coaching stint with the EHHS cross country team, Wilkie's teams won 10 conference championships and one girls' state championship in 2008, and was runner-up for 11 state championships.

Mixed in with all those achievements was a four-year span when Wilkie's son was on the track team – a period of time Wilkie particularly enjoyed.

"You don't often get a chance to coach at the high school in the town you live in and have your son on your team," he said. "That was kind of neat."

But before Wilkie became such an accomplished coach, he ran four years of high school track and cross country when he attended Granby High School, where his specialties were the mile run and the two-mile run. After high school, he went on to run track and cross country at Central Connecticut State University, which was a Division II program at the time. There, his specialties were the 5K and 10K. It was also there where he earned his degree in physical education.

"I've been running for 41 years – I enjoy it more now than ever," Wilkie said.

In fact, he ran the Hartford Marathon less than two months ago, in three hours and 26 minutes.

Aside from being a runner himself, Wilkie has plenty of coaching experience in addition to his career at EHHS. First he coached at Conard High School in West Hartford, then at Wethersfield High School. He also coached disabled athletes at the Paralympic level for 25 years – something he'll be taking on again starting next week at the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain.

It seems Wilkie is constantly juggling a busy schedule. Until recently, his coaching at Eastern overlapped with his coaching the high school cross country team. Now that cross country is over, his work with ECSU will overlap with his work with the Paralympics.

But somehow, despite Wilkie's hectic schedule, he manages to maintain a friendly demeanor – maybe it's because he gets to wear sweatpants and running sneakers to work. Whatever it is, it's working.

# Hebron Selectmen Finalize STEAP Priorities

by Geeta Schrayter

At the Board of Selectmen meeting Nov. 21, the board finalized its priorities for the next round of Small Town Economic Assistant Program (STEAP) grant applications.

The town will submit an application to the state for \$500,000 that would be used for downtown/Main Street improvements including a sidewalk extension from the center of town to Hebron Elementary School for \$260,000; the installation of colonial-style electric street lights along the north side of Main Street from Wall Street to Ted's Plaza for \$100,000; \$25,000 for the Business Façade Improvement Program to supplement an existing \$75,000 and restoration work at the Peters House for \$115,000.

Regarding the lights, Board of Selectman Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan asked if they would only be installed on the north side of the street, and Town Planner Mike O'Leary informed her that, right now, the plan was to focus there. As sidewalks start to get connected on the south side, he said, lights could be considered, but for now, it "made sense" to install them on the north side of the road, he said.

Additionally, O'Leary talked about the Business Façade Improvement Program and said six different business façades had been improved along Main Street through the program and three more projects had been approved.

"We've actually used [the program] in some conversations over the last couple of months when some businesses look at the town," he explained, adding "I think that really caught some attention. It's nice to have that little incentive available in our tool kit, if you will."

The selectmen all expressed support for the projects. Mulligan mentioned the town has been "very successful" with downtown projects, while selectman Jeff Watt said, "I support what we've got in front of us" and Dan Larson said, "I think it makes all the sense in the world."

As for the Peters House – the town-owned East Street home believed to be the one-time residence of Cesar and Louis Peters, two slaves who were captured and then rescued by Hebron residents in the late-18th century – Larson said he felt money for the restoration work was a "great idea."

"We've got great volunteers ready to work," he said. "This could go a long way toward the completion of that project."

Mulligan added there was still "considerable work to be done," but she felt the project needed to continue.

Watt added there had been a lot of debate on the house, but the board had decided if any major work needed to be done they would look into grant opportunities – which was exactly what they were doing.

Selectman Mark Stuart said he had "a lot of hesitancy" on the project – in the past he has indicated reluctance to spend town money on the building, as there's not a clear direction for the project – but since some work had already been completed and some structural damage was discovered, "we should at least get it repaired."

"I still want to understand where we're going in the long-term [with the house]," he added, "but in this particular case, I'll support this," he said.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said the town was going to try to get volunteers to do the rest of the work on the project, outside the \$115,000 in grant funding.

O'Leary added the Peters House was a "great, positive project."

The motions to approve applying for a STEAP grant for funding to help restore the Peters House as well as improvements to downtown/Main Street passed unanimously.

\* \* \*

Also at the meeting, the board discussed the property that houses Camp Hemlocks, which has provided a place for individuals with disabilities to experience camp life since 1974 (prior to that, the camp had been located in Trumbull since 1950). Easter Seals Coastal Fairfield County announced in September it

would close the camp due to financial reasons, and the selectmen have been wondering what will happen to the property in town.

Tierney shared at the meeting the property wasn't yet on the market, and said Easter Seals was going to perform a feasibility study, but as of yet, nothing was definite. He went on to say he'd like to get state officials involved to help express the town's concerns and tell Easter Seals they wanted to be involved with the decision-making process moving forward.

Watt agreed, and said he felt a letter should be sent along with the state representatives telling Easter Seals they wanted to know what direction it was planning to head in within 90 days.

Stuart added it would be "a real loss" if the property was no longer used as a needs-based facility, considering it was one of less than a dozen fully handicapped-accessible facilities in the country.

But "the ball is in their court," said selectman Brian O'Connell, who agreed a letter should be written urging Easter Seals to keep the town apprised of their plans.

\* \* \*

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.

## Visions of Lights Dance at Hebron Yogurt Shop

by Geeta Schrayter

Brain Freezers is ready for the holidays. Stepping into the frozen yogurt shop in Hebron, patrons will come across garlands and wreaths, Christmas trees and sparkly bows, flavors like "egg nog" and "olde fashioned candy cane" and warm drinks like hot cocoa and coffee.

The holiday spirit can also be found outside, where owner John Johnson Jr. has set up a festive light show – Frozen DeLights - that's hard to miss.

Over the past few years Johnson, who is also a computer programmer and president of the Hebron Lions Club, explained he's set up a light display outside the Lions Den at the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds.

"But of course that was only viewed by a limited amount of people," he said, adding he decided to put something together that could be enjoyed by a larger audience. And with a location right on Main Street, Brain Freezers was the perfect spot.

"I said, 'let's see if I can attract some people to town [with the show] and bring some joy to kids,'" Johnson stated.

At the end of last month, Johnson worked with volunteers – at times five or six other people – to set up the display. The process took about two weekends, he explained, but the lights aren't there to simply turn on and glow. Utilizing his computer skills and software he purchased, Johnson was able to synchronize the lights to music. (Johnson has also used his computer knowledge inside his shop, where touching any of the screens above the frozen yogurt machines sets off a holiday sound like a Christmas message from Santa or a joke told by an elf.)

Johnson explained there are 199 "different on-and-off switches, essentially" that allow him to control which color lights he wants to go on and when. To help with the process of synchronizing the lights, Johnson purchased a number of sequences from Rich Holdman, a Utah man

Johnson said could be considered "the godfather of the elegant Christmas display," who became known for the displays he used to set up at his home. Although he no longer has the house display, Holdman now consults with other people interested in similar displays and sells the sequences he created.

Johnson purchased sequences for nine different songs that he broadcasts on 93.5 FM using a small FM transmitter. This allows people nearby or driving past Brain Freezers to tune in on their radio and catch the festive show.

The display officially started lighting up the night last Saturday and so far Johnson said the response has been positive.

"The reaction has been very good so far," Johnson said. "I hear it's been the talk of the town – that's what I've been told."

Either before or after catching the lights sparkle and blink in a myriad of colors to songs such as "Carol of the Bells," "Amazing Grace" and "Winter Wonderland," guests can head inside for their treats. Along with the sounds Johnson set up, the touch-screens depict some of the holiday flavor possibilities: mixing egg nog with espresso creates a holiday "cup of Joe"; putting together olde fashioned candy cane and triple chocolate makes peppermint bark; and a bit of chocolate mint and cookies 'n cream creates chocolate mint cookies.

Although chilly treats are the main draw at Brain Freezers, those who prefer something warm for the winter months can also find cups of hot chocolate, coffee, cappuccino, lattes and chai. Beginning yesterday, a variety of soups became available as well. Four varieties will be available at a time and may include hearty beef stew, chicken noodle, vegetarian three bean chili, corn chowder, Italian wedding or shrimp and sausage gumbo – thereby ensuring the shop has something for everyone.

Along with those tasty treats and the bright lights, there are also a number of holiday-related events planned. Now through Dec. 15,



**Brain Freezers has gotten into the holiday spirit with more than just indoor décor and holiday yogurt flavors. Outside the Hebron shop, a large display of colorful lights can be found "dancing" to holiday songs in the evenings.**

customers can receive an entry blank for each yogurt and soup purchase and take a guess at how many lights the display includes. The customer with the closest guess will receive a \$25 gift card and a Brain Freezers tee-shirt.

The shop will also accept donations of gloves, hats, scarves or unwrapped toys for Hebron Interfaith and Human Services through Dec. 20 – and each donor will receive a \$3 gift card for a future purchase with each donation (for a maximum of \$10 in gift cards).

On Dec. 17, Girl Scout Troop 65414 will also

pay a visit to sing carols from 6:30-7:30 p.m., and Santa Claus is expected to stop by at a future date, likely looking to enjoy the light show and a treat of his own before the big night, Dec. 24.

To stay up-to-date on the holiday happenings at Brain Freezers or for more information, visit [Facebook.com/BrainFreezersCT](https://www.facebook.com/BrainFreezersCT).

To view the Frozen DeLights light show, head over to Brain Freezers at 65 Main St., Hebron, after dark. The show will run at the business until after New Year's.

# Discovery Zone Launches Location in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

For 12 years, Discovery Zone Learning Center has been providing child care to area children through their original location in Columbia, their Marlborough location which opened in 2004 and now, a Hebron location which opened at the end of August.

Executive Director and owner Robin Green explained this week opening in Hebron was “perfect” because there were many Hebron families who had children in the other two locations.

The Hebron location features three preschool rooms, two toddler rooms and two infant rooms although only one of each is currently open. Director Amanda Strong explained the other toddler and infant rooms may open in January or February, since both are already full, while the remaining preschool rooms may open in the spring.

“There’s been a great response [to the new location],” she said. “Even between the center that was here before [KinderCare] and here: people are very happy with the changes.”

“We have just about 30 kids a day after three and a half months,” Green stated, and said Discovery Zone was able to avoid two of the most common issues families have with child care centers: a lack of communication and consistency.

“It’s very challenging to leave a child with a different teacher every day,” she said, but at Discovery Zone that doesn’t happen.

“We just don’t do that. We have Monday-through-Friday employees,” Green said. “Each classroom has a full-time teacher” who either has a Child Development Associate credential, an associate or bachelor’s degree, with some working toward a higher degree.

At Discovery Zone, Strong said, kids will find “routine, education and consistency.” She added while Discovery Zone is a child care center, they didn’t think of themselves as

babysitters, “but an education program.”

“Every moment at Discovery Zone is a teaching and learning opportunity,” she said, noting the center followed the new Common Core State Standards.

“Our ultimate goal is to prepare [the kids] for school,” she furthered, while Green added it wasn’t mandatory for preschool programs to be aligned with the Common Core but they chose to be so at Discovery Zone to help achieve that goal.

