

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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A Glimpse of Portland Past... This photo, taken during construction of the new Middletown-Portland (later rededicated as Charles J. Arrigoni) Bridge in 1936-38, shows several cars coming off the 1896 bridge on the Middletown side of the river. The old bridge remained in service throughout construction. The picture is one of many featured in the "Portland River Crossings" exhibit, which will be open this Sunday at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History. For more information, see a related story on page 22.

Twenty Years for Florence Lord Housing

by Melissa Roberto

On any given day, residents of the Florence S. Lord Senior Housing complex in Marlborough can be seen around the facility walking their dogs, playing cards with neighbors and sitting outside on the facility's patio conversing.

Last Sunday, July 28, however, residents, employees, the complex's board of directors, and state and local dignitaries gathered at the facility on South Main Street for a celebration worth commemorating: the facility's 20th anniversary.

The Modern Riffs, a local band, also attended, supplying light jazz and blues tunes that attendees tapped their feet to.

Florence S. Lord Senior Housing, which opened in 1993, is the only senior housing complex in town. It offers affordable apartment-style housing for senior citizens age 62 and up and young disabled citizens. The building consists of 24 single-bedroom units, each equipped with a kitchen, dining area, living room and bathroom. The facility also includes a laundry room, library and meeting room, accessible to all residents.

The complex is not an assisted-living or nursing home, residents stressed. Instead, Florence S. Lord Senior Housing allows residents to live independently without the extra responsibili-

ties that come with owning a house.

But residents and employees described the facility as much more than just a place to live during its 20th anniversary celebration. The word speakers and attendees incessantly used to describe the facility was "home."

"A warm, welcoming, comfortable home," resident Sara Walsh said. "I tell everybody that I live in a mini country club because everything is taken care of so beautifully."

Walsh's son, Jeff Wiederschall of East Hampton, is thankful his mother has such a comfortable place to live.

"Financially speaking it's a major burden taken off of the residents because it's affordable," Wiederschall explained. "Without a place like this my mom probably couldn't survive renting a home somewhere so that's what one benefit of a place like this is."

The facility's resident service coordinator and administrator, Susan Schatz, oversees the complex three days a week – and also called it home. On Sunday, Schatz was often seen catering to the residents, making sure they were hydrated and of course, passing out the birthday cake.

"It's like working at home," she said, "because the residents treat me like family."

Schatz has helped run the 20-year-old facility.
See Florence Lord Page 2

EHHS Class of 1944 Gets Together

by Elizabeth Bowling

Smiles and warm memories of years gone by were the order of the day at Rossini's Restaurant Wednesday afternoon, as eight members of East Hampton High School's graduating class of 1944 came together for their 69th high school reunion.

Most came from East Hampton or surrounding towns like Colchester, Middle Haddam and Enfield – and one even traveled from Florida to see her former classmates.

Some of the alumni had to rack their brains to remember the names of some of their classmates, but soon the memories came flooding back to them and the group was remembering things as specific as houses and addresses of old friends.

Class president Doris Lawson, whose maiden name is Brewer, and her twin sister Dotti Lawson were co-valedictorians of the EHHS class of 1944. The town was much smaller then in terms of the census, Doris said. The graduating class consisted of 26 students. But what made this class truly special was its involvement in the World War II effort.

Dotti said, "We graduated a week after D-Day. It was a very solemn graduation."

Doris added, "It was a very trying time, but it brought us closer together."

Doris explained that most of the boys that should have graduated with them were still off in the service at the time of the graduation cer-

emony. Those men who were away would have to finish their educations by either earning school credits in the service or returning to school upon coming home from the war.

Two of the boys, Doris recalled, actually fulfilled all their requirements before going into the service but were away for the ceremony so their parents accepted their diplomas on their behalf.

But one alumnus, Arthur Jacobson, said he didn't get drafted until after he graduated, making him one of only two boys to walk that year.

Because Jacobson was "the youngest one in the class" he was still 17 when he graduated. When he was eventually drafted in 1945, he spent two years abroad and called it a "big waste of time." He said, "I went over to the Philippines for two years then they sent us home."

Upon returning home, Jacobson worked as a mailman and an assistant postmaster in East Hampton. "Back in those days, all of us guys went into the service. That's why we never went to college," he said.

Dotti's high-school-sweetheart-turned-husband was no exception. Everett Lawson was two years older than Dotti, she said. "We started going together when I was a junior. Then he went into the service. He enlisted," she said. Dotti said that when Everett returned home, he rarely spoke of his time in the war before passing away in 1999.

Class of 1944 Page 2



Eight members of the East Hampton High School Class of 1944 got together at Rossini's Restaurant Wednesday afternoon for their 69-year reunion. Pictured back row from left are Mary Scott, Miriam Scranton, Arthur Jacobson, Madeline Clark, Adeline Pasternak and Yvonne Hallberg; front row from left are Doris Lawson and Dotti Lawson.



Residents of the Florence S. Lord Senior Housing listen to music played by local band The Modern Riffs last Sunday, July 28, during the senior housing facility's 20th anniversary celebration. The complex opened in 1993 and is still known today as the only senior housing facility in Marlborough.

Florence Lord cont. from Front Page

ity for three and a half years. Her entire career has been spent in the property management field but Florence S. Lord Housing is Schatz's first experience working for a senior living facility, she said, and so far she's "absolutely" enjoyed it.

Part-time superintendent of the housing facility, Michael Malloy, was another employee all smiles last Sunday. Malloy lives just two miles down the road from the complex – and, like Schatz, feels it's like a second home. Malloy served on the facility's board of directors for a couple of years starting in 2006. When the part-time position opened up, the retired facilities manager thought "it sounded like fun" – and he said Sunday it sure has been.

Malloy said he's specifically seen the complex come back to life since Schatz was hired. He also said he's enjoyed working there because of the residents.

"I love them all," he said. "They're all very energetic and very diverse. It's just a very nice group of people."

The senior facility was named after former librarian, politician and teacher, the late Florence S. Lord. Lord came to Marlborough in 1930 and lived with her husband, Norman R. Lord, on South Road. She served as the town librarian for about 30 years, and was heavily involved at the local and state level.

Lord represented Marlborough in the state General Assembly for six terms starting in the 1950s. She was both president and vice president of the OWLS (Organization of Women Legislators), and was the first female attorney in Connecticut.

At the local level, Lord served the town in several capacities. She was the Democratic registrar of voters, served on the Charter Committee, Charter Revision Committee and the Democratic Town Committee. She was also a member of the Marlborough Historical Society and Congregational Church of Marlborough.

The hometown hero died in 1991, at 95 years old.

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski was one of the local officials who attended Sunday's celebration. Alongside Gaudinski was Judge of Probate Jennifer Berkenstock and state Sen. Cathy Osten. Gaudinski and Osten presented a citation to the center on behalf of the Connecticut General Assembly in honor of its 20 years.

(State Rep. Pam Sawyer was unable to attend.) Gaudinski extended her congratulations.

"This is a great celebration of 20 years of a wonderful housing complex," Gaudinski said. "I think this is aptly named because it was someone who had a lot to give throughout her whole life and it is something for our seniors to remember – that as we go through different stages we're still able to provide a lot for our community."

Osten spoke on behalf of herself and Sawyer. She said the two have enjoyed getting to know the senior population in Marlborough. She also informed attendees that a flag was flown over the state capitol in honor of the 20-year anniversary, and informed residents her efforts wouldn't stop there.

"I really appreciate being here and this is a beautiful facility that I'd be more than happy to help get additional resources to make it even more up to date than it is today," she said.

Berkenstock – who Schatz and residents spoke highly of for her participation with the complex – also extended her gratitude to the facility and its residents.

Also at Sunday's celebration were members of the MASH (Marlborough Association of Senior Housing) Board of Directors, who planned the event. The board – which consists of President Ken Hjulstrom, Vice President Louise Concodello, and members Riva Clark, Midge Denno and Dee Hjulstrom – meets about five times a year and helps oversee the building and make decisions concerning the building.

Additionally, Fire Commissioner Michael Schadtler, Board of Finance Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout and former board members participated in the celebration.

A "Wall of Fame" also adorned one of the walls in the room which was set up by the directors' board with pictures and a space where attendees signed thoughtful notes and well wishes for an even brighter 20 years.

One resident, Hal White, took the floor to briefly discuss the 15-year project it took to bring the facility to fruition. He also touched on his friend, Lord, who "everyone looked upon as old, but she wasn't," stressing all she had accomplished during her life.

"I'm glad we saw a real need" for the senior housing facility, White wrapped up. "It's a great place to call home."

Class of 1944 cont. from Front Page

Doris married Everett's older brother, Kenneth, who also enlisted in the army and served for three years before he was discharged in 1945. Doris said Kenneth was in the Battle of the Bulge, and he was in the division that shot the last shot fired in Europe in WWII. A few years following his return, the set of siblings had a double wedding in September 1948. Kenneth passed away about two years ago.

But their then-future-husbands weren't the only men the Lawson sisters knew who were going off to war. Doris recalled, "Even some of our faculty and teachers left to go into the service."

Dotti added, "Even our principal left."

With the men away at war, some of the women recalled what life was like at home during World War II.

"We had blackened shades on our windows in case of an air raid," Doris said, and added, "Everything was rationed."

Miriam (Hallbert) Scranton was an "airplane spotter." She said after school she'd go to the top of Barton Hill and if she saw a plane fly by she'd pick up the pre-connected phone and describe the plane.

So the men weren't the only ones enlisting and helping the war effort. Doris and Dotti said they enlisted, too, in the Cadet Nurse Corps when they graduated from high school.

