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Here's to the Good Times...The popular country duo Florida Georgia Line took to the stage during the 43rd annual Hebron Harvest Fair last weekend. Their appearance drew crowds on Sunday that had never been seen before, and helped make this the best-attended fair ever. A story about the fair, and additional photos, appears on page 22. Photo courtesy of Sherri Francheschena.

Dinner to Benefit Oklahoma Recovery

by Elizabeth Bowling

The tornadoes that struck Moore, Okla., in May particularly affected one East Hampton native – and a benefit dinner will be held next Friday, Sept. 20, at St. Patrick's Community Room, to raise recovery funds for his current community.

Jeff Pugatch, 27, originally from East Hampton, moved to Moore, Okla., about a year and a half ago, after being discharged from the Army.

When the tornado hit Moore on May 20, Pugatch and his now-wife, Kristen – who is originally from Tulsa, Okla. – “miraculously” didn't get much damage at their house, he said.

Rather, the most damage from the tornado took place just outside of Pugatch's neighborhood.

“The next neighborhood over was pretty beat up,” he said, “and the neighborhood beyond that was pretty much gone.”

The community as a whole lost two elementary schools, thousands of homes and plenty of businesses, he added.

Pugatch recalled, “I was at work, which is probably about seven miles north of where it touched down. My wife was just leaving work at the far side of the city. I called her and told her not to go home.”

Instead, Kristen drove to Pugatch's office. When she was driving over, she could see the tornado in the distance, he said. By the time she reached Pugatch's office, the building was equipped with a radio and a map. They were stuck in his office for about 40 minutes, he said.

But even after the tornado had passed,

Pugatch recalled that it was “dark and ominous. You could see the clouds swirling up above. Rain was coming down, hail was coming down.”

Kristen, a nurse, wanted to go to the affected area to help in any way she could but, Pugatch said, “The traffic was so bad from all the accidents and the debris in the middle of the road.”

In the meantime, Pugatch worked a lot of hours over the following days because he manages a facility that provides medical gases to hospitals and first responders.

It took a few days but finally the two were able to go south and really see the damage, he said.

“We helped with some of the clean up where we could,” he said. “It was tough to get down there at first because they were only allowing emergency personnel.”

The couple – who at the time was engaged, with the wedding scheduled for later that week – had four days to help as much as they could before their May 24 flight to Connecticut; on May 26, they wed at Pugatch's grandfather's tree farm, Evergreen Acres in Colchester.

But a honeymoon was put on hold; instead, the newlyweds returned home the very next day, to help their neighbors.

“We decided not to take the honeymoon because we knew there would be a lot that we could do back home to help,” Pugatch said.

“The clean-up is still ongoing. We've done a great job of getting debris out but there's still a

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Mixed Reviews for Colchester Building Project

by Melissa Roberto

The proposed \$57 million Colchester building project that would combine William J. Johnston Middle School with a senior center and community center is headed to town meeting next week, and this week, residents attended a public information session on the plan – and offered decidedly mixed reviews.

The building project has been gestating since 2007. Studies were first conducted to assess the needs of the middle school, the senior center that stands on Norwich Avenue, as well as the needs of the Youth Center, also on Norwich Avenue. As a result of the studies, in 2011, the Board of Selectmen formed a Building Committee made up of volunteers with the charge of developing a project that combines a middle school, senior center and community center at the current location of WJMS.

The town meeting scheduled for next Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, will be the first public vote taken on the \$57 million building initiative. Voters there will decide whether to send the project to a town-wide referendum, which would be held Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., also at Town Hall.

At Monday's public information session, Building Committee Chairman Tom Tyler and town officials highlighted the current building deficiencies at the middle school, which include cracks in the masonry walls, non-compliant doors, and the need for a HVAC system and broken windows that cannot open because they're impossible to close. Additionally, the current senior center and youth center were coined as buildings that do “not fully meet the needs” of the respective users of the buildings. The presentation also stressed the town is currently lacking a community center.

The proposed middle school facility includes 110,000 square feet of both school renovation and new construction. At the existing middle school, the project calls for renovations to house the sixth grade in its western wing. The existing school's gymnasium and library/media center would also be reused. The 1954 eighth-grade wing is proposed for demolition.

The plans also call for a three-story addition to house the seventh and eighth grades. The first floor would consist of administrative offices, faculty and conference rooms as well as a new kitchen and cafeteria. Support services would

be adjacent to the administration area.

The new senior center is proposed at the existing school space, in the cafeteria wing, taking advantage of the existing kitchen, which seemed to be a popular request in the senior center study. The senior center's offerings would include a café, lounge, counseling space, library, health room, game room, fitness room and offices.