Strong said a regular day for preschoolers includes aspects such as circle time, projects based on sensory and gross motor skills and different subjects such as math, science, language arts and dramatic arts. She explained the toddlers have a similar schedule but “one level down,” and may focus on the days of the week, number and letter recognition “and social and emotional things.”

The toddler curriculum is explained on the website [discoveryzone.info](http://discoveryzone.info) as “based on current research in early brain development, early childhood education and developmental psychology.”

Even for the infants, being at Discovery Zone means learning.

“There’s care, but still education,” Strong explained. “There are lesson plans [for infants] as well. The focus is on fine gross motor skills: sitting up, looking around, tummy time, lots of conversations.”

However, the “primary objective” for the infants is to keep each child “happy, secure, and safe,” according to the Discovery Zone website.

“We’re education based but in a warm and friendly environment,” Strong furthered, and said the center was good for “anyone that needs socialization from day one.”

The center accepts children age six weeks up to 12 years and the goal from the beginning “is to prepare kids socially, emotionally, edu-



**Discovery Zone, a child care center that was founded in Columbia, opened its third location in Hebron at the end of August. The center looks to provide care, routine and education in order to foster well-rounded children who are prepared for school.**

cationally – everything – for school.”

At the end of the day, Green added Discovery Zone, which her own two children have gone through, looks to foster “well-rounded kids.”

And achieving that is aided by the fact the staff enjoys their work.

“We love what we do and we do what we love,” Green said, “and that makes a difference.”

Moving forward, Green stated she hopes “to

continue to take care of kids in the best way we possibly can and to provide good structure.”

Strong said she enjoyed seeing the children – as well as the center – grow, and Green echoed those thoughts.

“Ditto,” she said. “There’s nothing like seeing them blossom.”

Discovery Zone’s Hebron location is at 45 Pendleton Dr. For more information, visit [discoveryzone.info](http://discoveryzone.info) or call 860-228-3952.

# Attorney Opens Up Office in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

Joseph La Bella has lived in Marlborough for 18 years, and has been a lawyer for 27 – and now he’s brought his business to town for the first time.

On Oct. 1, La Bella opened up law offices in the center of Marlborough, across from Town Hall at 31A North Main St., in the same plaza as Reale Hair and A Therapeutic Touch.

A familiar face around town due to his past stints on the boards of selectmen and finance, La Bella said his new office in Marlborough is actually “a new venture for me.”

“This is what I’ve always wanted to do as a lawyer,” he explained. “I’ve always wanted to have a small office near home where I could do work for people.”

The attorney explained his career has been “varied.” This is due to several areas of law he’s been involved in from a majority of civil litigation cases, to others involving corporate law, family law, estate planning, real estate transactions and workers’ compensation.

La Bella worked at three different law firms in the last 27 years. Right out of Georgetown Law, where he received his jurist doctor degree in 1986, La Bella worked for 11 years at the Hartford firm Cooney, Scully and Dowling. He then worked in a law firm for 10 years that focused on general practice with an emphasis on civil litigation at D’Attelo, Shields, La Bella & Smith in Rocky Hill.

For most of the past five years, La Bella worked in-house at Abbott & La Bella in Farmington for an insurance company. There, La Bella said, he often defended individuals in lawsuits pertaining to car accidents and injuries.

La Bella is a member of the bar in both Connecticut and Massachusetts, allowing him to practice in both states. Additionally, he is a member of the bar for the U.S. Supreme Court. Though he hasn’t argued in the Supreme Court yet, La Bella said he hopes to in the future.

When he was at those aforementioned firms,

La Bella was unable to do outside work due to agreements. Now at his own office, the attorney is able to do “whatever people need.” One of his focuses is elder law, which he said is born from personal family experiences. Additionally, La Bella said he’s currently doing “a little bit of everything now,” including real estate transactions, and wills and trusts.

On a local level, La Bella has also been quite active in town volunteering. He entered into the town’s political scene in 1996 as a member of the Board of Finance, and stayed on the board for roughly 10 years, ending as its chairman. He was then appointed to the Board of Selectmen in 2006 to fill Bill Black’s vacant selectman seat, who had moved up to first selectman’s seat via a special election at the time. He won a four-year term on the board in 2007, but opted not to run for re-election in 2011. He is currently co-vice chairman of the Democratic Town Committee.

La Bella and his wife Irene raised their two sons, twin boys Michael and James, in Marlborough. During his sons’ childhood years, La Bella coached youth soccer and baseball in town. He and Irene also currently coach Future Problem Solvers teams, a creative and critical thinking program for students in fourth through 12th grade. The La Bellas coach two home school teams and a RHAM Middle School team.

With a new office with just his name on it, La Bella stressed his practice in Marlborough is not open solely to Marlborough citizens, but to anyone. Although he’s in a new location, the attorney said his goal for clients has stayed the same.

“My goal is to secure the best outcome that I can based on clients’ needs,” said La Bella. “I represent them and ultimately it’s their interest that I’m representing.”

In addition to representing clients to the best of his ability, the seasoned lawyer furthered client development is also a part of that process. He strives to provide clients “a very per-



**Joe La Bella stands inside of his new law offices, located in the heart of Marlborough at 31A North Main St. He has been a lawyer for 27 years, and for the first time, has opened up his own office in town.**

sonal representation.”

“What I hope separates me [from other lawyers] is my ability to build relationships with clients and to really understand them, to get to the core of what they need and what they want.”

Along with the ability to now represent a broad range of clients, La Bella said another aspect of his own office that he’s already enjoyed in the last two months is being able to reconnect with professionals he’s worked with at past firms or in other settings.

La Bella added one day he hopes his office

will grow, but for now, “this is perfect.”

“I’ve done a lot of litigation; a lot of civil trial work. I’ve tried a lot of cases and I’ve done a lot of appeals,” he said. “I really enjoyed that but what I’ve always wanted to do is really invest in the community and I think that has happened in a lot of ways.”

Readers can contact the Law Offices of Joseph A. La Bella, located at 31A North Main St., at 860-342-8603 or visit [jalesq.com](http://jalesq.com). La Bella can also be reached via email at [joe@jalesq.com](mailto:joe@jalesq.com).

# No Replacement Yet for Gut in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

The resignation of Democratic selectman Mike Gut last month left a vacancy on the three-member board – and while the two remaining selectmen this week interviewed a candidate for his replacement, no decisions have been made.

On Tuesday night, the board interviewed Democrat Torin Lee-Lewis, who the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee (DTC) has endorsed for the replacement. According to town charter and state statute, the board has 30 days from the day Gut's resignation went into effect—which was Nov. 26—to appoint a new selectman. That means the board must appoint a candidate by Dec. 26.

By state law, the future selectman must also be a Democrat; however, the slot is not limited solely to a member of the DTC. Any registered Democrat in town can be appointed. 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, 5 percent of the registered voters in town, or 50 voters, whichever is greater, file a petition, a special election would be held.

Lee-Lewis fielded questions from both First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski and selectman Dick Shea Tuesday. Gaudinski said she had already met with Lee-Lewis prior to the meeting. Lee-Lewis has been a resident for nearly three years and owns Oneida Holistic Health Center in town. She ran for a seat on the Board of Finance last month but was not elected. She told the *Rivereast* back in October her decision

to run was influenced by “seeking transparency” in town government. On Tuesday, she explained her and her husband represent a bipartisan family.

At Oneida Holistic Health Center, Lee-Lewis is both the owner and a life coach. The center provides holistic health services to the community. Additionally, the DTC candidate has experience both as a volunteer and paid staff member for statewide and national campaigns including campaigns in Colorado, California, Michigan and Washington. She's also a former communications consultant of multiple Fortune 500 companies, which, she told the selectmen Tuesday, is where her career began. She also owned a consulting firm for eight years.

Lee-Lewis told the selectmen she came to town after meeting her husband, who was a Marlborough resident, three years ago. She said Tuesday she's “really grown to love Marlborough.”

“I'm committed to spending the rest of my life in this town so when the opportunity presented itself I thought why not volunteer,” she continued.

In her introductory remarks Lee-Lewis furthered, “I don't care what party people are, color people are, what religion people are. I don't think it has anything to do with anything. I think it's who you are and what kind of person you are and what you bring to the table. If you come in good faith I think compromise is always something that can be reached.”

Shea questioned Lee-Lewis about her knowledge of the time investment the selectman position calls for, as well as the need to attend other board meetings. He also questioned what

Lee-Lewis feels are two or three key issues the town is facing to which she replied “economic development.”

“It's really what the economic future of the town is because that supports everything else,” she stated.

Lee-Lewis explained the way to achieve future economic development is to “not lose sight of the long term goal but also not give up everything in the short term to get there.”

Gaudinski asked Lee-Lewis what she felt the responsibilities of a selectman are.

“I think it's to guard the things that are really great about being a smaller community,” Lee-Lewis responded, adding she once lived, and worked in politics, in Fairfax County, Va., of 900,000 people. “The 900,000 [population] that I came from—people got lost. You didn't get to know your neighbors. And here we have that. But also with that comes your responsibility to your neighbors. I feel the size of [Marlborough] should make all of us more accountable.”

Lee-Lewis furthered, “I think in one way, serving in a smaller environment means that you're absolutely, immediately accountable because I'm going to see you in the grocery store, in the gas station. So you better live with integrity and do what you need to do. These people are your extended family.”

Gaudinski and Shea agreed to table the decision to the next Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for Dec. 17. Gaudinski told Shea it was at that meeting the board will “see if any other Democratic candidates step forward and we could make a decision on that date.”

The first selectwoman's office confirmed Thursday no other candidates have yet to come

forward.

DTC Chairwoman Lauren Cragg commented this week on the board's actions.

“We are a little surprised that the Board of Selectmen did not act on the recommendation of the Marlborough DTC as that has been the practice for many years,” Cragg said. “We are optimistic that the Board of Selectmen will appoint Torin Lee-Lewis given her experience, diversity and commitment.”

Last week, DTC co-chair Joe La Bella made a statement about the DTC's endorsement of Lee-Lewis.

“Torin is a local business owner with 20 years of corporate experience,” La Bella said. “Her cooperative approach will be a great asset to the town's Board of Selectmen and will help move Marlborough forward in an open and constructive way.”

Information about Lee-Lewis can be found at [MarlboroughDems.com](http://MarlboroughDems.com).

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Also on Tuesday, the selectmen appointed members to boards and commissions in town. Resident Ben Levin was appointed to fill a regular member vacancy on the Water Pollution Control Authority Commission (WPCA). Louise Concodello was appointed to serve as the Board of Education member of the Capital & Non-Recurring Expenditure Plan Committee (CNR). Additionally, citizens William Hayes and Ed Richman were appointed to serve on the newly formed Architectural Design Review Board.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

# Colchester Teen Finds Unique Hobby, Shares with Others

by Melissa Roberto

Some people like to knit in their spare time. Others collect coins, or, especially around this time of year, take up baking, skiing or snowboarding. Colchester teen Molly Stanavage, however, enjoys a hobby that not a lot of people her age may have even heard of – beekeeping.

The 17-year-old attends Lyman Memorial High School, where she is enrolled in the vocational-agriculture (vo-ag) program. It was there that her dream of becoming an animal cop turned into a dream of becoming a veterinarian, and has since developed into the goal of becoming an agriculture teacher.