Dotti said she enlisted because "I felt like I needed to do something."

The twin sisters and their classmate Adeline (Patterson) Pasternak manned the civilian hospital at St. Francis Hospital, they said. The three continued their careers as nurses even after the war was over.

Pasternak said, "I consider myself still a nurse," she laughed. "But I just stopped working five years ago."

But working as a nurse wasn't the only way to help the war effort. "Some of the girls in the senior class would sew for the Red Cross," Dotti said.

Scranton, who was voted "prettiest in the class" 69 years ago, said there was no limit to what the girls sewed. "Whatever was needed," she said.

Since all but two of the senior class's boys were away for the war, the senior ball and junior prom were combined, Scranton said.

"Wesleyan University in Middletown sent a van over with V-12 students," she said. V-12 students were men who were in a training program to become officers while simultaneously earning their bachelor's degrees, she explained. So essentially a van full of college men wearing military uniforms were sent over to the high school so the girls could have dance partners.

Madeline Clark, whose maiden name is Beyer, traveled from North Fort Myers, Fla., to attend the reunion. She recalled that East Hampton started allowing interscholastic sports for girls in the early '40s.

"There weren't many schools that did that," Clark said.

Girls' sports included basketball, baseball and field hockey.

Mary O'Neil, now Mary Scott and a mother of 10, was once the school's basketball, baseball and field hockey star. She reminisced about her days as an athlete, recalling getting her teeth knocked out playing field hockey.

According to Scranton, Scott was also quite the dancer. Scranton said the girls would penny dance and jitterbug together.

The group raved about East Hampton in the 1940s – back when the high school was a completely different building in the center of town where the middle school is now. "East Hampton was a very thriving town," Doris said. "We had thread mills in town and employed a lot of people from the surrounding towns."

She noted that despite the town's small size – it had a population of about 2,000 then compared to about 13,000 now – Lake Pocotopaug was a major tourist attraction.

"The trains were packed with people from New York that would come for the summers," Doris recalled.

After the group reminisced for about an hour, Scranton read aloud a list of 43 names of the graduates' deceased classmates and the group had a moment of silence.

"There's not many of us left," Doris said, explaining why she organizes the reunions at least once every two years.

But despite the small turnout, a positive Pasternak said, "I think we're fortunate."

The group plans to meet again next year to celebrate its monumental 70-year high school reunion.

New Political Party in Colchester Aims to ‘Give Voters A Choice’

by Melissa Roberto

The new Colchester Independent Party, or CIP, is well on its way to bringing its number one goal to fruition: to “give voters a choice” at the municipal elections this fall.

Spearheaded by former first selectwoman Linda Hodge, CIP had already taken the first steps in the process of establishing a new political party – such as filing the necessary petitions and paperwork with the secretary of state’s office.

Earlier this week, CIP announced its slate of candidates who will run in this fall’s election, which is the final step before its establishment for each board/commission is left up to voters.

According to Hodge, in order for a board or commission to have an official independent candidate slot for future elections, each candidate running for a particular board or commission this fall must receive 1 percent of support from voters before the party is made official.

“So if we put up someone for first selectman and get 1 percent of those voters, then [the CIP] will become [an official option] for that board,” Hodge explained in May, when the group was officially announced.

The slate of candidates consists of former elected officials as well as citizens interested in serving for the first time.

Hodge is among the first-ever CIP candidates. She is running for first selectwoman, a role she has familiarity with, having served in the position from 2007-09. During her time in the position, Hodge said she led initiatives that enhanced economic development in Colchester, including initial discussions with Tractor Supply, which has since opened in town, and the plan for Lebanon Avenue’s revitalization that is currently underway.

Additionally, Hodge said she feels even more equipped for the first selectman’s seat this time around. Since 2009, Hodge has received a bachelor’s degree in business, a master’s degree in public administration and a second master’s degree in survey research, all from the University of Connecticut. She is also currently pursuing a human resources certification at Eastern Connecticut State University.

“Both of those [master’s degrees] tie very closely into the position as first selectman,” she said. “What I did is I took what I had learned as first selectman and I tried to learn how to do it better.”

One thing she hopes to continue if elected, she said, is to continue to demonstrate “a high level of citizen engagement.”

Two candidates will also run for a seat on the Board of Selectmen. Newcomer Evan A. Evans who is currently serving in the military is running for the first time for the current Republican-controlled board as well as former Board of Assessment Appeals member Tearice Peters.

In addition to serving on the appeals board, Peters said she served as vice chairwoman on the Charter Review Commission in 2006 and then as vice chairwoman of the subsequent Charter Revision Commission. Peters said she believes her “ability to listen to people” rather than follow her own agenda is what would make her a great enhancement to the selectmen board.

“Generally speaking, I’ve always been there for the people – to listen to them with an open mind and to make sure they are heard,” Peters said. “I feel it’s better to be proactive than reactive.”

Peters added that she chose to run as a CIP candidate because she believes “every vote counts,” and the additional candidates give voters a choice at the polls, rather than just seeing ballot tickets featuring a bare-bones number of candidates from the two town committees, which “guarantee” a seat for everyone who runs.

“They may put new faces in but in the end they’re still guaranteeing them a seat,” Peters said of the current town committees. She added the party features “all different party representations. This gives [voters] a really good choice this fall. It will be nice to have a real election.”

James D. McNair III, a former Board of Education member, is also interested in making his way back to Colchester’s political scene. McNair will be on the ticket for a seat on the Board of Finance.

“Numbers have always fascinated me,” McNair said of his interest for the board adding he has a bachelor’s degree in finance.

McNair explained he respects current board and commission members, but added he believes major decisions are in the hands of the voters. He said logical decisions can only be made with something he believes is necessary in local government – “full transparency” – which is something he’d like to demonstrate if elected.

“My interest with the Board of Finance is to get people a more transparent report of the is-



Pictured above are the Colchester Independent Party (CIP) candidates running in this November’s municipal elections. From left to right are Torri Buchwald, Linda Hodge, James D. McNair III, Tearice Peters, Evan A. Evans and Michael Voiland.

sues,” McNair furthered. “Just because you get a lot of information doesn’t necessarily mean it’s considered to be balanced information.”

Newcomer Michael Voiland is another candidate in the running for the first time. Voiland, Bacon Academy’s head football coach for the past 17 years, will run for the Board of Education. Though he’s never served in the capacity of an elected official, Voiland is familiar with the school system, as he works with Bacon athletes and also raised three daughters who went through the Colchester school system.

Voiland said it’s a fitting time for him to become more involved. In addition to his interest, the football coach explained one reason he chose to run with CIP is to bring voters more of a variety at the polls.

“Choice in elections is important,” he said. Generally you vote for [three] people for the Board of Education and there’s only [three] people on the ballot. That’s not really an election. That’s really decided at the time the parties put their candidates on the ballot. In order to have an election you need a little more.”

Another first-timer, Torri Buchwald, will run as a candidate for the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Overall, Hodge feels the slate of candidates is varied with skills that would be useful in Colchester’s local government.

“We have people who come from the military, we have Democrats, we have Republicans, we have people who are education-focused and people who are finance-focused,” she said. “And we have people who know different groups in town so we’re able to connect with people.”

Ironically, Hodge said her decision to spearhead the formation of CIP was actually influenced by requests she heard during her time serving as first selectwoman.

According to a press release issued by CIP, one of their initiatives is to “put ‘the town’ back in ‘Town Hall.’”

CIP is still looking for candidates specifically to run for the Board of Education, Board of Finance and Treasurer. Hodge asks that anyone with inquiries email CIP06415@gmail.com. CIP will accept candidate requests until Aug. 5. Its deadline to file petitions at Town Hall is Aug. 7.

Elections will be held Nov. 5. The town’s four polling locations can be found on the town website at colchesterct.gov.

Colchester Tax Collector Takes Out Proper Permit

by Melissa Roberto

After being told last month she failed to declare improvements to her home which would have increased the property assessment, Tax Collector Tricia Coblenz has now taken out the proper building permit, the *Rivereast* has learned.

Records on file with the town had seemed to indicate Coblenz failed to declare improvements to her home on three separate occasions since 2008; two improvements in which she never applied for a building permit and another improvement which she took out a permit for after the work had already been completed.

Building Official Tim York – who is responsible for issuing permits to property owners – said it is a “common occurrence” that property owners in town fail to take out building permits before improvements are performed, which by state statute, is a requirement for property owners.

Last month, York explained a building permit is issued to a property owner once the permit has been applied for and meets both building codes and Chatham Health District health codes. It allows a property owner to build, con-

struct or remodel whatever it is property owners are applying for.

After York inspects the completed work, he then issues property owners a certificate of occupancy. This allows a property owner to occupy the area that was improved.

A June realtor.com advertisement for Coblenz’s home at 95 Lindsey Rd. in Colchester lists a “partially-finished basement” as being among the features. However, town records indicated in July no permit was ever taken out for such improvements. Earlier this week, York said Coblenz recently claimed “there’s an unfinished wall in the basement.”

A similar discovery was made concerning a rear deck that was extended. York said last month his office had “no record” of improvements to the rear deck at 95 Lindsey Rd. However, Tax Assessor John Chaponis said last month his office discovered the extended wood deck back in 2008, which caused her taxes to rise by \$500 per year.

York said he sent a notice informing Coblenz of her failure to take out permits for the wood deck and partially-finished basement during the

week of July 8. On July 15, Coblenz applied for a permit that would allow both the work to the deck and the apparent wall in the basement to be approved by the building official.