The third piece of the project is the community center, which would house the Youth and Social Services departments in the existing school space. Social services would include a food bank distribution area and storage. The plan includes a separate entrance directly adjacent to a dedicated parking area. The space for youth services includes a galley kitchen, game room, group counseling areas, technology room, lounge and library. The existing gymnasium and locker rooms would also be available for use by service groups.

Additionally, the community center would include what Tyler called “shared spaces.” The shared spaces are additional rooms that various groups in town could utilize such as veterans, Boy and Girl Scouts, visual and perform-

ing arts, tutoring/mentoring, PTO, sports groups and other similar uses.

The presentation also indicated that either the proposed senior center or community center could be the designated emergency shelter for the town so a “high-capacity generator to power the kitchen, heating and lighting will be provided.”

The project's cost was highlighted at a combined total of \$57 million for all three components. Renovations and additions to the middle school come to \$42.4 million dollars with a projected state reimbursement of \$18.1 million. The senior center was presented with a cost of \$5.7 million and the community center would be \$8.9 million. The overall cost to Colchester was communicated to be \$38.9 million, however, after state reimbursement for school construction.

Tyler explained these costs also did not take into account additional grants that could be applied for if the project moves forward. Goldstein explained the bond resolutions for the project vote states the project cannot exceed \$57 million; contingency costs are in-

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cluded in the plan.

A summary of how the project would impact taxes was explained. For every \$100,000 of market value, Tyler said, the estimated average annual increase in taxes over the project's financing period would be \$113 per year. One citizen in the crowd questioned whether his taxes would incrementally rise by \$113 each year but officials present at the session explained it is an average number over the payment period – which is intended to be a 20-year period.

Enrollment, Safety Concerns Conveyed

Both concerns and benefits of the project were conveyed by the crowd Monday night. Resident Bill Sullivan sparked a conversation about the size and square footage of the school compared to projected student enrollment for the future.

"Enrollment is going down by 200 students by 2018, yet they're building a school for the current enrollment of 681 students," Sullivan said, adding he was referencing a 10-year projection chart for the town. He said that steep enrollment drop "to me says you're building a school much larger than it needs to be, which is more cost to the taxpayer both on the initial building of the school and on maintenance and upkeep and facilities management."

Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov explained the projections after the meeting. He referenced the same 10-year chart he believed Sullivan was referring to. While enrollment for grades four, five and six are anticipated to decrease over the next eight years, Tarlov said figures for pre-kindergarten through grade two are projected to increase, who would become middle school attendees three to six years later when the school is "just 7 to 10 years old," he said.

"Eight years from now, the new school would be only about four years old," Tarlov furthered. "To build a school with a useful life in excess of 20 years, based on enrollment projections for its first four or five years, would be shortsighted."

On Monday, Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein pointed out how the square footage of the middle school was determined.

"What we've done here is what's traditionally done with building projects," Goldstein said, adding that the state Department of Education allows districts to build schools to the maximum projected enrollment in the next ten years, which is then applied to a formula to

determine the allotable square footage per student.

An architect present from Tecton Architects of Hartford who created the schematic design explained the middle school proposal is a "modest decrease" of about 7,000 square feet to what the maximum allotable space is. Additionally, he furthered the project proposes 110,000 square feet for the school while the current school is 142,000 square feet.

Resident Jeff Koonanheil was concerned with the safety of the children if the school moves forward. He coined the multi-pronged project "unorthodox" and "ill-conceived" because a senior center and community center are proposed to be in close proximity to the school. "I feel you're just unnecessarily heightening the risk of students by having the buildings in the same area," Koonanheil said. "It increases the number of people that could potentially be there that shouldn't be there."

Goldstein spoke in response to this concern stating that he and Superintendent of Schools Jeffery Mathieu would not be in support of the project if it weren't safe. Goldstein stressed there wouldn't be a way for individuals to pass between all three buildings during the school day. He referenced barriers such as locked doors between each building and added, "The new school would have all the enhanced security measures built into it."

While security measures hadn't been extensively discussed yet, by the time the project would be built, new security heightening measures and mandates from the state could be in place, Goldstein said, stressing the district would use those for a basis of enhancing safety. Additionally, he said access points at the proposed school would be more limited than they are at the existing WJMS. Currently, Goldstein said there are many points of access that need to be monitored. The new proposal would have "only two" access points, he said.

After the meeting, Goldstein stressed the importance of safety even further.

"I like it when the issue comes up because we need folks to understand safety is of the utmost importance to us," he said.

Other Residents Relay Benefits

While some in the crowd were concerned with the three-part proposal, others felt it would benefit the district. Resident Petina Killiany introduced herself as a construction consultant who speaks with many school districts in the state.