“I sort of changed a bit,” Stanavage said with a laugh. “As soon as I met my agriculture teachers I was like, ‘Oh, I want to be like you.’”

It is also her enrollment in the vo-ag program that allowed Stanavage to become a member of the National FFA Organization, formerly referred to as Future Farmers of America (FFA). Through the organization, which she became a part of when she was a freshman, Stanavage was able to explore the diverse paths of agriculture, and inadvertently stumbled upon the world of beekeeping.

Under the organization, students are expected to have classroom instruction and a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project. The SAE allows students to “learn by doing,” according to the FFA website, [ffa.org](http://ffa.org). Stanavage said it's typically a project that should “evolve over time” – and hers certainly has.

As a freshman, Stanavage had to determine what her SAE project would be. Her mom Laurie learned about the Eastern Connecticut Beekeepers Association, an organization for beekeeping hobbyists and enthusiasts that hold classes and monthly meetings in the state. At the time, the association was holding a beekeeping class at the University of Connecticut.

“[My mom] signed me up and I really didn't think I was going to like it,” said Stanavage, “and then I got hooked.”

After the four-week class, Stanavage knew beekeeping is something she wanted to stick with. She continued going to Eastern Connecticut Beekeepers workshops throughout the summer following her freshman year, and ultimately had two honey bee hives of her own. Fast-forward to today, and Stanavage now watches over four honey bee hives stationed in her backyard in Colchester, and another two hives kept out-

side her grandmother's house across town.

The high school senior admitted, “When you first do it, it's a little scary because you don't know what to expect.” Though for Stanavage, that fear factor dissipated quickly, and although the hobby results in occasional stings – Stanavage was once stung seven times in one visit – she finds beekeeping to be “really nice and peaceful.”

The senior furthered some beekeepers partake in the hobby to relieve stress. Others do it commercially to run large honey operations, she said. To her, bees are simply “incredible” and she views the activity as “a hobby.”

“Their senses are really cool and their bodies are built like a little machine,” Stanavage said.

In turn, Stanavage has been able to use her hobby as the foundation of her senior project, a requirement needed to graduate. The project requires students to write a seven- to eight-page paper, along with an Honors component, which involves a community piece like conducting a performance, fundraiser or community service. Stanavage chose to hold her own beekeeping class – similar to the very one that attracted her to the hobby – on Thursday, Nov. 7. The class was open to the public and a total of 42 people showed up. Stanavage taught attendees about bee anatomy, equipment, diseases and prevention, how to care for honey bees and honey harvesting.

“I think they got a lot of information out of it,” Stanavage said. “Quite a few teachers showed up and even the principal showed up. I kind of got a lot of support from the school.”

Stanavage's teacher and SAE advisor who oversees her project, Megan Grogan, described Stanavage as an “exemplary student peers look up to” who, since freshman year, “has hit the ground running.”

“Molly has a project that she has grown with and really made it her own!” Grogan said. “As an advisor, this is what we would love for every student to do with their project.”

Outside of the classroom Stanavage's beekeeping hobby is in full effect. It's actually become a family affair, with Laurie, dad Dennis, 16-year-old sister Jessie, and 15-year-old brother Josh, helping out, especially when it's time to harvest the honey. But harvesting honey requires “a lot” of materials, Laurie said. The family has full body suits, an extractor to harvest honey and Jessie, the artist of the family, designs



**Molly Stanavage, 17, has taken up the hobby of beekeeping. Here, Stanavage, right, is joined by her dad Dennis as she tends to one of her six honey bee hives. As a result of her hobby, the teen produces and sells jars of raw honey.**

labels which are then placed on jars, complete with a piece of cloth and ribbon. The result is a one-pound jar labeled “Molly's Honey” that she sells for \$8.

Taking care of her honey bees requires weekly check-ups, Stanavage explained. Additionally, she feeds them sugar water, which she produces by boiling water and adding sugar. During the winter months, the honey bees are in hibernation. However, at their peak in the summer, Stanavage says each of her six colonies, or hives, has anywhere from 60,000-80,000 bees each.

The honey harvests are done each in the spring and fall. The Stanavage family has produced a lot of it, and has made honey butter and even uses it as a glaze for grilled chicken.

The vo-ag student is currently the president of the Lebanon Regional FFA Chapter. She currently is taking two UConn courses – an English class and a floral class – which she will receive college credit for. Even at the college level, Stanavage said she's become surprised by enjoying classes she never thought she would. And even though beekeeping is an activity Stanavage once questioned, she's glad

she took a stab at it.

“I had no idea I was going to end up doing this,” she explained. “It was really just something to try that really developed into something more than that.”

Laurie is also thankful her daughter gave it a shot and is amazed at what it's done for her.

“I'm glad that she's doing something that's wonderful with her time,” Laurie said. “I think trying to help other people do it too is that much better.”

Stanavage is already in talks with the Eastern Connecticut Beekeepers Association, of which she's the youngest of about 200 members, about holding presentations with other members in the future. Additionally, the high school senior has her eyes on UConn, where she hopes to attend a teaching program designed to become an agriculture teacher. But even if Storrs is her future temporary home, she says she won't forget about her honey bees.

“I'm going to keep it going as long as I can!” she said.

To talk or inquire about beekeeping info, Stanavage can be reached at 860-537-1817 or by email at [mollystanavage@yahoo.com](mailto:mollystanavage@yahoo.com).

# New Things Happening at Bacon

by Melissa Roberto

Nov. 1, 2013 marked Bacon Academy's 210-year anniversary – and, more than two centuries since its inception, the commitment to providing a “school of excellence,” as the school website states, is still going strong.

Bacon Principal Mark Ambruso recently highlighted that commitment when discussing this year's brand-new initiatives at the high school.

One initiative, brought to the school by Ambruso himself, is the formation of the Parent Council. The council meets the third Thursday of each month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Its meetings consist of an open forum with the Bacon Academy principal and any parent/guardian/caregiver of a Bacon Academy student that wishes to attend – though, Ambruso said, “anyone” is welcome. He explained the forum allows parents to generate questions and feedback about school-related topics.

“Parents have a very different perspective and we as a school service their children and if we need to be doing a better job we need to know about it,” Ambruso explained.

So far, Ambruso said the council meetings have gone “extremely well.” Early on in the school year, the principal said the council discussed ways to increase communication with students' families, which prompted changes to the school website. At the November meeting, Ambruso gave a tour of the high school, where parents found themselves learning about things they never knew existed, he said.

“I try to accommodate where I can and provide answers and that's really the way it should be,” he said of the parent-to-principal dialogue. “It should be a give-and-take dialogue, because we're servicing their children.”

Nicole Reardon is one parent who's attended the Parent Council meetings this year. She said it's “a great thing” Ambruso has started.

“I definitely feel that it's an opportunity for parents to get involved,” she said, “and they can voice their concerns no matter the subject of the meetings.”

Reardon furthered there has already been “eye-opening” dialogue. She recalled the walking tour given a few weeks ago.

“We went to different areas of the school that I've never seen before,” said Reardon, who also works at the school in the cafeteria. “We saw the culinary department, the manufacturing department where they do automotive stuff and

graphics, the computer labs. [Ambruso] really gave us an overview of what these programs offer to students.”

Reardon concluded it's nice to hear about the “extra stuff” going on at the school that parents wouldn't know about otherwise. She said the only “disappointing” thing about the meetings is that more parents don't attend.

Another initiative that already existed at the school, the Advisory Program, was strengthened this year. Ambruso explained this program was put in place “six or seven years ago” to replace what used to be called the “homeroom period.” Each year students are assigned to an advisor – a teacher, administrator, office professional or paraprofessional at the school. Each advisor meets with a group of about 10 students every other Friday for a half hour to discuss certain topics.

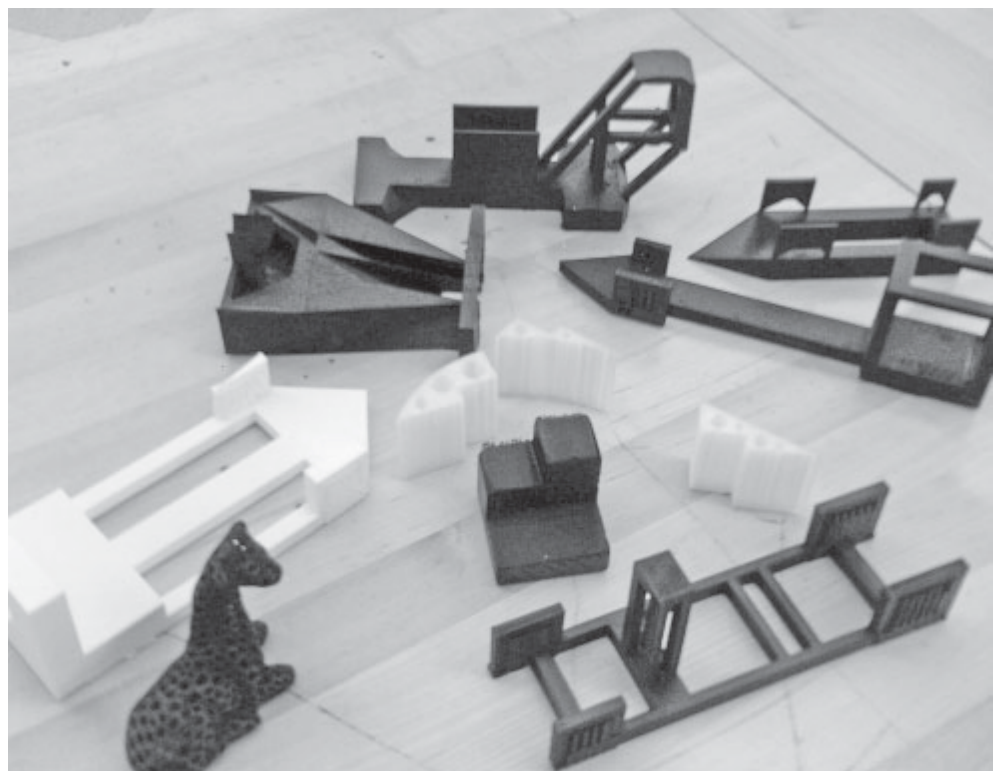
“One of the goals of this is to build a relationship between one solid adult that students can turn to if they need additional resources or help,” Ambruso explained.

The adults have the autonomy to address whatever issues they'd like, Ambruso explained. In the past, some included school-wide initiatives like embracing diversity and community service. This year, however, Ambruso said the program has shifted to a “more structured, educational approach” where advisors are provided with lesson plans, videos and topics. With the new approach, teachers won't scramble for new topics, he said.

“I think it's helped teachers have a little more focus,” he explained.

Of the program as a whole, Ambruso said it's “invigorated my homeroom” and has “absolutely” created a bond between students and adults.

Additionally, advancements have occurred within the high school's Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) Program. Last month, Technology Education teacher Christopher Petersen was awarded the Carl D. Perkins Innovation Grant. A teacher for 20 years, Petersen has written and received many grants but this one in particular granted \$19,000 to the high school for the development of the STEM Program in Rapid and Direct Digital Manufacturing. The grant made it possible for the school to purchase two Makerbot 3D printers and one NextEngine 3D scanner including the professional development training to learn how to use the equipment.