Before they are approved, York said he needs to inspect the two areas. If approved, York said he would then issue a “certificate of compliance,” rather than a certificate of occupancy. York explained a certificate of compliance is issued to allowable improvements to a property that can’t actually be occupied.

“The wall and deck are not what we call occupiable space,” York explained.

In July, Chaponis said taxes “absolutely” rise for property owners if improvements to their properties cause its value to rise.

“Taxation in Connecticut is ‘ad valorem,’ or ‘according to value,’” the assessor said last month. “Anytime a property owner makes improvements to a property or adds square footage of living area, the value goes up.”

York said he cannot make any determinations about either improvement until he inspects the home.

If the improvements cause the value of 95 Lindsey Rd. to rise, the tax assessor would be responsible for adjusting the taxes accordingly.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said there is “nothing” Town Hall staff can do to investigate Coblenz’s actions further. He added that Town Hall staff has treated Coblenz equally to any other citizen in town who has failed to properly declare property improvements.

“First of all, we’re treating this as we would with any other citizen,” he explained. “As the [July 19 *Rivereast*] article pointed out, anything which required a building permit and was not applied for has been noticed by the building official and he has sent out letters to make sure that gets done.”

“It’s an elected position so there’s nothing we can do in this circumstance,” Schuster furthered.

York similarly responded. “We treat everyone the same in this office,” he said. “It doesn’t matter who it is.”

Coblenz did not return a call for comment for this story.

Colchester Awarded Grant for Linwood Avenue Project

by Melissa Roberto

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy recently announced that Colchester was one of 14 Connecticut towns being awarded a grant under the state's Main Street Investment Fund (MSIF) to be utilized for downtown revitalization and economic development efforts.

The MSIF program is administered through the state Department of Housing, providing funding to eligible municipalities for streetscape improvements primarily in town centers. In Colchester, the \$285,000 grant will be used toward the town's Linwood Avenue Streetscape Improvement project.

The project includes a concrete sidewalk and stamped concrete pathway along the southern side of Linwood Avenue, as well as solar lighting, landscaping and a wider concrete section along the northern side of Linwood Avenue in front of Cragin Library, according to a press release submitted by the Governor's Office.

In the press release from the governor's office, Malloy explained how vital these grants are to small towns around the state.

"Main Street Investment grants play an important role in strengthening economic development initiatives on the local level," he said. "This program is unique in that it builds a working partnership between state government and the small communities that are striving to strengthen their commercial centers and

attract additional business."

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said he anticipates construction of the project to begin next spring and continue through the middle of next year. Workshops will be held during September and October of this year to gather public input about the project.

Schuster furthered he was "ecstatic" about the news.

"It's such a great project that's really going to add to the downtown area," he stated.

With combined efforts of the town engineer Sal Passone as well as the Planning and Zoning Department, the Board of Selectman granted Schuster approval to complete the application and submit it to the state last fall.

Schuster said the town was notified of its award a couple weeks ago. After receiving the news, the selectman created a YouTube video to make the public aware of the project's initiatives. It includes pictures as well as additional information so citizens are aware of what downtown will look like within the next year. To view the video, log on to youtube.com and type "Linwood Avenue Streetscape Project" into the search engine.

Other MSIF grants were awarded to Ansonia, Berlin, Burlington, Canaan, Canton, Cornwall, Essex, Fairfield, Griswold, Killingly, Mansfield, New Canaan and Westport.

Colchester Teen Attacked Near Air Line Trail

by Melissa Roberto

A 14-year-old female reported she had been attacked by a male with sexual intentions while walking near the Air Line Trail at night, Colchester Police said.

The incident occurred between 10:30 and 11 p.m. July 14, according to Colchester Police Officer Eric Watrous, the investigating officer for the case. The 14-year-old reported the incident the following day. Watrous said the juvenile reported walking alone near the trail at night on Lebanon Avenue when she was approached twice by the same white male. The teen did not recognize the male, Watrous said, but told police he "looked like a homeless guy."

The female reported she was able to walk away the first time the male approached her. The second time, however, the male "threw her to the ground," according to the teen, Watrous said. The juvenile was able to defend herself and walk away from the scene with no sustained injuries and no sexual assault taking place, the officer added.

Earlier this week Watrous said he had no leads or suspects. The officer added that the incident occurred near a dirt path where most kids in town go at night. Watrous confirmed he is still investigating the incident. Anyone with information is asked to contact Officer Eric Watrous at 860-537-7500 ext. 4081.

Colchester Police News

7/22: State Police said Timothy E. Bernard, 23, of 33 Brennan Rd., Amston, turned himself in to Troop K for second-degree failure to appear.

7/23: State Police said Gregory Eichner, 22, of 12 Bull Hill Rd., Storrs, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

7/24: State Police said Alexandra Jennes, 20, of 991 Bank St., New London, was taken into custody for two outstanding PRAWN warrants for second-degree failure to appear.

7/24: Colchester Police said Matthew Orange, 36, of 52 Standish Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief.

7/25: Colchester Police said Jacob Cunningham, 19, of 31 Boulder Rd., was charged with two counts of failure to plead.

7/25: Colchester Police said Dalton K. Ford, 23, of 5049 Ashley Lake Dr., Boynton Beach, Fla., was charged with first-degree failure to appear.

7/27: At approximately 6:23 p.m. the Colchester Police responded to the Air Line Trail parking lot on Old Hartford Road. Police said a vehicle was damaged and a wallet was stolen from the vehicle. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Officer Jonathan Goss at 860-537-7555 ext. 4083.

7/28: State Police said Sean Patrick Capezzone, 25, of 73 Mahoney Rd., was charged with DUI, failure to illuminate lights and failure to drive right.

7/29: State Police said Nicki Allen, 19, of 270 Deepwood Dr., Amston, was charged with third-degree burglary and fourth-degree larceny.

East Hampton Republican Town Committee Announces Slew of Candidates

By Elizabeth Bowling

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee announced its candidates for the municipal election Nov. 5 Tuesday, July 16, at Angelico's Lake House Restaurant – and a lot of new names are in the running.

RTC Chairman Michael Rose said, "I think having new blood and people with conservative principles will be helpful to our slate."

He praised the diversity of the Republican slate in terms of age, gender and experience. Rose explained that the RTC placed the maximum amount of Republicans to fill open seats; this includes five candidates running for Town Council, five for the Board of Education and four for the Board of Finance.

The only current Republican member of the Town Council is Ted Hintz and he is up for re-election. He is also the president of East Hampton's Rotary Club and the former chairman of the Board of Finance.

"It's been quite an honor serving the citizens of East Hampton," Hintz said, and if given the chance to continue serving, he said he hopes to establish a "long-range plan for the town."

Four other non-returning candidates will join Hintz in running for a position on the Town Council.

Patience Anderson may be new to the Town Council, but she has four years of experience on the Board of Finance and is a VFW Ladies Auxiliary Officer, in addition to being a member of the Color Guard. She said she's making the transition from Board of Finance to Town Council because she's "ready for the next challenge."

Her plan, if elected, is to get feedback from the residents of East Hampton. "I believe, as a public servant, the way that we can best serve the people is to listen to them," she said. "There's always room for improvement."

For Mark Philhower, the chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission and a former

Town Council member, improvement would come in the form of cuts in spending.

Ray Zatorski, the current vice-chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission, said he, too, would strive for "fiscal responsibility, civility and respect." And his goal is to "keep taxes in check."

The final Republican running for Town Council is a newcomer to town politics. Jarod Bushey is settling into East Hampton after moving in less than a year ago. The aeronautical engineer said he wants to "keep East Hampton an attractive place to raise a family." If elected, he said he would bring a "fresh perspective" to the council. While he has never held an elected position in town, he is aware of town happenings and would bring a youthful energy to the position, he said.

As for the Board of Education, the only Republican board member running for re-election is Josh Piteo, who is also a former member of the Board of Finance and former president of the East Hampton Rotary Club. He is responsible for the memorial bricks in the village center.

Piteo said his goal is to reform the school board's spending practices, focusing less on administration and more on students. For example, he wants to tackle unfinished business like creating a strict timeline for fully-funded kindergarten that would "give parents the option of full-day kindergarten," he said.

The four-year-member of the school board said he knows and cares about the issues. "You can get a fantastic education right here in town and we, on the board, need to tell the townspeople that," he said.

Another Board of Education candidate is newcomer Emily Fahle, who grew up in Marlborough and has lived with her family in East Hampton for three years. The new mom has a particular interest in the town's education

system and the high school renovation project.

Fahle said she's one of the five Republican candidates running for a position on the Board of Education because she wants to "help make sound, responsible decisions to provide the best educational system for East Hampton's kids while ensuring East Hampton taxpayers are getting the most value for their money."

Regarding her lack of experience, she said, "There's always room for new ideas and new perspectives."

Other Republicans running for the Board of Education include Lisa Gallo and Karen Lee.

If elected, Gallo said she would "bring transparency and accountability to the board" while focusing on a quality education for students.

Similarly, Lee, a mother of two and a human resources manager at United Technologies, said she would like to create "a love of learning in our children" by continuing use of the board's existing strategies in addition to finding opportunities for improvement.

The final Board of Education Republican candidate is Maria Peplau – and she is no stranger to East Hampton politics. The former Board of Finance member said her goal would be to "help analyze responsible spending and accountability without jeopardizing educational excellence." She would also ensure a "good quality of life," she said.

One current and 20-year-member of the Board of Education, Don Coolican, is looking to bring his perspective to the Board of Finance. He said the Board of Education often submits "unrealistic" budgets to the finance board, so he wants to be on that board to help other members better understand the budgets submitted to them.

Coolican said his goal is to "keep East Hampton a place to live where taxes are reasonable."