"A lot of these municipalities are interested in what Colchester is doing and in following that model," she said.

Additionally, Killiany made attendees aware that the state has formed a public safety group to "look at construction measures and school security." Goldstein said their findings would be taken into account if the project is approved.

Killiany added she feels a combined building could benefit students, as there could be a potential for "students and seniors working together."

Another resident, Ginnie Streppa, stressed the project would replace deteriorating buildings. Streppa is currently a supervisor at the Youth Center and described the building as "old and falling apart." Streppa added she often substitute teaches at the four public schools and recognizes the middle school "needs work."

"No matter how you look at it, we are going to be paying somehow for the upkeep of those buildings," Streppa said.

Parking was also touched upon. The architect pointed out a "loop road" is included in the middle school costs while an additional parking lot is included outside of the senior center, in the senior center costs. As far as the school portion, Tyler said he feels the proposal fixes the current problem of the "fairly congested" parking area at the school.

"I think if anyone here has attended one of the many events at the middle school you're well aware of the parking situation," Tyler said. "It's sorely lacking. To address that, the new layout would continue along the same path for buses but student drop off and pick up would be separated."

One resident, Kurt Frantzen, pointed out the risk of not moving the project forward. "Every year we delay we increase borrowing costs," he said. "Every year we delay, we have a ramp up in inflation."

Parents in the crowd like Tamra Dimitri coined the project "innovative" because she thinks it brings the community together. Mother Lynn Dickey said the current building is "very scary from a parent's perspective."

But resident Bob Hodge raised a question that hadn't yet been discussed. A member of the American Legion, Hodge asked if the building proposal designates space for veterans, a question selectwoman Rosemary Coyle responded to.

"The Board of Selectmen has discussed this

and I cannot speak for the full board," Coyle stated. "But we're certainly going to have the space and the veterans have always had space in this town. I think it would be remiss of us as a board not to address that issue."

Alternatives Were Considered

Finance chairman Tarlov explained the board did consider other alternatives to weigh out the finances. One option was to simply refurbish the existing school, and the second was a "fix it as you go" method over 10-15 years, he said. Both options turned out to be the most expensive, he said. The third option – "the cheapest," he said – was to do the school portion as presented without the senior and community centers.

"However, we weren't addressing the needs of [the senior and community centers]," Tarlov said of the third option. "We'd still have to add the cost of keeping up [with those] buildings as they are."

Tarlov furthered the senior center is currently owned by the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, who are interested in selling the building, "so basically staying there for any length of time wouldn't be an option."

If the project is voted down, Tarlov said, the town would have to "go back to the drawing board," meaning about a two-year delay. "That increases the risk in building costs and bond interests," he said.

If the project passes and the bidding process and other phases play out in the "best scenario," Goldstein concluded a shovel would hit the ground at the site in summer 2015.

Tyler informed attendees the building committee's work is now complete. It has met the charge ordered by the selectmen, which was to develop a proposal that includes a renovated/new school, as well as a senior center and community center. If the project fails, he said, it would be up to the town officials to decide how to address the existing needs at all three current locations.

A full, detailed report including the schematic design of the WJMS/Community/Senior Center project is available for viewing on the town website at colchesterct.gov and the Board of Education website at www.colchesterct.org. The town's Building Committee can also be reached by email at WJBC@colchesterct.gov or by mail at: Building Committee, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

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lot to do," Pugatch said, regarding the progress that's been made in the past four months.

"There's a lot of places down here that can definitely use some help [financially]," Pugatch added. "People tend to forget about it but the problem is still there."

But many residents in East Hampton haven't forgotten.

East Hampton Rotary President Barbara Moore said a slew of East Hampton's civic groups, including the Rotary Club, East Hampton Lions Club, Village Lions Club, Anchor Lodge, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, the Yellow Ribbon Committee, the Knights of Columbus and members of the East Hampton Senior Center all volunteered to cook and serve the benefit dinner next week, in hopes of raising money for relief efforts for Oklahoma.

"Being from East Hampton but being so far away, it's nice to have my hometown community care so much about what's going on," Pugatch said gratefully.

Moore said the local groups are helping for a good cause.

"We just have to be grateful that we live where we live and we're usually not plagued with that sort of storm," Moore said about why the East Hampton Rotary Club decided to fundraise.

Additionally, Moore knows Pugatch personally and said, "He's a very special guy."

Two dinners will be served next Friday – one at 5:30 p.m. and the other at 7 p.m. Both dinners will have the same menu: pot roast, Texas

tater wedges, corn pudding, salad, coleslaw, rolls, corn bread, Southern desserts, sweetened iced tea and coffee.

Moore said, "There will be containers for people to take their dinner home to enjoy."