One of the latest technological advancements at Bacon Academy this year are two new 3D printers, which Principal Mark Ambruso said print out actual 3D objects made of plastic. Shown here are small carts, just one example of what the printers can produce, that are being used by students enrolled in the Engineering Physics class. They will use the carts to learn about acceleration and velocity.

Just last week, Ambruso said teachers from the math and art departments learned how to utilize the technology. The 3D printer actually prints out 3D products made out of plastic. The principal said teachers, students and faculty have become “amazed” by the new technology.

“The students have been designing and printing small carts in the engineering physics class,” said Petersen. “They will be using the carts to learn about the acceleration and velocity as well as modern engineering techniques.”

Additionally, two new courses were added to STEM this year. One is called Computer Information Technology, which is a class where students look at computer repairs, troubleshooting, networking and operating systems. The second course is Technical Repair, which Ambruso said looks more specifically into exploring, analyzing, diagnosing and repairing

technical systems such as electrical circuits and small engines.

“I think we're always looking at ways to make education relevant, current and applicable after a student leaves high school whether that's in a career, college or institution,” Ambruso said of the new initiatives.

Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Mathieu commented this week on Bacon's new initiatives and, in particular, the advances within the STEM Program.

“The changes in the current curriculum and the vision for future classes to keep the course offerings contemporary and working with 21st century skills will assist in educating all the students at Bacon Academy. Making sure we infuse and incorporate STEM aptitudes will prepare the students further for college and careers.”

## Marlborough School Board Elects Officers

by Melissa Roberto

After failing to agree on who'd be the new board chair at their Nov. 21 meeting, members of the Board of Education met Tuesday to try again to reach a consensus.

This time around, the board was successful, and, by a close 5-4 vote, Ruth Kelly will continue serving as chairwoman of the board for another year. Betty O'Brien was also re-upped to her position as vice chairwoman, in another squeaker. Louise Concodello was unanimously re-elected to her role of secretary.

At the Nov. 21 meeting, two members were nominated for the position of chairman. Newly-elected member Wes Skorski, nominated member Bob Clarke, while O'Brien nominated Kelly. Both nominations resulted in 4-4 votes, with Skorski, Clarke and members Mimi LaPoint and newly-elected Theresa Brysgel, voting in favor of Clarke and opposition of Kelly, and Kelly, O'Brien, Concodello and Carole Shea, voting in favor of Kelly and in opposition of Clarke.

The two ties then resulted in two consecutive nominations in the November meeting. The second time around Brysgel nominated Clarke, and once again O'Brien nominated Kelly. The same 4-4 votes for each occurred. Member Judith Kaplan was absent from the November meeting.

On Tuesday, all nine school board members were present, and Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz acted as chairman when the votes

were taken. It was déjà vu for the board, as Kelly was nominated by O'Brien and Clarke was nominated by Skorski. O'Brien said she felt Kelly had done a “phenomenal job” as chairwoman in the last year.

“Not only did she meet with the superintendent every week, she attended every subcommittee meeting, every policy meeting,” O'Brien continued. “I just feel like she's done a really excellent job. I think the continuity of your second year will be better.”

Concodello also supported Kelly. The secretary said, “She is always available and she is at our beck and call whenever we need anything.”

LaPoint, who supported Clarke in each vote on Nov. 21, said she had nothing against Kelly but voted for Clarke because she felt “maybe instead of continuity we need something a little bit different.”

Concodello then questioned Clarke's ability to meet with the superintendent each week, to which Clarke said he would be able to come to a mutual agreement with Sklarz.

A vote was then held, with Kelly collecting five votes for chairman to Clarke's four. Kaplan, Kelly, O'Brien, Concodello and Shea voted in favor of Kelly, while Clarke, Skorski, Brysgel, and LaPoint voted in favor of Clarke.

“I hope to work cooperatively with everybody sitting around this table,” Kelly said. “I

hope we can have a good, constructive year.”

Nominations were then taken for vice chairman. Kaplan nominated current vice chair O'Brien, and Brysgel nominated Skorski.

“I do think having some change is often positive,” Brysgel explained of her nomination for Skorski, and added that pairing Kelly, a veteran member of the board, with newcomer Skorski “would be a nice balance.”

“I think that would be exciting and create a nice, new partnership,” she said.

For Kelly, nominating O'Brien was due to past experience.

“I would say Betty and I work very well together and it's nice to have someone you can collaborate with,” Kelly said. “I probably could collaborate with Wes but I would support Betty, because she's done a great job.”

Shea echoed Kelly's support of O'Brien, and said she imagined taking on a vice chairman position during her first year, as would be the case for Skorski, would have been “really challenging.”

However, Skorski said he felt he could uphold the expectations of a vice chair.

“It would be nice to have someone in that new position to bring some new ideas to the table,” he said. “I would do well as a back up and working with people.”

O'Brien then acknowledged her own experience as vice chairwoman, stating she felt she's

done a “good job” and has worked “very hard.”

“I think it's really wonderful that we have new board members,” O'Brien furthered, “but I think new board members need to be a board member to learn. ... Certainly after this year who knows what will happen but I just think this first year is a learning year for new board members.”

It was déjà vu again. O'Brien collected five votes – by herself, Concodello, Kelly, Shea and Kaplan – while Skorski received the support of four – himself, Clarke, Brysgel, and LaPoint.

The vote for secretary wasn't as divisive. Current secretary Concodello was the only member nominated. O'Brien, who nominated Concodello, spoke highly of her efforts.

“I really want to say how fortunate this board, this town, is to have Louise Concodello,” said O'Brien. “I've never seen anybody that organized. She is absolutely phenomenal.”

The board unanimously voted in support of Concodello serving another year as secretary.

Member of the crowd, Dave Porteous, voiced his opinion on the board's actions thus far following elections. He spoke highly of the board's conversation on all-day kindergarten in its last meeting.

“It was exciting because there was a whole lot of real open sharing of questions, assumptions and so on,” Porteous said. “All I ask is the board continue that.”

# Possible Extension of Air Line Trail Discussed in Portland

by Elizabeth Bowling

A public presentation regarding possibly extending the Air Line Trail into Portland was held last Tuesday, Nov. 26. The presentation was hosted by the Jonah Center for Earth and Art, an environmental advocacy organization that works to restore and preserve ecologically significant areas in and near Middletown.

According to John Shafer, president of the Jonah Center, the organization took an interest in bringing the Air Line Trail to Portland because it's "an important connecting project," in terms of connecting neighboring towns.

Shafer said, "One of our goals is to try to bring the Air Line Trail into Portland and ultimately connect it to the [Arrigoni] bridge to bring it into Middletown."

But Shafer, a Portland resident, said it would be a "challenge" to bring the trail all the way to downtown Portland, through Main Street in Portland and into Middletown.

Specifically, the Jonah Center's goal is to bring the trail to a part of Middletown that is currently part of an active train line between Middletown and New Haven because that would connect it to biking and walking trails in Middletown that are currently being developed as part of the state Department of Transportation's Complete Streets Initiative.

Coincidentally, the current train line is actually part of the old Air Line Railroad, Shafer said.

According to a press release from Jonah Center Executive Director John Hall, the trail follows the right-of-way of the former Air Line Railroad, which was built in the 19th century to connect Boston to New York City. The railroad, which existed from 1873 to 1959, earned its name by being a perfectly direct route – as if a straight line was drawn in the air connecting one city to the other.

Hall furthered, in 1975, the Air Line rail corridor was deeded to the state Department of Environmental Protection (now called the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, or DEEP). By 1996, the department proposed a rehabilitation of the rail bed as a linear state park. Now a 17.6-mile portion of the trail runs from East Hampton to Windham and is the most improved and popular section of the trail, Hall stated.

According to its website, the Jonah Center's campaign is "to extend the 'south' section of the Air Line Trail from East Hampton to Portland."

Shafer said in a phone interview Tuesday, "The purpose of the presentation was to try to inform people about what the current developments are on the Air Line Trail."

Those developments include East Hampton's grant application that, if accepted, would com-

plete a section of the trail that would link downtown East Hampton to Depot Hill Road, which is "not into Portland yet, but it's getting very close," Shafer said.

Shafer said East Hampton's grant request is divided into two phases and will probably only get funding for the first phase.

East Hampton Parks and Recreation Director Ruth Checko explained her town's trail developments in a phone interview Wednesday.

She said, "The last project that we completed was funded by a STEAP [Small Town Economic Assistance Program] grant."

The project, which connected the trail from Watrous Street to the Village Center, was completed in the fall of 2012.

Before that project, the trail only went from the Colchester town line to Watrous Street.

East Hampton recently wrote a grant application for "Rails to Trails" funding, a transportation grant, to fund the town's next step in extending the trail.

DEEP will award STEAP grants in 2014, she said, and if one is awarded to East Hampton, it would technically be federal money from the Department of Transportation.

"Our proposal was to extend the trail from Main Street to Alden's Crossing [which is phase one], then from Alden's Crossing to Depot Hill Road [which is phase two]," Checko said.

"That would bring us to Cobalt," she furthered, "From there it's easy to have Portland pick up at Depot Hill Road and bring it into Portland eventually."

She explained that East Hampton wrote the grant application so that, if awarded, funding could either go toward phase one independently or phase one and phase two collectively.

According to Checko, phase one would cost less than \$500,000 and phase two would also cost less than \$500,000.

Checko said the grant application "demonstrated that the town has an interest in continuing the trail toward Portland."

She furthered, "We have very strong partnerships with Colchester and Hebron historically on developing the trail with the state," she said, noting that now she'd like to see Portland become a partner, too.

In a concluding remark regarding the Air Line Trail, Checko said, "I think it's been a huge benefit to all of the communities that it goes through and I hope that Portland is able to develop their portions of the trail."

According to Shafer, Portland had applied for and been denied a grant to fund development of the Air Line Trail from Depot Hill Road to Ames Hollow Road in 2011.

This time around, the funding request would be different. If and when the town applies for



**A presentation last Tuesday by the Jonah Center for Earth and Art, of Middletown, discussed the possibility of extending the Air Line Trail from East Hampton into Portland and eventually into Middletown. The public presentation set the stage to make the extension possible. Pictured here is an entrance to the Air Line Trail in East Hampton.**

another grant, it would most likely request funding to implement a three-mile stretch of trail from Depot Hill Road to Route 17, where it intersects with Route 66.

The undeveloped portion of the trail that is adjacent to Route 17 in Portland – where routes 66 and 17 meet – is private property, owned by Connecticut Light & Power, Shafer said.

But CL&P has agreed to allow a use permit for the portions of the trail it owns. A use permit would allow CL&P to continue ownership of the property and have access rights to its lines, but it would also allow the town and DEEP to use the trail, Shafer explained.

Because some sections are privately owned, Shafer discussed the possibility of "detouring" the trail around private property and putting some of the trail on Route 66.

Regardless of what action – if any – is ultimately taken, the discussion of plans to extend the Air Line Trail into Portland drew quite a crowd.

Shafer estimated 80 people packed the Mary Flood Room of the Portland Library last Tuesday.

"We had a really great turnout," he said.