Lori Wilcox will join Coolican, and two others, in the running for the Board of the Finance.

She is currently on the Zoning Board of Appeals and a member of the Belltown Garden Club and Friends of Lake Pocotopaug. Since retiring in April after working for over 20 years at a Fortune 100 company, she hopes to dedicate her time to the town.

"I'm a fiscal conservative and I'd like to see some of that filter into the town budget," she said.

The nearly 30-year-resident of East Hampton is running for the Board of Finance to "serve the community" and she hopes to do that by working with a budget that "starts with total income."

Newcomers to town politics Marc Lamber and Sal Nucifora conclude the list of candidates for the Board of Finance. Lamber is an accountant, a Little League coach and the president of the East Hampton soccer club who seeks "financial clarity and transparency," he said. Nucifora is a mechanical engineer who, if elected, would "ensure accountability and make tough choices," he said.

Also endorsed at the RTC caucus were Don Martin (for the term beginning 2014) and Dorene Nablo (for the term beginning 2013) for the Zoning Board of Appeals with Margaret Jacobson, Darin Hurne and Melinda Powell for alternates. Gil Danaher and Linda Ursin were endorsed for the Board of Assessment Appeals.

George Coshow, the East Hampton RTC secretary, may have put it best when he wrote in a press release that Republicans "want less government and are reticent to be part of boards or government with this exception: those that are willing to run are very interested in restraining government and reducing public expenditures wherever possible."

Voting will take place Tuesday, Nov. 5, at East Hampton High School.

After 38 Years with Department, Hebron Fire Chief Retires

by Geeta Schrayter

Longtime Hebron resident and Fire Chief Fred Speno retired from his position, effective Wednesday, in order to spend more time with his family.

Speno, 71, has been with the Hebron Fire Department for 38 years, serving in various capacities such as captain, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) captain, deputy fire chief and, most recently, fire chief. Speno was appointed chief in January 2010, taking over for Paul Burton.

During his tenure, Speno said there were a number of things he was proud of. Among these was the department's switch in dispatch services from Colchester Emergency Communications to Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service Inc., which he said saved the town over \$20,000 annually. In addition, Speno said he was also an integral part of bringing defibrillators to town about 15 years ago and having technicians carry first-aid kits in their private vehicles.

"That provided much faster service," he said of keeping the kits on hand adding, "other people have improved these things over the years, but those were two initiatives I started that I feel good about."

Town Manager Andy Tierney said Wednesday he met with Speno that morning and had thanked him for "a job well done."

Speno "got a lot of things instituted" he said, and, in addition to mentioning the change in dispatch services, noted some of the other changes that had occurred under Speno's watch like the purchase of new stretcher systems, changing policies and updating procedures – and handling the New England weather.

"He saw some heavy-duty storms and bliz-

zards, and the fire department was always there and rose to the occasion," Tierney said, adding, "It's not always easy being in charge of a bunch of volunteers, but at the end of the day I think he did a good job."

Board of Selectmen Chair Jeff Watt felt similarly. He said Speno has given "a tremendous amount to the community" through his involvement with the fire department as well as other volunteer organizations in town.

"He's been very critical to the whole safety of our community and I can't say enough good things about Fred and his leadership," Watt said. "He's done a good job of being able to position himself to have some very good leadership come up through the fire department, to really lead Hebron in the future."

Selectmen Dan Larsen, who is also the deputy fire marshal in town and has been active with the department since 1980, has known Speno since he joined.

"I think it's great," he said of Speno's retirement. "I'm happy to see that he's going to be able to enjoy life – it's one of the things we always hope for, that we can retire and are still able to do stuff."

Larsen called Speno "a good and caring person."

He "has always been dedicated to the fire department," Larsen said, "and it's great that he's able to get to the next aspect of his life."

Of his reason for holding off on getting to that next aspect and staying with the department for so long, Speno said being a firefighter "kind of gets in your blood and you just do it."

"I don't know how to explain it. One year after another [passes], and then all of a sudden it's a bunch of years," he said.

But before it's all of a sudden too late for

him to enjoy it, Speno said he wants to spend more time with his family – which includes his wife, two children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren – and the retirement home he and his wife own on upstate New York's Finger Lakes.

"It's a beautiful area," he said, "and so we'll be spending a lot of time there."

But it won't be all play and no work yet for Speno, who noted "I'm still really healthy," and will continue his work as a real estate appraiser for a couple more years.

"I have somebody to take over my business," he said. "I'm going to be working probably a couple more years while I transfer the business over."

Speno furthered he and his wife planned to keep their home in Hebron – where they've lived for 42 years – for now, and he'd still like to be involved, in some capacity, with the fire department.

"I'm gonna stay active," he said. "Probably on a more limited basis because I'll be spending a lot of time, especially in the summer, at the lake, but I'm still planning on staying active in the department and helping where I can."

Nick Wallick, the current deputy fire chief, will step in for Speno while a recruitment and interview process takes place for a permanent chief.

His appointment began yesterday.

Tierney said Wallick has "come up through the ranks" at the department and is confident in his abilities.

"I think he's well-liked by most of the volunteers in the department and the officers," Tierney said, "so I'm confident that he'll do a fine job as an interim and I hope that he does

apply for the fulltime position."

Tierney explained the position would be advertised within the department, after which applications would be reviewed and interviews will take place if there are qualified applicants.

"If not then we will end up going outside," he said, "but I anticipate that [the appointment] will be from within."

Tierney said the goal was to have a permanent chief appointed by the first or second week in October.

* * *

Also related to the fire department, the Board of Selectmen voted at its July 11 meeting to enter into a lease purchase agreement for a replacement fire truck.

Under the agreement, the truck will be paid for over four years at a cost of \$76,480.73 per year with 2.45 percent interest. The total cost of the truck is \$487,355, with a \$200,000 down payment through the Capital Improvement Plan account.

"I think it's a great idea," Tierney said of utilizing the lease purchase option. "I've been in municipal business for 20 years and it hasn't been a practice of mine to use the leasing option but due to the economy, the rates were so low I think it was a perfect opportunity."

Tierney said it was "a tool we were able to use to save the town some money and spread out the cost."

Larsen agreed.

"Historically Hebron has tried to shy away from [lease purchases] but at the same time, the rates being what they were, it really made it financially responsible," he said, adding, "the time was right; the truck was due for replacement."

Hebron Charter Revision Commission Holds First Public Hearing

by Geeta Schrayter

There was low turnout at the public hearing held on the town's charter revision Wednesday night, but commission members are hoping the right public communications will help draw out residents and encourage them to be involved.

During the hearing – the first since the commission was established by the Board of Selectmen in June – few comments or opinions on the charter were voiced. Instead, most of the comments by the eight audience members were of gratitude and encouragement for the commission members and their decision to serve.

"I want to thank all of you for coming forward to serve on the commission itself," said Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt.

Watt called Hebron a town "run by volunteers" and said the commission – which is made up of residents Donna Ferree, Edward Philips, Executive Assistant in the Town Manager's Office Donna Lanza Smith, Arlene Snyder, selectman Mark Stuart, Kenneth Slater, Gail Richmond and Kathleen Williams – was going to be "very important."

Watt also told the commission although they had been provided with a list of items for review, they should look at any others they feel need to be examined.

Resident Harvey Desruisseaux also commended the members for serving, noting he had been a part of the last two revisions.

"It's a task," he said, pledging his support to the group and adding, as he took a look at the nearly empty audience, that one of the problems he faced was a lack of public attendance.

Resident Dave Morrison served on the previous commission as well and mirrored Desruisseaux's thoughts on public participation. He also suggested the commission not lock themselves in to working through particular items in a single meeting, explaining some may

need more time than others or require more background work.

Selectman Dan Larsen was present at the hearing as well and added onto the expressions of gratitude.

"I think it's great that you people stepped forward," he said, adding, "as has been echoed here in the past, it does seem sometimes very difficult to get people to show up to different town meetings."

Larsen commented on the fact some situations, like town meetings, require the participation of a certain amount of voters. In addition, he noted the budget has required numerous referendums before passing; he asked the commission to examine how to appropriately handle a situation where the budget doesn't pass by July 1.

* * *

After the hearing came to a close, the commission held a special meeting, where they addressed the low attendance and public involvement. The group members said they felt it was important residents participate during the revision process, and not wait until any charter revision changes are implemented to express their thoughts or frustrations.

Smith said a section could be set up on the town website to make all of the commission's information accessible to the public to help keep them informed.

"If we have important meetings, I can put a notice right on the front page," she said. "But for routine business, if we had our own page we could keep all the information up there – like reports we're looking at or discussing – and always have a detailed schedule available."

An email address would also be set up for the public to write to the commission.

In addition, Smith said a schedule could be

published in the *Rivereast*, and she encouraged other members to write letters to the editor about the charter and its revision.

"If we do that every once in a while, I think that's a place where people may see it," she said.

Reaching out to different organizations in town was also discussed, as well as asking various town departments for their input and broadcasting certain meetings on Public Access, providing the commission received permission, had money to pay the videographer and could be worked into the broadcasting schedule.

Smith explained in the past, the charter would be revised and implemented and only then would residents come out and ask why certain areas weren't examined.

"Maybe that's something we need to be clear about," said Snyder, "getting that input *before*."

Snyder also mentioned some of the seniors in town don't have access to, knowledge of, or even like computers or the internet, so information should be made available other ways, too.

"Can we make the information accessible by having it at the [Russell Mercier] senior center or the town hall?" she inquired.

To which Smith said information – such as an agenda and documents relating to a meeting – could probably be made available at the center for seniors to look through.

"Or even an invitation [to seniors] to submit comments, maybe through the senior newsletter or however they communicate" may be helpful, added Ferree.

Slater, the chairman of the commission, said he had a son in Boy Scouts, and said it was likely the troop leader would make an announcement about the charter revision and ways to comment.

"I'm sure there are organizations we're all a

part of that might do that," he said.

Also at the meeting, the commission decided on the structure for their future meetings, like the inclusion of public comments at the beginning and end as opposed to just the beginning.

Commission members also formed a consensus on a couple of what Slater called "non-controversial items," such as changing the start of the fiscal year from July 1 to Oct. 1 and voting districts in town.

Slater said he didn't believe it made sense to have two voting districts due to the town's size, quipping, "It's pretty hard to get more than eight miles away from Hebron Elementary School at any point in town."

In addition, Snyder said that while the polls can sometimes get crowded – like during the national elections – most of the time voter attendance is low.

"I don't see a need for it," she said.

Richmond furthered that point, saying, "I can quote my husband. He's registrar of voters: we don't need it."

Smith said another reason the districts were being examined was for safety at the elementary school, but she added a polling report had been conducted a few years prior and it concluded the current situation was best.

"Nothing's really changed since then," she said.

The rest of the commission agreed.

As far as changing the fiscal year, Slater quickly brought that issue to a close.

"I think that's easily addressed," he said, adding it's a statutory requirement that all the municipalities in the state have their fiscal year begin July 1.

The next meeting of the charter revision commission is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 7 p.m., at the Town Office Building.

Arrigoni Photo of Selected for Yellowbook Cover

by Chris Seymour

Glastonbury resident and amateur photographer Stephen Ippolito recently had one of his pictures selected for the cover of the Greater Middletown Yellowbook.

In May, Ippolito snapped a picture of the Arrigoni Bridge – which connects Portland and Middletown – at sunset. He posted it to his account on the photo-sharing website Flickr (flickr.com/photos/stephenippolito) and tagged it “Middletown-Portland bridge.”

And that may have been that – except the photo happened to catch the attention of the Yellowbook designers.

“About a week later a company that is involved with the publishing/creating of the Yellowbook reached out to me and said they would like to consider the photo for the cover of the 2013-14 Greater Middletown Yellowbook and asked if I would grant them permission if my photo was ultimately chosen,” recalled Ippolito, who, when not taking pictures, is the assistant controller for UTC Climate, Controls & Security, a United Technologies Company.

Ippolito said ‘yes,’ and in the end his photo was the one picked for the cover of the Yellowbook published and distributed in early July. “I was told that approximately 53,000 copies will be made,” Ippolito said.

The Greater Middletown Yellowbook covers Middletown and several other towns in the area – including the *Rivereast* towns of Portland, East Hampton, Marlborough and Colchester.

Obviously, Ippolito was thrilled his picture was selected for publication. “I was pretty ecstatic. It’s rewarding because you take pictures and don’t think anything is going to happen with it; you just take them for the hell of it because you enjoy doing it,” he remarked.

Though he didn’t receive any financial reward for the use of his picture – just a photo credit – Ippolito said he was simply honored his photograph was selected. “I take photographs as a hobby,” he said; “it has ‘always been a passion of mine.’”

Ippolito snapped the cover shot using a Canon 60D, which he noted is “a step up” from

the company’s popular Rebel model. “I constantly, on my drive home or whenever, think, ‘What would make an interesting picture?’” he explained. “I thought, ‘Portland’s not too far away, so let me take a quick ride over there – maybe I’ll get a cool picture of the sunset with the bridge,’ so I decided to take it.”

After snapping several shots of the Arrigoni, Ippolito said he used a software program called High Dynamic Range (HDR), which enables a photographer to extract the best qualities from several pictures in order to maximize the final product.

“You take three photos of the exact same thing and take them with three different exposures,” detailed Ippolito. “And then you blend them together so that you pick up the different shadows and everything that may not come up if you have one exposure.”

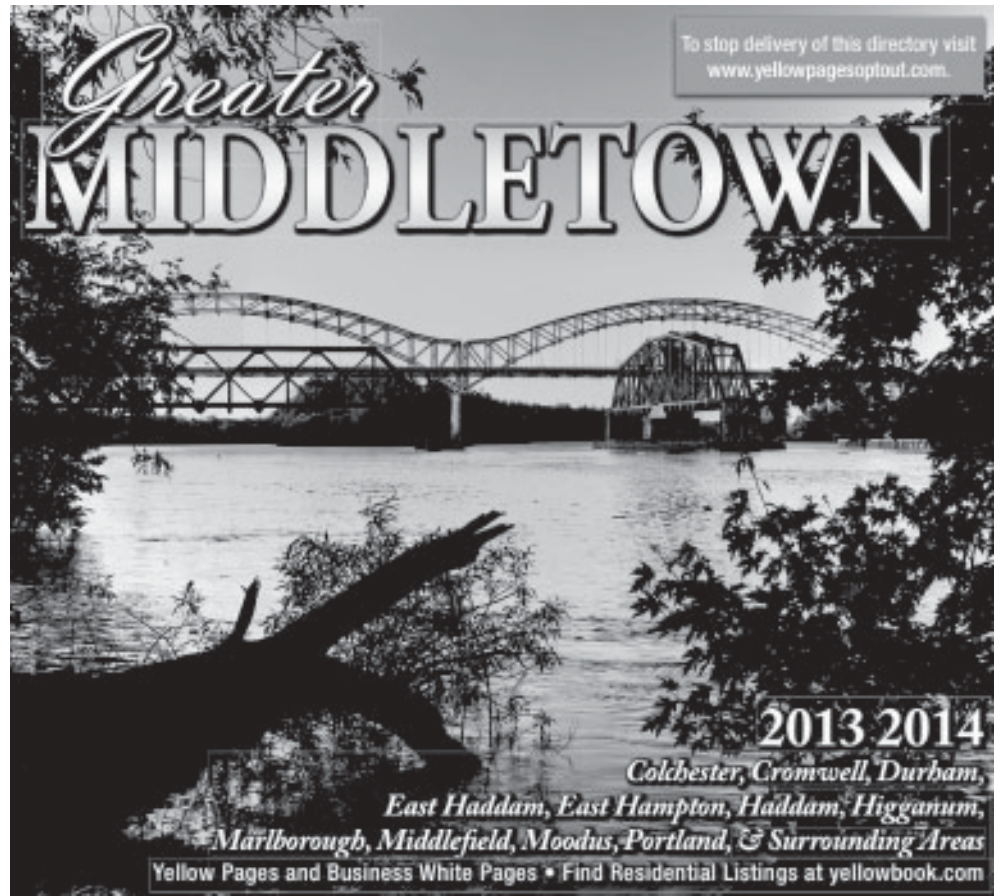
The HDR program also allows a photographer to take more (or less) natural looking photos, according to Ippolito. “The bridge picture is more natural, but I have some pictures on my Flickr that look like paintings,” he said.

Most of Ippolito’s pictures are of “scenic stuff,” he noted, adding he recently took a ride to historic Collinsville (a section of Canton) and took some pictures of the scenery there. “And down at the Jersey shore, I took some of the pier that was destroyed by the hurricane [Sandy] last fall,” he said.

In addition to taking scenic shots, Ippolito said he is always the one taking pictures of his family, which includes wife JoAnn and twin children Stephen and Elena. “They don’t take pictures,” said Ippolito of his family. “If I don’t take them, nobody else does.”

Though he now has one high-profile, published picture to his credit, Ippolito said he wouldn’t be trying to get any of his other pictures published anytime soon. “If it happens that’d be great,” he said, “but I’m not out looking for it.”

Chris Seymour is a reporter for the Rivereast’s sister newspaper, The Glastonbury Citizen.



Glastonbury resident Stephen Ippolito snapped a photo of the Arrigoni Bridge which, to his delight, was chosen to be the cover photo of the last edition of the Greater Middletown Yellowbook.

Portland Republican Town Committee Announces Candidates

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Portland Republican Town Committee (RTC) announced its slate of candidates July 16 for the 2013 municipal elections.

According to Portland RTC chairwoman Maria Judge, “These are people who have always graciously volunteered their time to Portland in places such as our churches, schools and Parks and Recreation programs.”

The Democrat-controlled Board of Selectmen is required to have at least two Republican members. Every selectman’s term is up and all are running for re-election, including the two Republicans, Ryan Curley and Carl Chudzik.

Curley, who has two years of experience on the board, said he’s running for re-election because there’s still more that he wants to accomplish. Two years ago, Curley planned to establish a blight ordinance, improve Main Street and bring business to town. After seeing success in his first term on the board, the 26-year-old said he wants to “continue what we’ve done.”

The accountant and lifelong resident of Portland said that if he were re-elected, his focus would be on attracting people and business to town. One way he hopes to accomplish this is by lighting the Arrigoni Bridge.

“I love Portland. I think it’s an excellent town. I think it’s better today than it was two years ago,” Curley said. He’s hopeful that the Board of Selectmen can “keep going down a positive path.”

Chudzik, like Curley, said he wants to continue some of the work he started. Chudzik has served on the board for the past six years. The real estate broker said if he were re-elected he would seek to secure water and sewer plant infrastructures because that’s going to be important to the future of Portland and the quality of life of its people. He also wants to see responsible taxes, promote businesses, be environmentally-conscious and provide recreational options for the townspeople.

“We have a beautiful town. I’m proud of Portland,” Chudzik said of his home for the past 28 years.

Curley and Chudzik are joined in the running by a newcomer to town politics, Robert Taylor.