And in addition to local residents, interest has been shown by the U.S. Park Service trails

section, DEEP and the state Department of Transportation, Shafer said.

He added, "We're trying to coordinate the efforts of those agencies with the town."

The next step is to organize a task force so it can meet with Portland's First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield to see what steps the town is willing to take.

Shafer said he and the task force are in the process of researching grants and grant deadlines.

"We're working toward applying for a series of grants that would help fund it," Shafer said about extending the trail.

Those funding sources include but are not limited to STEAP grants, Shafer said. He also mentioned the possibility of a joint grant application between the town and DEEP or between the towns of Portland and East Hampton.

In an interview Wednesday, Bransfield referred to East Hampton, DEEP, the Jonah Center and CL&P as Portland's "partners."

She also said many Portland residents have requested the development of the trail.

"It's something that Portland's been working on for many years," she furthered. "I think it's a wonderful idea."

# Portland School Board Discusses Student Work Study Program

by Elizabeth Bowling

At the Board of Education's first regular meeting following November's elections, the board was updated on the past month's happenings.

Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen informed the board of some problems that arose with the high school's student work study program.

The Experience-Based Career Education (EBCE) program places junior and senior students with local businesses to earn high school credit and work experience. Students in the program go to school for half the day and then to their placements for the remaining half.

According to Doyen, the program started in 1973 and was originally a regional program funded by the federal government. After a few years, Portland continued the program on its own.

Recently, the Connecticut Department of Labor raised some questions about the program,

"in particular, with the providing of students with unpaid internships and unpaid opportunities within different businesses," Doyen said.

Doyen furthered that the questions arose after the labor board visited one of the sites – a local business – that didn't meet the requirements of the program. The labor board initially thought Portland High School had placed students at the site, when in fact it hadn't. Regardless, a program review ensued.

PHS Principal Andrea Lavery and some of the school's guidance counselors, as well as Sandy Favale, who runs the program for PHS, met with the labor board, and later with the state Department of Education to sort it out.

In concluding the meetings, Doyen said, "Long story short, we need to revamp some of our forms and we need to change how we are defining the experiences the kids are having. We also have to try to provide paid work opportunities for the students if they are [placed] in profit-making businesses."

Luckily, there were no issues with placements at non-profit businesses, Doyen affirmed.

All but three of the 14 students who are presently enrolled in the program have placements. The three that need to be placed were not in "appropriate situations and their employers were not able to pay them so we had to pull them out of the placement where they were," Doyen said, and they are in the process of being placed elsewhere.

"We had a few days of total panic when we thought we had to shut the whole program down. But we are going to be able to manage to get it up to par," Doyen said. "I'm pretty confident that we're going to get done everything that we have to get done."

Board member MaryAnne Rode added, "That's a recent development – that scrutiny of internships."

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Also at Tuesday's meeting, Doyen announced the resignations of five teachers and one para-

professional. The resignations were submitted Dec. 1, and will go into effect for the 2014-15 school year.

Doyen said it is "unusual" for so many certified staff retirements in one year, as typically only one or two people retire each year.

Board member Andrea Alfano agreed, "It's a lot this year."

Doyen suggested the abundance of departures was due to the changes brought on by the new evaluation system, Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balance Assessment.

"Things are really changing dramatically," Doyen said. "I think that was kind of the breaking point."

But regardless of their individual reasons for leaving, Doyen said, "We will miss all of them."

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The next regularly scheduled Portland Board of Education meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m., in the PHS library media center.

# Tryon Street Residents in Portland Express Concerns

by Elizabeth Bowling

If you live on Tryon Street in Portland, are you considered a Portland resident, or a Glastonbury one? The answer to that question is more complicated than one might think – and that’s proved frustrating to residents of that street.

A handful of Tryon Street residents attended Wednesday’s meeting of the Board of Selectmen to explain that, while they pay their taxes to the Town of Portland, their mailing addresses list them as living in South Glastonbury – and that’s been causing some problems.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield explained Tryon Street’s unique situation.

“You have to go through Glastonbury to actually get to this street in Portland,” she said.

Further complication for the residents of those eight homes on Tryon Street comes from the post office. Though they pay their taxes to Portland, the residents’ mailing addresses are “Tryon Street, South Glastonbury,” so their driver’s licenses, too, list them as living on “Tryon Street, South Glastonbury.”

One Tryon Street resident in the audience said the post office won’t deliver mail to “Tryon Street, Portland” even though, she said, “They know it’s for us.”

Additionally, those residences have South Glastonbury phone numbers.

“Everything we do is South Glastonbury,” said another frustrated Tryon Street resident, Jody Smaglis. “We love where we are, but it’s very trying.”

Smaglis, who acted as the group’s spokesperson at Wednesday’s meeting, has resided on Tryon Street for two and a half years with her family – including her elementary school-aged daughter – and expressed the following concerns related to the location of Tryon Street: residents on Tryon Street do not receive the *RiverEast* because they do not technically have a Portland address; West Nile-carrying mosquitoes were found on the street and nobody informed the residents; those residents don’t know if they are offered leaf pickup; and the street floods on its Glastonbury-owned section.

Smaglis also said it’s unsafe for her daughter to play outside because of hunters “drinking in the road” during hunting season, though, she added, the Town of Portland recently installed a street lamp at the end of the road, which makes her feel a little safer about the hunters.

“The flooding of the road is very concerning,” Smaglis emphasized, “and I think that there’s a simple fix for it.”

She explained that the roads flood once or twice each year and the flooding lasts for about one week to 10 days.

“We’re flooded out every spring and we have no way to leave our homes,” she added.

Bransfield said that because the portion of the road that floods is owned by Glastonbury, Portland can’t do anything about it; Portland can’t apply for a grant to fix it. Rather, Glastonbury would need to apply for a grant.

Additionally, Smaglis noted the street’s issue with cable and Internet lines.

“We have no lines coming in from Portland so we have to use Glastonbury services,” she said.

Another headache comes in the form of public education.

Smaglis’ daughter attends Valley View Elementary School.

“I’m very, very pleased with the school system and I’m really trying to embrace this town, but,” she said, “there’s going to come a time where she can’t get to school because that road is flooded.”

Smaglis recalled one occasion when the school nurse, after seeing a South Glastonbury address, told Smaglis’ daughter that she couldn’t go to school there.

Bransfield replied that she’s been in contact with Glastonbury’s town manager, Richard Johnson, to discuss the possibility of Smaglis sending her daughter to a Glastonbury school, but that wouldn’t be possible.

In terms of transporting her daughter to school, Smaglis said the best option is for her to personally drive her daughter, because no bus routes go by her house.

“I know the town is big. I understand that it’s hard to bus all the kids to school because the town is very rural,” she said. “I’m fine with driving her... We have bigger concerns.”

Bransfield said she and Johnson also discussed the possibility of Glastonbury taking ownership of the street and the two agreed that would be “a very complicated process.”

After reviewing Smaglis’ presentation, board members showed concern regarding emergency call responses.

Smaglis affirmed that she’d called the Portland Police in the past and the town police responded.

She said she’d never called 911, but Lt. Ron Milardo of the Portland Police said if she did, her call would be directed to Glastonbury Police.

Bransfield assured that she would work on the public safety matters.

Regarding emergency response, she said, “We’ll come up with a plan for that and a notification system [to notify Tryon Street residents of flooding].”

Additionally, Johnson plans to discuss the matter with the Glastonbury Town Council in an effort to come up with an “appropriate response plan,” Bransfield said.

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Also at Wednesday’s meeting, Milardo said the Police Department is in the process of enhancing traffic enforcement as a result of the three fatal accidents that occurred in Portland over the course of the last few months.

He said the towns of Portland, East Hampton and Marlborough are working together to “make our roads a little more safe.”

Board member Fred Knous supported the joint-efforts between neighboring towns.

He said, “Looking at it regionally is a great idea.”

According to Milardo, Portland has thus far “stepped up” its radar use in places like Route 66, requested more (and better) signage, and has plans to conduct DWI checkpoints in upcoming weeks.

“We’re also looking at the other things that cause accidents,” he said, for example, tailgating, improper lane changes, and running stop signs and stoplights.

State Rep. Christie Carpino expressed thanks to the town’s emergency departments, saying the fatal accidents from the past few months “have been horrific. My understanding is, some of the worst that our first responders have seen.”

Carpino said she and Bransfield have reached out to the Department of Transportation in the form of a written request for a “complete review” of Portland’s portion of Route 66. Carpino suggested that neighboring towns do the same.

The review would determine if Route 66 needs “additional signage or lighting to help cut down on some of these tragedies,” Carpino explained. Once the review is complete, she asked that the DOT make expert suggestions to local and state officials.

One suggestion she hopes the DOT will provide is regarding “grant opportunities to help put additional officers on the road and increase staffing,” she said.

Carpino said, “This is a safety problem for anybody coming through Portland, not only Portland residents.”

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The Board of Selectmen also reviewed a presentation at its Wednesday meeting from the town’s Clean Energy Task Force Chairman Andy Bauer.

Bauer promoted a solar imaging program provided by a company called “Sagewell” that would produce a thermal image of every house

in Portland. Interested residents could then sign up on the company’s website to learn if and where their houses have “heat leakage.”

“It won’t cost the town a thing to have this done,” he added.

Board member Brian Flood questioned the technology used for this program and the privacy of Portland residents.

He asked, “What is this technology? What’s the science behind it?”

He also asked if the thermal image would pick up on a person’s body heat and thus show a person inside the house.

Bauer said, “I can’t answer that. I just don’t know.”

Flood also questioned why the program requires the town’s approval. He was also skeptical that Sagewell would “harass” residents by frequently calling them to promote its products.

But Bauer countered that anyone could look up a phone number in the phonebook and make marketing calls.

In order for the town to apply for the program, the first selectwoman must sign the application. The board voted to have Bransfield sign the application (which is due today), but if the town is selected for the program the board requested a presentation from Sagewell to answer any further questions. Flood abstained from the vote, the rest of the board voted unanimously.

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Also at Wednesday’s meeting, Bransfield announced that the town received three grants for three different initiatives.

The first grant, to go toward making improvements to the library (specifically, to make the bathrooms in the library handicapped accessible), was for \$20,000 from the state library. Bransfield said local monies will also go into the project.

According to Bransfield the town was also awarded \$5,000 from Energize Connecticut.

Finally, the town also received an approximately \$25,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to go toward school security. Additionally, the town matched the grant with approximately \$21,000 that has already been expended, Bransfield said.

A town meeting regarding those supplemental appropriations for school security is set for Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 7:15 p.m. at the Portland library.

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The next regularly scheduled Portland Board of Selectmen meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland library.

# Electronics Unlimited Goes Back to its Roots in Portland

by Elizabeth Bowling

Electronics Unlimited, a sales and service center for consumer electronics, has a long-standing history in Portland and is trying its luck in its original location – the Tri-Town Plaza.

Bernie Jarzabek, the store’s owner, said Electronics Unlimited used to be located next door to its current location, before it moved to a location beneath the Portland bridge – which Jarzabek called “a poor location” – and then this past spring back to the Tri-Town Plaza off Route 66.

When Electronics Unlimited first opened in 1976, it was located within Jarzabek’s other store, a video store that has since shut down.

Upon moving back to the Tri-Town Plaza in April, Jarzabek, a Portland resident, said, “The location is better – people can find it.”

But despite the move, the owner said he hasn’t seen any improvement in sales.

Jarzabek is baffled that such little traffic goes through his store because, he said, “Portland doesn’t really have anything like this.”

One of Jarzabek’s specialties is repairing customers’ broken electronics, such as computers and televisions.

“I’m actually the most reasonable in town,” he said, specifically mentioning his reasonable rates for removing computer viruses.

Regarding his customer service, Jarzabek said, “I would rather have a whole pile of work and charge less than have two or three jobs and charge more.”

He added that his “commitment to customer satisfaction” is what makes him different from his competitors.

“It’s not all about just the money here. It’s about the people and the town,” he said. “I’m very good with people. I have patience and I can explain things.”

He furthered, “Everything in here has a one-year warranty.”

Electronics Unlimited also sells refurbished, repaired and renewed electronic items like custom-built gaming systems and high-end computer systems, for example.

He also repairs broken televisions and computers, moves content from VHS tapes onto DVDs, and sells no-contract cell phones, to name a few of his business’ capabilities.

But, he said, audio is his “forte.”

“I always enjoyed working on and refurbishing older audio gear,” he said.

For example, he rebuilds old stereo consoles from the ‘70s, so that they can play records, as well as CDs and iPods.

To contact Electronics Unlimited, call 860-788-2496. Store hours are Monday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



The owner of Electronics Unlimited, Bernie Jarzabek, pictured here in his new store location, started his business in 1976 in the Tri-Town Plaza. After an unsuccessful move to another area in Portland, he decided to take it back to where it started but, unfortunately, hasn’t seen an increase in sales.



# Obituaries

## Portland

### Kathleen Willinsky

Kathleen (Parodi) Willinsky, of East Haven, formerly of Portland and Moodus, died peacefully on Wednesday, Nov. 27, at Village at Mariner's Point, after a courageous nine-year battle with ovarian cancer.



Kathleen was born Jan. 3, 1944, in Middletown, daughter of the late Frank J. and Catherine (Shea) Parodi. She was a 1962 graduate of Nathan Hale Ray High School and a graduate of Central Connecticut State University. A devoted member of St. Mary Church in Portland, she taught English and Spanish at Portland and Valley Regional High Schools and home-tutored students with illnesses and students pursuing their GED.

Kathleen is survived by four children: Karen Campo and her husband, David, of Enfield; Michael Willinsky and his wife, Sheila, of Chester, N.H.; Jeanne Willinsky of Branford; and Brian Willinsky of Medford, Mass. She is also survived by her sister, Nancy (Parodi) Schroeder and her husband, Marc, of East Haddam. Kathleen was also the loving grandmother to four grandchildren: Jonathan Robertson, Nicholas Robertson, Matthew Campo and Jewel Willinsky. Her former husband is William Willinsky of Portland.

Those who knew Kathleen will remember her love for family, particularly her children and grandchildren, along with her humor, quick wit and sarcasm, homemade raviolis, devotion to UConn basketball and the Boston Red Sox, and most importantly, her commitment to helping others in need in so many different ways.

Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown is in charge of arrangements. Friends and family attended calling hours Sunday, Dec. 1. A funeral liturgy was held Monday, Dec. 2, at St. Bridget of Kildare Church at 75 Moodus Leesville Rd. in Moodus, followed by a reception for family and friends. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Kathleen's family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the staff at Village at Mariner's Point, The Connecticut Hospice and Dr. Thomas Rutherford and his staff at Yale-New Haven Hospital for their friendship, support, comforting care and compassion during her journey.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Kathleen's memory to Dr. Ursula Matulonis, Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, c/o Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Ave., Boston, MA 02215 or Office of Development, attn: Smilow Cancer Center, Yale-New Haven Hospital; P.O. Box 1849; New Haven, CT 06508-9979.

## Portland

### Eric Q. Stevens Jr.

Eric Q. Stevens Jr., 52, of Portland, husband of Colleen (Nolan) Stevens passed away Thursday, Nov. 28, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Sept. 2, 1961, in Middletown, he grew up in Cromwell and lived in Portland for the last 30 years.

Besides his wife, Colleen, Rick is survived by his children, Erin Brault, her husband, Adam, and daughter, Colette; daughter, Meghan; and son, Michael. He also leaves behind his mother, Shirley Stevens; sister, Sherry Wright and her husband, Mark; his brother, Roy Stevens and wife, Deborah; and brother, Daniel Stevens; also, his mother-in-law, Patricia Nolan; his father-in-law, Thomas Nolan; brother-in-law Timothy Nolan and his wife, Lynn Nolan; brother-in-law, Christopher Nolan and his wife, Ellen Nolan; sister-in-law, Kathleen Reimondo and her husband, Matthew Reimondo. He leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his father Randall Stevens.

A graduate of Cromwell High School, Rick started his law enforcement career at East Hampton Police Department in 1980. He then moved onto the Connecticut State Police Department retiring as a sergeant in 2009. Rick enjoyed a long career as a member of the K-9 Unit, as well as a SWAT Team leader. He earned many awards and accolades throughout his distinguished career.

In addition to his beloved children, he loved and respected his mother, as well as his mother in law and father in law. Rick was a devoted husband and father who most recently adored spending time with his first grandchild.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 3, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial was in Center Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Monday, Dec. 2, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Portland Volunteer Fire Dept., P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT. 06480.

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

## Colchester

### Gary R. Chapman

Gary Robert Chapman, 60, of Colchester, passed away suddenly Friday, Nov. 29. Born June 18, 1953 in Woburn, Mass., he was a son of Woodford Chapman of Derry, N.H., and the late Alice (Omelia) Chapman.

He leaves his loving wife of 35 years, Laurene "Laurie" (Verity) Chapman (owner of Laurie's Creations); two sons, Kevin and Michael; honorary son, Steve Liberty; a grandson, Landon; his father, Woodford; five siblings, David, Glenn and Robert Chapman, Kathleen Robinson and Elizabeth Abdelrehim; his father-in-law, George Verity; and numerous extended family and friends.

Gary was a graduate of Pinkerton Academy in Derry, N.H. He went on to serve proudly with the United States Navy in the submarine service aboard the SSBN Nathanael Greene and actually met his future wife, Laurie, on a dependents' cruise.

He was an IT technician for many years for Asea Brown Boveri and most recently worked for C-9 Sales of Derry, N.H.

Gary passed away Thanksgiving evening after spending an amazing day with his son, Kevin, and son-in-law to be, Michael Sutherland, who prepared and served a great meal. Gary's wife, Laurie, posted on Facebook earlier in the day that she felt blessed in life, and that she was thankful for everyone and everything in her life. She wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Gary grew up in New Hampshire, with five siblings, Kathy, David, Glenn, Bobby and Beth, and father, Woody and mother, Alice. This family is one of the most fun-loving groups of people you have ever been around. His father, the family patriarch, is famous for instigating family skits.

Gary married Laurie Verity in February of 1978 and they had a special way of making everyone welcome in their home. They raised two amazing sons, Kevin and Michael, who were the highlight of their lives. It was not unusual to find their house filled with kids, friends, Gary's family from New Hampshire or Laurie's family from Long Island; and the next morning all scattered about the house in sleeping bags.

Son Mike and his fiancée, Ashley Lucas, brought more joy to Gary's life with the birth of grandson, Landon.

With Gary's passing, his family and friends have lost a father, friend, uncle, brother, son, grandfather, husband, and one amazing man. We love and miss him.

Friends called Monday, Dec. 2, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, Dec. 3, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial with military honors followed in the New St. Andrew Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to The Community Lunch Program in care of St. Andrew Church.

For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Bruce Kearns

Bruce Kearns. Best Friend of A Forever Kind. May 22, 1952-Nov. 15, 2013.

My best friend, my partner, my love, my husband of 40 years, Bruce Kearns is blazing a path to a place that I, Tracey Wring, his beloved and loving wife, promise to one day follow. Bruce embraced all of his passions with abandon. His love of kite-flying, photography, bird watching, gardening, traveling and aquariums were only sidelined by his sheer enthusiasm for boating, Hawaii and beaches everywhere.

Bruce dedicated his life to perfectionism. As owner of an epoxy flooring company, he was an extremely dedicated, hard worker. At times, he even laid entire commercial, epoxy floors by himself, a true testament to his work ethic and character.

Born to the late William "Billy" Kearns, Bruce had an instinctual fight that carried him through a long and very tough battle. He is survived by his mother, Betsey Kearns; a younger brother, Robert Kearns and wife, Glenda Kearns; and a stepmother, Janet Kearns. He was predeceased by his sister, Karen Kearns. He also leaves behind aunts, uncles, cousins, several very special nephews, nieces, grand nephews and grand nieces. His love for Derek and Amber was boundless. He also leaves his sister-in-law, Vicki Graham and her husband, Donnie Graham, who provided fun, comfort, love, laughter and most importantly, a lifetime of rocking and rolling together on the high seas. Workmate and friend, Chuck Mifflin along with Jim Peterson, gave Bruce support and peace of mind.

A celebration of Bruce's life was held Nov. 24, at Saybrook Point Pavilion, 150 College St., Old Saybrook. This was Bruce, so no formal wear was necessary.

Donations may be made to a charity of choice.

## East Hampton

### Michael Charles Ackerman

Michael Charles (Slick) Ackerman, 52, of East Hampton, died Thursday, Nov. 28, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Born Nov. 13, 1961, in Middletown he had lived in Marlborough and East Hampton his whole life.

Mike had worked as a mason and had worked for many contractors in Connecticut over the years. He loved to ride and build motorcycles and to restore old cars. He was passionate about his Harleys and his '55 Chevy. Mike also enjoyed shooting pool. He loved animals, especially his dogs Wilbur and Harley, but his daughters were the true love of his life.

Mike's family would like to thank the Middlesex Hospice Program and the doctors and staff of Connecticut Oncology for the love and care that they gave to Mike during his illness.

He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Arleen and Peter McArthur of East Hampton; his beloved daughters, Emilie and Olivia Ackerman of East Hampton; his daughter, Anita Ackerman, who predeceased him; his brother, Jeffrey Ackerman and his wife Melissa of East Hampton; his sister Coleen Ackerman of Anchorage, Alaska; the mother of his children, Cheryl Rand of East Hampton; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Thursday, Dec. 5, followed by a service that evening at the funeral home. Burial will be at the convenience of the family in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., 1-91 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or to Protectors of Animals, P.O. Box 24, Glastonbury, CT 06073.

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

## Marlborough

### Joan Fogg Fykse

Joan Fogg Fykse, 83, of Marlborough, died peacefully surrounded by her family after a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's and Parkinson diseases Friday, Nov. 29, 2013.

Joan was the daughter of the late Astrid and Arnold Ervick. She lived in Norway prior to moving to Marlborough in 1948 at 18 years old. She met Ron Fogg, who was from England, and they married in 1951 and had four children.

Joan graduated from business school in Norway prior to moving to the United States. She attended East Hampton High School to learn English. Joan had been employed by Coca-Cola and Aetna for many years. She sold real estate and copper craft. After retiring from Aetna, she worked for Glastonbury VNA Hospice.