Taylor, 25, may be new to politics, but he has resided in Portland his entire life and holds his hometown near and dear. The Walgreens store manager said he wants to help his town flourish by bringing in more people and more money. He noted a specific interest in the development of the long-abandoned Elmcrest property in town.

“I’d love to try to bring more business to the town,” he said.

Judge described Taylor as “very personable” and said he “wants to learn.”

Regarding the Board of Education, two Republican candidates are guaranteed seats. With only two Republicans running, their being

elected is a sure thing. Both Betsy Smith and Michael Pelton will be on the board come November. In fact, with five open seats and only five people running, from both parties, every Board of Education candidate is guaranteed a seat.

Smith said she’s running for re-election because “I was needed.” Aside from Pelton, no other eligible or qualified Republicans in town threw their hats into the ring, according to Smith. The practicing accountant has one year of experience on the Board of Education after she filled a vacant seat last summer.

Smith, a five-year resident of Portland, is a mother of two and her oldest will attend Portland High School next year, so she has a vested interest in the town’s education system.

Pelton said he decided to join the Board of Education to “get involved” and “contribute” to his town’s education system. He filled a vacancy on the Board of Education about a month ago, so this will be his first campaigning experience. But he said he’s “looking forward” to campaigning.

Pelton is a nutrition business consultant and the owner of Inner Circle Family Martial Arts. Through his martial arts school he has worked with a lot of kids and parents in town, as well as the town’s Parks and Recreation Department, he said.

He and his family have lived in Portland for

13 years and the father of three said each of his children have gone through the Portland school system.

He said, “I want to try to contribute whatever experience I have to the board.” He said he’s particularly hoping to push for keeping kids active and exercising.

Also endorsed at the July 16 caucus were Kurt Peterson for the Zoning Board of Appeals and Peter Castelli for the Board of Assessment Appeals.

“I think we have a great group of candidates who are...extremely committed to Portland,” Judge said. “I think they are all well-liked by many people regardless of political affiliation.”

Judge said she encourages residents to attend town meetings and contribute to the conversation because “we all live in this town and we all have to pay the same taxes.”

She said she hopes residents – particularly those who have special talents and knowledge – attend some meetings to learn more about Portland and contribute ideas based on their expertise.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5. Voting will take place at the Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Portland Republican Town Committee welcomes all to attend its meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion on Freestone Avenue.

Blue Lobster Washes Up at Portland Tri-Town Foods

by Elizabeth Bowling

Tri-Town Foods in Portland made a rare discovery last Friday, July 26. A blue lobster – later named Blue Lou – was shipped to the grocery store in a regular lobster delivery.

Tri-Town Foods Portland store manager Dan Smith said it took four days, but he eventually found a home for the lobster. Smith said he initially tried to donate Blue Lou to Mystic Aquarium, but Mystic turned down the offer because it already has two on display. After contemplating setting the lobster free into the ocean, Smith found a taker – the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk will display Blue Lou and let him live out his life in captivity.

Smith said someone from the Maritime Aquarium was scheduled to pick up Blue Lou from the grocery store and transport him to the aquarium around 7 a.m. today.

According to John Lenzycki, the assistant animal curator at Norwalk's Maritime Aquarium, the transfer of Blue Lou should be fairly simple. Lenzycki said the best way to ship a lobster is to place it in a Styrofoam box with an ice pack and some moistened newspaper.

Smith said Tri-Town Foods, owned by Rick Sharr, gets its lobster shipments from The Lobster Co. in Kennebunkport, Maine. He said the company probably didn't know that it shipped out a blue lobster. A Tri-Town Foods employee only discovered Blue Lou while he was being lowered by hand into the tank that displays the

lobsters to the grocery shoppers.

"The customers really like it," Smith said about Blue Lou on Monday. "They get right down there [to the lobster tank] and look at him."

But Smith said he had no intentions of selling the blue lobster.

The blue coloring could be due to genetics or diet, said Dave Sigworth, spokesperson for the Maritime Aquarium.

"We've had all sorts of unusual colors of lobsters," Sigworth said of the aquarium's past and current displays, including the same "brilliant, cobalt blue" of Blue Lou.

Lenzycki confirmed that the aquarium presently has blue, orange, calico and red lobsters on display.

"A normal red lobster is one of the rarest we display," he joked. But, more seriously, he added, "We really appreciate the public for thinking of us" and donating unique lobsters to the aquarium.

A blue lobster is said to be one in two million, but Lenzycki said he's skeptical of that statistic. "I have been here for 25 years and have seen quite a few blue lobsters," he said.

Interestingly, differently colored lobsters turn to the normal orange-red color when cooked. They are not poisonous to eat, Lenzycki affirmed.

Regardless, lucky Blue Lou will never have to worry about a boiling pot of water.



Shown here is Blue Lou, the blue lobster that was discovered in Tri-Town Foods grocery store in Portland. A blue lobster is the result of a genetic mutation or limited diet. Blue Lou has been donated to the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk.

East Hampton Hires New Public Works Director

by Elizabeth Bowling

The two-month-long, nationwide search is over. East Hampton hired Philip Sissick Tuesday to be the town's new public works director, according to a press release from Town Manager Mike Maniscalco.

"East Hampton will benefit from Phil's practical approach to solving challenging problems," Maniscalco said. "I am confident with his experience in storm water run-off, fleet management, streetscape design and municipal infrastructure maintenance and improvement Phil will help East Hampton continue to demonstrate that it is one of the best places to live in Connecticut."

Sissick's salary will start at \$92,000, and will increase to \$95,000 after he completes a six-month probationary period, the press release read.

Sissick, a resident of Shelton, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in landscape architecture and a Bachelor of General Studies degree

in occupational health and safety from the University of Connecticut and is currently pursuing a master's degree in human resource management. He is an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)-authorized general industry outreach trainer.

The new hire has about 30 years of experience in diversified facilities and infrastructure. Specifically, he has experience in operations, management, program development, implementation, evaluation and employee training.

Prior to taking on this job, Sissick was employed as director of landscaping and maintenance services for Yale University and parks superintendent for the Town of Stratford. He was also a private business owner for 10 years, the release furthered.

Sissick has also worked on the implementation of sustainable protocols for waste, recycling, composting, land management, ecosystems services and water use.

Andover Police News

7/23: State Police said an unknown person(s) attempted to break into the Andover Landscaping store located at 5 Hendee Rd. Police said a window was broken but entry was not gained.

Hebron Police News

7/25: State Police said Meghan Rose Reavey, 29, of 164 Deer Run Dr., Colchester, was charged with DUI and traveling at an unreasonable speed.

Marlborough Police News

7/28: State Police said Michael Grasso, 20, of 4 Saddlebrook Dr., Wallingford, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain lane.

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East Hampton Police News

7/16: Guy Hall, 22, of 481 Foot Hills Rd, Higganum, was charged with DUI, failure to drive right, misuse of marker plates and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

7/17: Rafael A. Guzman, 61, of 248 South St., Willimantic, was pulled over after police said they witnessed Guzman traveling at 15 m.p.h. over the posted speed limit and cross over the yellow center line several times. Guzman was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

7/17: Mark Bouchard, 18, of 84 Prospect St., Glastonbury, was issued a ticket for possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana and

possession of drug paraphernalia, police said. A 17-year-old juvenile, also of Glastonbury, was issued a juvenile summons in the same incident for possession of alcohol by a minor, police added.

7/22: Dylan Moore, 23, of 40 Middlesex Ave., Chester, was issued a summons for possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

7/23: Richard Vezina Jr., 47, of 131 Colchester Ave., was charged with third-degree assault, second-degree unlawful restraint and second-degree intimidation, police said.

7/24: Kelly Lee Nolan, 52, of 47 Hogg Hill Rd., was charged with second-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, police said.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by **Mike Thompson**

I'll admit to something I'm not very proud of: I've texted – or, at the very least, looked at texts – while behind the wheel of a car.

Not while driving. I've known from the day I sent my first text (which I'd like to say was something of monumental importance, but most likely was something along the lines of “hey, supersize that combo, please”) that it would be a bad idea to do that while driving. Talking on the phone while driving is bad enough, but at least in that case you have your eyes on the road (if not necessarily both hands on the wheel). I couldn't imagine driving while constantly looking down at a little computer screen to type away at a tiny little keyboard.

The recent campaign of public service announcements giving real-world examples of the dangers – often deadly dangers – of texting while driving has only further driven home the point.

But if I was stopped at a red light, would I sometimes sneak a peek at a text, or perhaps glance down to see how my fantasy baseball team was doing? Sure. Did at least part of me know that was a bad idea? Yeah. But I was stopped, not going anywhere; why not?

Well, Gov. Malloy recently signed into law a bill that would make it illegal to do just that – and you know what? I applaud him.

Even if you think you know a particular red light like the back of your hand, it still might change sooner than you expect. It's easy to start driving again if you're changing stations on the radio or something like that; less so if the light changes while your eyes are completely off the road and you're texting or Tweeting away.

Not to mention other things that can happen when you're stopped at a red light or stop sign, such as someone possibly running the light. Does that happen a lot? Okay, it may happen pretty rarely, but still, it's better to be prepared for it. If you absolutely, positively need to send that text, pull into a gas station parking lot or something.

The new law won't take effect until Oct. 1, but when they do, the fines will be steep. The first offense will be \$150; the second, \$300; and the third, \$500. (Currently, the fines are \$125, \$250 and \$400, respectively – but currently those fines only apply to those using a cell phone *while actually driving*; these new fines will get you as long as you're behind the wheel, driving or not.)