Joan was an active member of the Marlborough Democratic Committee, Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association, Marlborough Senior Center and Sons of Norway. She was also involved with Girl Scouts. Joan was a kind and nurturing woman, loved by many.

A loving mother, she leaves her three daughters, Jane Seagrave and her husband Charles, Lynn Fogg-Cornelio and her partner Dean Caron, Sheila Fogg and her husband David Dohl; her son, Richard Fogg; her grandchildren, Jennifer, Chip and Sara Seagrave and Kate Cornelio; great-grandchildren, Stanley Norgalis, Sadie and Calleigh Seagrave.

She is also survived by her brother Rolf Ervick and wife Irma of Marlborough. Joan re-married Ola Fykse from Norway in September 1997. Besides her parents, Joan was predeceased by her husbands, Ron Fogg and Ola Fykse. She was also predeceased by son-in-law Jay Cornelio and grandson, Tyler Cornelio.

Special thanks to the staff of Buckingham Estates for their love and care of our mother and to Diana Acheampong for her extraordinary care and devotion.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, from 2-4 p.m., at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton.

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

## Amston

### Laura Koziol

Laura (Macner) Koziol, 95, of the Amston section of Hebron, born May 30, 1918, widow of the late Mitchell Koziol, passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 1, in her sleep.

On Oct. 5, 1940, she and Mitchell were married at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford. Together, they shared 65 years of marriage before he predeceased her on April 22, 2006.

Early on, Mrs. Koziol had worked for Royal Typewriter as an assembler, but over the years, she performed many duties within the family business, Mitchell Machine Screw Co. in Glastonbury.

With a strong work ethic, she endeavored tirelessly to care and provide for her family, making a house a home, filled with love, wonderful meals, baked goods, homegrown vegetables and handmade sewn and crocheted creations. She will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Mitchell and Hannelore Koziol; two grandchildren, Mitchell L. Koziol and Marysia Chabotte; five great-grandchildren, Madelyn, Lily and Jackson Koziol and Jeffery and Arwen Chabotte; her sister, Helen Wolczanski; and numerous extended family and friends.

She was also predeceased by her daughter, Janet; and two brothers, Walter and Chester Macner.

Friends called Wednesday, Dec. 4, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral assembled Thursday, Dec. 5, at the funeral home before the celebration of the funeral liturgy that morning at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial followed in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield.

Donations in her memory may be made to St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Portland

### John R. Ruscica

John R. Ruscica, 82, of Portland, husband of Dorothy (Penikas) Ruscica passed away Sunday, Dec. 1, at Connecticut Hospice in Branford. He was the son of the late Paul and Concettina (Russo) Ruscica. Born Nov. 14, 1931, in Middletown, he has lived in Portland for the last 42 years.



He was a graduate of Hartford Institute of Accounting and was employed by Northeast Utilities for 37 years as supervisor of plant accounting and fixed asset control. During his career he was presented with the President's Award for support of the disabled.

John was a Korean War veteran serving in the United States Air Force as a Staff Sergeant, Strategic Air Command. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and Outstanding Airman/NCO at Sedalia Air Force Base.

John enjoyed boating, waterskiing, hunting and his winter home in Florida. Known as "Uncle John" to many, he was always there to comfort and counsel. He most cherished spending time with his family and close friends.

Besides his wife, he leaves his sons, Steven P. Ruscica of Hollywood, Fla., and John W. Ruscica of Portland; a daughter, Jeanne Weitzel, of Milford; a brother, Robert Ruscica of California; two grandchildren, Robert Weitzel III and Kiara Lee Ruscica; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by a brother, Paul Ruscica.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 5, from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, followed by a Mass at the Church of St. Mary, Portland. Burial was in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. Relatives and friends called Wednesday, Dec. 4, at the funeral home.

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project ([support.woundedwarriorsproject.org](http://support.woundedwarriorsproject.org)).

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

## Colchester

### David Martin Bishop

David Martin Bishop, 49, of Colchester, beloved husband of Jennie (King) Bishop, passed away unexpectedly Monday, Dec. 2. Born Nov. 20, 1964, in Princeton, Ill., he was a son of the late Mary (Nally) Baker and Clifford Bishop.

Dave was a aerospace supervisor for Electro-Methods in South Windsor for many years. An avid sports and outdoorsman, he was a member and past president of the Skunkamaug Fish and Game Club in Hebron and a huge fan of the Chicago Bears.

Most importantly, he was a devoted family man who will be greatly missed by his loving wife of 28 years, sons, Brian and wife, Sarah of Ledyard and Nicholas and fiancée, Kayla Strachan of Colchester; granddaughter, Gabriella; brother, Curtis of Illinois; four step-siblings, Rodney Baker and LuAnn Baker, both of Illinois and Leslie Baker and Ronald Baker, both of Texas; parents-in-law, Sandra and Anthony Gaetano of Colchester and Richard King and Kathleen Gallant-King of East Hampton; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his stepfather, Max Baker; and two brothers, Clifford and Willie.

Friends may call starting at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before a chapel service at 11:30 a.m. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Skungamaug F&G Club, P.O. Box 205, Hebron, CT 06248.

For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## East Hampton

### William E. Siena

William E. Siena, 89, of East Hampton, husband of the late Jean Hitchcock Siena, died Monday, Dec. 2, at Cobalt Lodge. Born Aug. 29, 1924, in Middletown he was the son of the late Carmelo and Lucia (Colonnello) Siena Sr.

He had lived in East Hampton since 1961 and was employed at Bevin Brothers Manufacturing until his retirement in 1992. William had proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II in the infantry and also in the Korean War as an MP. He was a life member of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department Co. 2 in Cobalt, where he had served as a captain.

William is survived by his two sons, William Siena Jr. of Georgia and his partner Linda, Thomas Siena of East Hampton and his wife Cindy; a brother, Theodore Siena of Middletown; two sisters, Josephine Albanese of Middletown, Helen Siena of Middletown; four grandchildren, Anthony and Stephanie Siena of East Hampton and Bonnie and Brenda Brodersen.

He was predeceased by his two daughters, Anita Brodersen and Wendy Siena; three brothers, Samuel, Albert and Carmelo Siena; and a sister, Elizabeth Stoppa.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, today, Dec. 6, from 6-8 p.m. A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, Dec. 7, at 11 a.m., in St. John Church, 19 St. John Square in Middletown. Burial will follow in Lake View Cemetery in East Hampton, with military honors.

Memorial donations can be made to the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department 5 Barton Hill Rd. East Hampton CT 06424. The family would like to thank the staff at Cobalt Lodge and Middlesex Hospice for the loving care they provided to their father.

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

## East Hampton

### Barry Booth

Barry Booth of East Hampton died Thursday, Nov. 28, at the age of 72. Barry was born Oct. 19, 1941, in Meriden.

After high school, Barry enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He then worked for CL&P and Yankee Gas Service. Barry was a lifelong sports enthusiast.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Booth, of 23 years, and lived in their summer home on Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton the past several years. Barry is also survived by his son, Scott Booth and his wife, Ginger, and their children, Erica and Dylan, of North Carolina; his sister, Brenda and her two children, Michele and son, Edmund; Barry was a stepfather to Scott and Victoria Minor and their two children, Tucker and Shawn, of East Hampton and Tim and Lisa Minor and their two children, Zac and Makayla, of East Hampton; and he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Beatrice and Bill Booth, and a brother, William Booth, of Maryland.

Barry's family will celebrate his life with a private services at a later date.

## East Hampton

### James Ralph Larkin

James Ralph Larkin, 88, of Minneola, Fla. and formerly of Avon Park, Fla. and East Hampton, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 26. He was born Sept. 20, 1925, in Rockland, Maine, son of Anna Gammon and Fenwick Larkin.

He was employed originally as a lobster boat engineer in Gloucester, MA and then at Pratt & Whitney in Middletown, in the experimental test division before retiring and moving to Florida in the early '90s.

Surviving are his children, James R. Larkin Jr. (Kim) of Cascade, Wis., Mike P. Larkin (Robin) of Lowell, Mass., Terry W. Larkin (Vicky) of Greensboro, N.C.; Lori LaSalle (Alvin) of Windham, and Timothy D. Larkin of Pennsylvania; step-children Judy Walker, of St. Petersburg, Fla.; Kara McCue (Rob), Minneola and Lee Walker (Tammy), Baton Rouge, La.; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his wives, Lucille M. Larkin and Jennie Lee Tomlinson Larkin, and grandson William.

The funeral service for Mr. Larkin was held Friday, Nov. 29, at the graveside in Empire Cemetery in Groveland, Fla. Geoffrey Yong, chaplain of Cornerstone Hospice, officiated.

Becker Family Funeral Home in Clermont, Fla., is in charge of arrangements. Messages of condolence may be left for the family at [beckerfamilyfuneral.com](http://beckerfamilyfuneral.com).

## Portland

### Josephine Smith

Josephine (Sumpter) Smith, 86, of Middletown, formerly of Portland, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 1, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Wilmington, N.C., she was the daughter of the late Hall and Catherine Sumpter.

Josephine was the wife of Leonard Smith. They had five daughters. Josephine lived in Portland and moved to Middletown in 2008. She worked for CAGM as a Social Service Worker for 18 years retiring in 1987.

Josephine enjoyed attending Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church where she was a lifelong member. While at Shiloh, Josephine was a member of the Senior Usher Board and sang with the gospel and senior choirs.

Along with her parents, she was predeceased by her daughter, Linda Smith Wakefield.

Josephine is survived by four daughters, Rev. Earlene (Eddie) Grant of Middletown, Kathryn Smith of West Hartford, Rosalyn Perry of Middletown and Laura M. (Tyrone) Gaston of Meriden; a brother, William H. Hollingsworth of Roxbury, N.C.; three sisters, Hazel Wells and Helen Thomas both of New York and Louise Henry of Maryland; 10 grandchildren, Eric and Erin Grant; Joslyn and Justin Wakefield; Derrick, Corey, Mackenzie, and Dorian Perry; Morgan and Jasmine Smith; and four beloved great-grandchildren, Anisa Wakefield, Destinie, Savannah Joy and Brookelyn Grant. She also leaves many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Josephine especially enjoyed being with her family and talking on the phone with her cousin Gerri Williams and friend, Rena Keith. She looked forward to visits from her sister-in-law, Grace Larry. Josephine loved spending time with her circle of friends at Shiloh Manor and receiving baked cakes from Edna Raynor.

The family thanks Dr. Emmanuel Kenta-Bibi for his genuine kindness and compassion toward our mother and family. We thank Nurse Kathie, Middlesex Hospital CCU for her giving spirit and graciousness.

Funeral services will be held today, Dec. 6, at 11 a.m., at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 346 Butternut St., Middletown. Burial will follow in Trinity Cemetery in Portland. Friends may call this morning from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown is handling the arrangements. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at [doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://doolittlefuneralservice.com).