Will the banning of using a cell phone while you're behind the wheel of a sitting-still car be a pain for some? Sure – myself included. But it's a sacrifice I'm more than willing to make. One of those anti-texting-while-driving PSAs I mentioned uses the simple phrase “It can wait” as a tagline. And when you see the sobering statistics – in 2011,

3,331 people nationwide were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver – you realize that yes. Yes it can wait.

* * *

I wasn't much of a juvenile delinquent as a kid. Sure, I got in a couple fights in middle school, and had some detentions levied against me for varied reasons in high school – which kid didn't? But when it came to general mischief and trouble-making, I was pretty hum-drum.

One thing I do recall, though (and really, it's hardly much in the way of trouble-making) is something that would happen pretty regularly when I was 11 or 12, walking home with my friends after school. The path home would typically entail walking past many crosswalks. Every time we'd walk past one of those “walk/don't walk” signals, whether we were intending to use it or not (and most of the time we wouldn't be), we'd just press the button on it, and keep right on walking. The idea being, well, let's screw with the drivers. Sure, we'd rarely, if ever, see the fruits of our labor – as anyone waiting at one of those signals will attest, those things can take a *long* time to change – but just the knowledge we were messing with drivers (who of course had done nothing to us at all, but logic doesn't always burrow too deeply into the mind of a 12-year-old) was enough to make us happy.

It got to the point we did it wherever we walked in town. And Manchester, being a larger town, featured lots of sidewalks, lots of “walk/don't walk” signs – and lots of chances to make drivers stop unnecessarily at red lights.

(It was around that same age that we'd also tend to, when passing a pay phone, pick it up and make it call itself – it was easy enough to make it do so – and then just walk away listening with glee as the phone rang away, waiting for some unsuspecting person to come across and answer it. Alright, so perhaps my friends and I weren't always the brightest bunch.)

I thought about my past of messing with the crosswalks last weekend when I was stopped at a red light in town while the green “walk” sign flashed. There was no one in the crosswalk. I looked up the street; no one there. I looked down the street; same thing. So, all of us at the intersection waited, and waited, for a crosswalk-user that wasn't there, and wasn't coming. Perhaps, I figured, I'd just been foiled by someone employing the very same trick I used to do.

And you know what? It's pretty freakin' annoying!

I guess 12-year-old me was onto something.

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

Portland

Henry F. Long

Henry F. Long, 72, of Portland, passed away Tuesday, July 23, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the son of the late William E. and Louise (Schmidl) Long.

Born Feb. 5, 1941, in Middletown, he lived in Portland for the last 10 years and retired as a truck driver from Butler Construction in Portland. He was a U.S. Navy veteran having served during Vietnam and was also a member of St. Francis Hall in Portland.

He leaves his sons, Henry Long of East Hampton and Michael Long of Colchester; brothers, William H. Long and Edward F. Long both of Portland, a sister, Louise Foster of Potsdam, N.Y.; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his sister-in-law, Marie Long and a brother-in-law, Richard Foster.

Funeral services were held Saturday, July 27, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial was private. Relatives and friends called Saturday morning, before the service.

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

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

East Hampton

Ann Marie Kotsonis

Ann Marie (Rich) Kotsonis, 72, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Earl Kotsonis, died Friday, July 26, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Oct. 9, 1940, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Gerald and Hannie (Hansen) Rich.

She had lived in East Hampton for most of her life. Ann and Earl had a home in Auburndale, Fla., where they spent their winters for the past 14 years. They just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 15 at a party with family and friends.

Ann loved to camp when her children were little, she also loved scrapbooking and traveling the world. She was active in country music fan clubs and was the president of the fan club for Helen Cornelius. Ann loved hanging out with her best friends Barbara and Helen. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She is survived by her husband, Earl Kotsonis of East Hampton; her two daughters and their husbands, Laurie and Robert Chapman of East Hampton, Sharon and William Pitts of Burlington; sister, Kathryn Bartlett of Tennessee; four grandchildren, Jason Chapman and his wife Samantha, Alyssa Connolly and her husband Christopher, William Waas, Brendan Waas; two great-grandchildren, Taylor Connolly, Brody Chapman; niece Kristin Mahoney; and nephew Kevin Bartlett.

The family received relatives and friends at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Monday, July 29. Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 30, in the Spencer Funeral Home, followed by burial in the family plot in Moodus Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005, or to the American Lung Association, 45 Ash St., East Hartford, CT 06108.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Judith Anne Goeschel

Judith Anne (Huffman) Goeschel, 65, of Colchester, beloved wife of Richard, passed away Tuesday, July 30, at home, surrounded by her loving family. Born Dec. 2, 1947, in Raleigh County, W.V., she was a daughter of the late Theodore and Sylvia (Clinton) Huffman.

Mrs. Goeschel had worked in sales – most recently for Getty Granite in Salem. In her spare time, she enjoyed reading, sewing and gardening, but found her greatest joy in her family – to whom she was ever devoted.

In addition to her loving husband of 45 years, she leaves her daughter, Tracy (Wood) Chamberland and husband, Antoine of Colchester; two grandchildren, Emily and Jacob Wood; six siblings, Joe, Jimmy, Janice, Tommy, Penelope and Sharon; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends called Thursday, Aug. 1, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service was observed that evening. Burial will be private.

Andover

Inge Erna Peltier

Inge "Oma" Erna Peltier, née Ohnesorge, of Mansfield, died at home Saturday, July 27. Born in Germany Jan. 16, 1934, she moved to the United States in 1964. Before living in Mansfield, Inge lived in Andover for many years.

Inge is survived by her two children, Christophe Peltier and Nathalie Peltier-Horton and partner David Tow; her four grandchildren, Chantel Peltier, Jessica Peltier and husband Todd Helweg, Charlie Horton and Maggie Horton; four siblings in Germany, Dieter, Jörg, and Rainer Ohnesorge and Ursula Horchler, who will miss her very much. Inge also leaves behind her sister-in-law, Michele Landolphi of Andover.

Inge retired from the University of Connecticut where she held the position of the administrative assistant in the Department of Sociology. She had fond memories of her time there, and made many friends who touched her life dearly.

Inge was interested in many activities in her private life. She loved the outdoors; gardening, traveling, hiking, and going to the beach. She was a loving grandmother (Oma) who loved sharing these activities with her four granddaughters. She also enjoyed attending aqua fitness classes. Inge was an amazing chef and loved cooking delicious vegetarian feasts. After her retirement, she began a lifelong love of woodturning, making good friends of the local woodturning community.

Inge belonged to several animal rights organizations because she felt that animals needed respect and care from humans.

Calling hours were at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. (Route 195), Willimantic, Thursday, Aug. 1. A private burial service will be held.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Northeastern CT Animal Rescue Inc., P O Box 362, Storrs, CT 06268.

For an online memorial guestbook, visit potterfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Dorothy Wallace Thompson

Dorothy (Wallace) Thompson, 74, formerly of Hebron, passed away Monday, June 24. Born in Hartford Aug. 6, 1938, she was the daughter of the late Alton John Wallace and Marguerite (Spencer) Wallace Gulomb.

Dorothy graduated from Wethersfield High School and began her brief nursing career at Hartford Hospital until she became a housewife and mother. Years later, she moved to Hebron with her then husband, Walter D. Christensen, Jr. and their four children, where she began her career as a substance abuse counselor at Natchaug Hospital and Blueridge Treatment Center for over 20 years and continued work in that field after moving to Florida with her late husband, Robert R. Thompson of New London.

She is survived and will be deeply missed by her four children, Marilyn Pennisi and her husband Steve of West Palm Beach, Fla., Walter D. Christensen III of Mansfield, Laura Steiner and her husband John of Hebron, and John Christensen and his wife Janetsy of Coral Gables, Fla.; seven grandchildren, Mark, Bobby, Jenny, Kay, Audrey, John Peter and Joey.

She also leaves her brother, Robert E. Wallace and sister-in-law Maryann of Avon, as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Dorothy loved helping others and never failed to be there for her children and grandchildren. She refused to miss out on all that this life had to offer.

The family will receive relatives and friends at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home 34 Beaver Rd., Wethersfield, Saturday, Aug. 3, from 9-10:30 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. in Corpus Christi Church, 601 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield. Burial will be private.

Hebron

Bruce A. Trinque

Bruce A. Trinque, 64, of Hebron, died Friday, July 19. Bruce was born Nov. 6, 1948, in Providence, R.I., son of the late Bill Trinque and Louise Smith Trinque.

He is survived by his wife, Melanie, and his daughter, Jen Picicci, of Wilmington N.C.

Bruce graduated from UConn in 1975 with a master's in engineering, but had a life-long love of history. He was one of the country's leading experts on the Civil War and Custer's Last Stand.

A memorial service will be held in September.

Colchester

Robert Falbowski

Robert Charles Falbowski, 73, of Colchester, beloved husband, father and grandfather, entered into eternal rest Wednesday, July 24, at Hartford Hospital.

He was born Nov. 10, 1939, in Hartford, a son to the late Lena Kadupski Falbowski. He was educated at Cheney Technical High School in Manchester in the plumbing field and went on to become a master plumber and pipefitter with the former Local 305, now Local 777. He was project manager of the construction of Millstone #1, #2 and #3 and Foxwoods Casino.

Robert was a former member of the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department, Colchester Lions Club, St. Joseph Polish Society and the Colchester Farmers Club. He was united in marriage to the late Geraldine Roska on Oct. 17, 1959. Together they purchased the Colchester Florist in the early '80s. Geraldine passed on Nov. 4, 2005.