## Portland

### Sylvia Minickene

Sylvia Agnes Joan Sartori Minickene passed away peacefully in the early morning Thursday, Nov. 28, as her daughter Laureen Minickene Coppolelli was telling her stories and holding her hand. Sylvia was an amazing woman, mom, grandmother, aunt, sister and friend. She radiated a beauty, kindness, compassion and grace we were all lucky to have known.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Aug. 2, 1941, to Angelo John Sartori and Mary Vicino Sartori, she moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., in her early years, Queens, N.Y., in her teens, and moved her family to Portland, where she lived with her family and lifelong friends for over 35 years. Sylvia went from being a full-time mother of three to working part-time at Draghi's Orchards in South Glastonbury to working as a newsroom clerk and writing her own cooking column called *Sylvia's Kitchen* at the Hartford Courant in Middletown for over 20 years (although many of her co-workers said she was and did much more than that). She retired over six years ago and made the most out of every day she could with her family and close friends.

Although she traveled some and vacationed a little, she was most happy in life when she could sit across the table from you, break bread (gluten-free), have a cup of coffee and talk. Lunches with the very best of friends, holidays surrounded by her immediate and extended families, or even a Del's lemon ice at Beavertail in Jamestown, R.I., she treasured every moment with all the people she loved so dearly.

Sylvia was predeceased by her father Angelo Sartori, and is survived by her mother, Mary Sartori, 99, of Port Jefferson, N.Y.; sister, Joan Sartori Longinotti and her husband Robert of Southampton, N.Y.; ex-husband, Gennaro Minickene of Venice, Fla.; daughter Laureen and son-in-law Mark and grandson Brandon Coppolelli; son John and daughter-in-law Melissa and granddaughters Faith and Eve Minickene; son Buzz and daughter-in-law Alessandra and granddaughters Samantha and Nola Minickene.

Her angels on earth were her grandchildren and she lived, loved and cherished every minute with them. Sylvia had many great friends and extended families, but her touchstone throughout life was and always will be Patricia Kracunas of Cromwell.

Our entire family would like to sincerely thank the entire Middlesex Hospital 7th floor nursing, administrative, volunteers, palliative and hospice staff. There aren't words we know to describe in our hearts how thankful we are to have had our mother being taken care of by you. You are truly, collectively, incredible people that held us at our toughest moments when we needed it the most.

Her funeral liturgy was held Thursday, Dec. 5, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Elm St., Middletown. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown on Wednesday, Dec. 4. All who have known Sylvia, whether it be five minutes or 50 years, she affected so many of us, and all were welcome to attend and celebrate her life.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Middlesex Hospital 7th floor Hospice/Palliative care, c/o Sylvia Minickene. She would've wanted to help families and friends like hers in their time of need.

## Portland

### Julian P. Cymbalista

Julian P. Cymbalista, 54, of Portland, husband of Karen (Guerrette) Cymbalista passed away Wednesday, Dec. 4, at home. He was the son of the late Walter and Juliana (Koroczuk) Cymbalista.

Born Feb. 16, 1959, in Hartford, he lived in New Britain before residing in Portland for the past 13 years. He was employed at Electro-Methods Inc. in South Windsor for 10 years and was an avid fisherman, loved NASCAR and the New England Patriots. He was also a member of the Church of St. Mary in Portland.

Besides his wife, he leaves a sister, W. Ann Kulak and her husband, Casimir of Fairfield; two nephews, Andrew and Gregory Kulak; three nieces, Marianna McCall, and Carley and Kelly McNerney; and several great nieces and great nephews.

Funeral services will be held Monday, Dec. 9, at 9 a.m., from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a Mass at 10 a.m. at the Church of St. Mary, Portland. Burial will be in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends may call on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 3-6 p.m., at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1075 Chase Pkwy. #4, Waterbury, CT 06708.

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



*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I didn't brave the crowds on Black Friday last week – nor did I the day before, though I certainly had my opportunities to do (dang my pesky desire to want to spend Thanksgiving with my family) – and in fact have yet to do any Christmas shopping yet this year. Oh, I know I will. I just typically wait until the end of the shopping season, and then get caught up in all the hustle and bustle of the mall crowds in the waning days before Dec. 25.

Yes, I really do enjoy doing my Christmas shopping at the brick-and-mortar stores – and I can't see an Amazon drone, if it ever happens, changing my mind.

Amazon made headlines Sunday with its plans to deliver packages to customers via computer-operated, unmanned aerial vehicles – a.k.a., drones – within half an hour after ordered.

Personally, I think it's a bad idea, with the potential for a host of problems – ranging from drones crashing into houses or, worse, people, to them getting shot out of the sky by sneaky hunters – but more than a bad idea, I think it's a sad one. One of the things brick-and-mortar stores can offer that Amazon can't – other than, you know, basic human interaction – is that if you want something, and the store has it, you can get it right then; you don't need to wait 1-3 days. But if you know you can get the thing you ordered within half an hour of ordering it....well, I just fear too many people would take advantage of it, and that would spell the end of loads more stores than Amazon has already managed to kill off. (Blaming Wal-Mart for stores closing almost seems passe at this point.)

"Anything you want on Earth you're gonna get from us," Amazon VP Dave Clark told CBS' Charlie Rose on *60 Minutes* Sunday night. Yikes.

Look, Americans' love of laziness has killed video stores, has just about killed record stores, and is killing book stores. And as I've written before in this space, it's a shame.

Sometimes I really get the feeling it's society's ultimate goal to have humans not have to leave their house or apartment for, literally, anything.

And that's a lousy goal to have.

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On a sunnier note: Ya gotta love that new pope.

Pope Francis has done a lot that's made me smile since he moved into the Vatican earlier this year – and Monday brought the news he's doing even more.

According to *The Huffington Post*, a "knowledgable source in Rome" said Pope Francis is venturing out of the Vatican at night, dressed as a regular priest, to meet with homeless people.

It appears to be merely an extension of what the pope did back when he was Cardi-

nal Jorge Bergoglio. The *Post* said that, in those days, he was known to sneak out at night to break bread with the homeless, sitting with them on the street and eating with them to show that they were loved.

It's very awesome of the pope, and very Christian – and, like I said, just another sign he was a very good choice for pope.

Pope Francis made headlines in September with the publication of remarks saying the church had grown "obsessed" with abortion, gay marriage and contraception. I wholeheartedly agreed with him – and have felt that way for a long time. As a lifelong Catholic, I know the church has a lot of good stuff to offer, but too often it seems to get lost amid all the dogma, a lot of which has very little bearing on living a Christian life.

Pope Francis said in an interview published that month he was asked if he approved of homosexuality. "I replied with another question: 'Tell me: when God looks at a gay person, does he endorse the existence of this person with love, or reject and condemn this person?'" he said. "We must always consider the person."

This was on the heels of a number of pretty great things the pope had done, such as when he included women in the traditional washing of the feet ceremony during Holy Thursday Mass – a papal first. (Also a first? The Mass was held at a youth prison on the outskirts of Rome, as opposed to the traditional location of either St Peter's or the Basilica of St John in Lateran.)

But where the pope really won me over was in his approach to atheists. The pope said during a homily in May that, if atheists do good, they should be seen as good people.

"The root of this possibility of doing good – that we all have – is in creation," Pope Francis said.

He added, "The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ; all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone! 'Father, the atheists?' Even the atheists. Everyone! ... And we all have a duty to do good. And this commandment for everyone to do good, I think, is a beautiful path towards peace."

Yes, it is. I've long felt what Jesus is interested in is not what church we're a member of, or even if we're a member of one at all. It's how we live his teachings – to love one another, to help one another...in short, to be good people. I have atheist friends and family members who are just terrific people – and actually do a better job of living some of Christ's teachings than some Christians you hear about in the news.

Anyone can be a good person, regardless of who, or what, they believe in. It's a simple message, but an important one – and I'm glad Pope Francis is stressing it.

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See you next week.

## Hebron Police News

11/30: State Police said Russell Roly IV, 25, of 58 Hunt Rd., Columbia, was charged with failure to have lights lit, DUI, possession of less than a half-ounce of cannabis, possession of drug paraphernalia and speeding.

## East Hampton Police News

11/16: Shelby Rose, 21, of 67 Flanders Rd., was issued a summons for speeding, (64 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone), East Hampton Police said.

11/21: Joseph W. Aubin Jr., 40, of 38 Schofield Ave., Dudley, Mass., was arrested for two counts of attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud or misrepresentation and two counts of second-degree forgery, police said, after an investigation into a complaint that was made by a local pharmacy regarding numerous attempts at obtaining fraudulent prescriptions.

11/24: Katelyn K. Grimshaw, 20, of 26 North Main St., was issued a summons for misuse of plates, operating a motor vehicle with a windshield obstruction and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle.

11/26: Holly Lorraine Stanley, 34, of 41 Lake Dr., was arrested for third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

## Colchester Police News

11/25: State Police said a two-car crash occurred at around 6:05 p.m. on Route 2 eastbound, approximately two-tenths of a mile west of Exit 18. Police said at 6:05 p.m. Jean S. Martin, 61, with an address listed as P.O. Box 894, Glastonbury, was traveling near Exit 18 when her vehicle struck a deer in the roadway. Police said Diane Sandler, 62, of 56 Cheyenne Ct., Marlborough, then struck Martin's vehicle from behind. Police said both vehicles sustained heavy damage. Sandler was issued an infraction for failure to drive a reasonable distance apart. Both operators were transported to Marlborough Clinic by the Colchester Hayward Fire Department for minor injuries.

11/25: State Police said William Maynard, 42, of 292 Colchester Turnpike., East Haddam, was charged with violation of probation.

11/26: State Police said Leon E. Hemingway, 41, of 45 Lebanon Ave., Willimantic, was charged with breach of peace and criminal violation of a protective order.

11/26: State Police said Joseph F. Forcucci, 61, of 31 Skinner Rd., was charged with DUI, failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple-lane highway and carrying a firearm while un-

der the influence of alcohol.

11/26: State Police said Chance Pica, 18, of 9 Turner Rd., Amston, was taken into custody for charges stemming from a July 31 incident. Police said Pica was charged with DUI and making an improper turn.

11/28: State Police said Peter Soulsby, 59, of 14 Edstrom Rd., Marlborough, was charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct and unlawful restraint.

11/29: Colchester Police said Joseph Thomas Huddock, 53, of 48 Wall St., Apt. 3, was charged with criminal violation of a protective order.

11/30: State Police said Michael Oddis, 21, of 477 Westchester Rd., was charged with two counts of first-degree failure to appear and two counts of second-degree failure to appear.

11/30: Colchester Police said Thomas Rapuano, 48, of 140 Chestnut Hill Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to obey stop sign.

12/1: State Police said Jacob D. Cunningham, 19, of 31 Boulder Rd., was arrested on two separate PRAWN warrants for second-degree failure to appear.

## Marlborough Police News

11/26: State Police said Justin Ruffino, 27, of 271 South Main St., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and illegal possession of a narcotic.

11/26: State Police said a residential burglary was reported on South Main Street at approximately 12:53 p.m. Police said entry was gained through a rear door that was forced. Items reported taken included two televisions, assorted jewelry items and video equipment. Anyone with information is asked to contact Officer

Randy Ransom at Troop K at 860-465-5400.

11/27: State Police said Ronald Torres, 44, of 127 Chapman Rd., was charged with failure to carry a license, speeding, DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple lane highway.

11/29: State Police said Jordan Goodman, 19, of 39 Eastham Bridge Rd., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain lane.