Surviving are his daughters, Virginia F. and husband, Terence P. Dominick Sr., and Bonnie F. Suh, both of Colchester. 10 grandchildren, Robert, Edward, Andrew, Terence Jr., Henry, Joseph, Thomas, Geraldine, Kathryn and Jason; one niece; and several cousins.

Along with his wife, he is predeceased by two daughters, Robin Taranto and Judy Wall; and a brother, Joseph Falbowski.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, July 29, from the St. Andrews Roman Catholic Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Interment followed in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester. There were no calling hours.

Woyasz and Son Funeral Home of Norwich has charge of arrangements.

East Hampton

Lynn G. Hastings

Lynn G. (Fox) Hastings, 70, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Ronald Hastings, died Monday, July 29, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Feb. 23, 1943, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Albert and Albina Reggie (Hajdaz) Fox.

Lynn was the valedictorian of the East Hartford High School Class of 1961. After many summers at Lake Pocotopaug she moved to East Hampton in 1966. She was employed by Nichols Bus Service for 15 years and Hintz and Company until her death.

While her girls were growing up she was very active in Girl Scouts and became very close with fellow leaders Rayann Cummings, Jules Schluntz, and the late Marilyn Innes. She was also very active in the Congregational Church, planning many dinners and participating in the senior and hand bell choirs and was a member of numerous committees. She loved to read and travel with her husband and travel the world with close friends Dave and Joanne Kneeland. She loved entertaining at holidays especially to connect with dear friends and family.

Besides her husband she is survived by her two daughters, Sue Carr and her husband Keith of East Hampton, Teresa St. Pierre and her husband David of North Andover, Mass.; a brother, Albert Fox Jr. and his wife Anita of Bluffton S.C.; three grandchildren, Karen Carr of East Hampton, Zachery St. Pierre, and Ryan St. Pierre of Massachusetts; her close cousin, Deborah Mearman and her husband Dan Epstein of Niantic; and her lifelong friend, Susan Helen Schuler of East Hampton.

Funeral services will be held today, Aug. 2, at 3 p.m., in the East Hampton Congregational Church. Burial will be held Saturday, Aug. 3, at 10 a.m. in Lake View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Congregational Church Music Fund, P.O. Box 237, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Tracy Berube

Tracy Berube, 40, wife of Joseph N. Berube of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, July 23, at Middlesex Hospital.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, July 30, 2013, at St. Andrew Catholic Church on Norwich Avenue, Colchester. Burial followed in Linwood Cemetery.

Belmont Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, is in care of arrangements.

Colchester

C. Robert Vigezzi

C. Robert Vigezzi, 87, of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, July 30, with his loving wife, Jean (Holdridge) Vigezzi, at his side. Born June 7, 1926, in Prairie City, Ore., he was the son of the late Carmen and Doris (Haines) Vigezzi.

Mr. Vigezzi served proudly with the U.S. Merchant Marines during and following World War II.

He went on to study monumental drafting, design, carving and sculpting at the Barre (Vt.) School of Memorial Art and created countless everlasting tributes for Bottinelli Custom Monuments in New London for many years before his retirement in 2000.

In years past, he had been active with the Greater Hartford YMCA Fencing Club.

In addition to his loving wife of 63 years, he leaves four children (and their spouses), Catherine (Michael) Kirchoff of Tolland, Vivian (David) Garvey of Dover, NH, Martin (Sylvana) Vigezzi of Carrollton TX and Diane (Bruce) Donnelly of Kittery, ME; five grandchildren, Jennifer, Diana, Jessica, Jillian and Gabrielle; two great grandchildren, Zachary and Jacen; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by his sister, Joan Jenkins.

Friends may call starting at 10:30 a.m. today, Aug. 2, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester, followed by the celebration of the funeral liturgy at noon at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Rendering of full military honors will follow Mass. Burial in Hillside Cemetery, Torrington, will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Church.

East Hampton

Rose Marie Pettigrew

Rose Marie (Chernushek) Pettigrew, 91, of East Haddam and formerly of Colchester, beloved wife of the late Charles F. Pettigrew passed away Tuesday, July 30, at Essex Meadows Health Center. She was born in Union 2/22/22 the daughter of the late Geza and Agnes Chernushek.

Rosie joined the Colchester Senior Center shortly after her husband Charlie died and continued to be an active member for over 25 years. She was in the first group for the intergeneration program, sang in the singing group and kept notes for years about the center. Whenever the director needed to know when they did something she would ask Rosie to look it up in her notes.

Rosie was a generous person. She loved everyone and never had an unkind word to say about anyone. Rosie had a quick wit and a great sense of humor that her family will miss dearly.

She is survived by a daughter, Diane (Pettigrew) Guggenheim and her companion Tom Kostoss of East Haddam; a sister, Anne Bombeto of Hartford; son-in-law, Richard Stafford of Hartford City, Ind.; five grandchildren their spouses and significant others; five great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a daughter, Helen (Pettigrew) Stafford; son-in-law, Jeffrey Guggenheim; great-granddaughter, Ava Kananowicz; and three siblings.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, Aug. 3, at 10 a.m. in the Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Rosie's name may be made to the East Haddam food c/o Youth & Family Services. P.O. Box 572, Moodus 06469, East Haddam Fuel Bank, 73 Orchard Rd., Apt. 4, East Haddam 06423, East Haddam Ambulance P.O. Box 17 Moodus, CT 06469 or Fire Department, P.O. Box 375, East Haddam, CT 06423, or to CATALES Inc., P.O. Box 901, Middletown, CT 06457.

Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill, has care of arrangements.



Marlborough

John Michael Myjak

John Michael Myjak, 56, of Leeds Mass., and Marlborough, died Tuesday, July 30, at the Connecticut V.A. Hospital in West Haven. Born Dec. 4, 1956, in Hartford, he was the son of the late Rudolph J. and Josephine H. (Torbick) Myjak Jr.

John had served his country in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army. He was a member of the Soldier On organization.

He is survived by his three daughters, Heather Myjak of Middletown, Tara Couture of East Hampton, Melissa Anderson of Manchester; a brother, Charles D. Myjak of Florida; three grandchildren, Robert Desrocher, Anthony M. Desrocher, Nathan Couture; and the mother of his three daughters, Evelyn Paradis of East Hampton.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Monday, Aug. 5, from 5-8 p.m. Burial will be private, at the convenience of the family.

To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Helene T. Selke

Helene T. (Wilkos) Selke, 56, of East Hampton, formerly of Wethersfield, beloved wife of Artur Selke, died Tuesday, July 30, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born in Brzyska Wola, Poland, the daughter of Maria (Leniart) Wilkos and the late Jan Wilkos.

At the age of 8, Helene moved to Wethersfield, where she graduated from Wethersfield High School in 1976 and later received her associate's degree from Manchester Community College. She was employed for over 30 years with Aetna Insurance Company as a financial underwriting consultant. Helene enjoyed spending time with her family and friends and truly loved life to the fullest. She will be missed by everyone.

In addition to her husband and mother, she is survived by her two sons, Michael and Darek Selke; a brother, Zbignew Wilkos and his wife Eugenia; three sisters, Czeslawa Nikiel and her husband Kazimierz, Zofia Drejer and her husband Waldemar, and Kathy Kolodziejczyk and her husband Steven. She is also survived by three sister-in-laws, Maria Trzcinski and her husband Janek, Wanda Szymanski and her husband Wieslaw, and Hanna Krysz. Besides the numerous nieces, nephews and cousins here and abroad, she will be dearly remembered by best friends, Sue Wasik and Ela Szymanski.

In addition to her father, she was predeceased by her nephew, Christopher Nikiel.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Aug. 3, at 9:15 a.m., from Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by a 10 a.m. funeral liturgy at St. Mary of Czestochowa Church, Middletown. Burial will be in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Friends may call at Biega Funeral Home today, Aug. 2, from 4-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Weiss Hospice Unit of Middlesex Hospital, c/o Dept. of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 or the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-91 Tech Ctr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

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

Hebron

Dorothy Mae Benoit

Dorothy Mae (Long) Benoit, 78, of North Road, Dayville, formerly of Hebron, died Wednesday, July 24, in the Villa Maria Nursing & Rehabilitation Community. She was the loving wife of the late Henry Benoit. Born in Hebron, she was the daughter of the late Calvin and Alice (Strickland) Long.

Mrs. Benoit enjoyed making a home for her family and spending time with them. She also enjoyed gardening and doing crossword puzzles. She was a member of the former Irish Club of Putnam, and the Amvets Ladies Auxiliary. Whether it was family, friends, or neighbors, Dorothy always left the door open for all to visit. The family requests that anyone who spent time with Dorothy and experienced her kindness, to take a moment and remember her with a smile and pay forward random acts of kindness.

Dorothy is survived by her daughters, Darlene Barber and her husband Sonny of Dayville, and Danielle Ennis and her husband Chuck of Dayville; her brothers, Clayton Long of Plainfield, and Herbert Long of Putnam; her sisters, Alice Mailloux of Plainfield, Martha Kemp of Woodstock, and Clara Sylvia of Dayville; her grandchildren, Chad, Susan, Trevis, Stacey, Jason, Brandey, Courtney, and Brandon; and her great-grandchildren, Tyler, Kali, Amber, Shealyn, Anthony, Stephen, Ricky, Logan, Cooper, and Sydney.

She was predeceased by her son, Stephen Benoit, in 1979 and two siblings.

A graveside service for Dorothy was held Wednesday, July 31, in West Thompson Cemetery, 275 Riverside Dr., Thompson. Memorial donations may be made to the Senior Resource Agency on Aging, 19 Ohio Ave., Norwich, CT 06360.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted in the Gilman Funeral Home. For memorial guestbook, visit GilmanAndValade.com.