The cost of dinner is \$12 per person, and tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at Devine's Jewelers on Main Street or Belltown Motors on East High Street.

There will also be a silent auction throughout the evening, the winners of which will be announced at 8:30 that night. The 10 items up for auction are: a gift certificate for \$200 toward car repairs from Belltown Motors; a dinner for six, delivered and ready to serve from Chatham Caterers; a gift card for Angelico's; an assortment of wines; a Global Sync Travel Alarm; a lap quilt; themed baskets; a purse by Shannon Hintz; a Keurig Coffee Maker; and jewelry from Devine's Jewelers.

According to Moore, all donations will go toward an already growing list of donations – currently totaling \$15,000 – from all 61 Connecticut Rotary Clubs. The fundraising will continue until the end of December, Moore said, and the final sum will be matched with a global grant that will essentially double the funds.

Moore added that although she's not yet sure which specific project the money will go toward, it will be one that exemplifies one of the five avenues of service in Rotary, which are club service, vocational service, community service, international service and new generations service.

Hartford Man Kidnapped, Shot and Left for Dead in Portland

by Elizabeth Bowling

A Hartford man who was reportedly kidnapped at gunpoint last Thursday, Sept. 5, was found later in the afternoon, shot in the head, near St. Mary's Cemetery in Portland, according to police.

Christopher Jefferson, 26, of Hartford, was found partially clothed and laying on his back on the side of the road, according to a press release from Sgt. Scott Cunningham of the Portland Police Department. Jefferson had been shot once in the head, Cunningham said.

Cunningham said someone driving by saw the body on the side of the road on Riverview Street and reported it to police just before 3 p.m.

EMS and the Portland Fire Department also responded to the call and tended to Jefferson, who was then transported to Middlesex Hospital for treatment. From there he was transported to Hartford Hospital due to the seriousness of his injuries.

Jefferson remained listed in critical condition until Friday, Sept. 6, at around 9 a.m., when he was pronounced dead.

Jefferson was reported missing from Hartford approximately one hour prior to being found in Portland, Cunningham said.

According to Lt. Brian Foley, the Hartford Police spokesman, Jefferson was abducted from 51 Bond St., Hartford.

"The victim was coerced into a car then held against his will at gunpoint and driven off," Foley said. "Witnesses of the abduction described a specific black Mercedes Benz."

The vehicle in question is now in the custody of Hartford Police, Foley said.

The Portland and Hartford Police Departments are working together to "piece together the events that lead to Jefferson's death," Cunningham said.

"Our detectives responded to Portland and backtracked from there," Foley added. "We're following some very strong leads. The investigation is moving in a very positive direction."

The Connecticut State's Attorney's Office and the Connecticut State Police Eastern District Major Crime Division are also investigating.

Anyone with any information regarding this incident is asked to contact Detective Gary Jarzabek of the Portland Police Department at 860-342-6780.



On Sunday, the Lions Fairgrounds were filled with an array of activities to entertain attendees. Over in the Horse Ring, people watched as a variety of horses and carriages were exhibited. Simultaneously, many of the more-than 34,000 people at the fair that day gathered by the Lions Stage to get a glimpse of the headline act, Florida Georgia Line.



A Record-Setting Hebron Harvest Fair

by Geeta Schrayter

The 43rd annual Hebron Harvest Fair was one for the record books.

The fair, which took place last Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 5-8, saw a total attendance of around 134,000, the best attendance ever. Saturday's turnout was the best in 10 years, while Sunday, which boasted over 34,250 fairgoers (that number includes individuals who paid through the gate, not advance ticket purchases), was the best day in the history of the fair.

Sunday's draw and the resulting records likely had much to do with the highly-anticipated performance of the popular country duo Florida Georgia Line, a group with quite a few records of its own.

The duo, made up of Brian Kelley and Tyler Hubbard, became famous last year after the release of their debut single "Cruise." The track became the fastest debut single to reach Billboard's Country Top 10 (after 14 weeks) since 1991's "Brand New Man" by Brooks & Dunn.

After the track was remixed with hip-hop artist Nelly, the tune went on to set the record for the longest number one song on Billboard's Hot Country Songs, rose to number four on the Billboard Hot 100, and became the third best selling digital track ever.

In addition to the success of their single, Florida Georgia Line's album *Here's to the Good Times* has gone platinum since its release last December and reached number one on the Billboard's Top Country Albums and number four on the Billboard 200, which charts albums across all genres.

Fair President Adam Miclette compared booking the group to winning the lottery; he said the group was the biggest artist to perform at the fair while at their peak. And with their popularity came plenty of people Sunday, like Kaylee Lutty and Emily Decora. The friends had ventured to the fair for the first time from Griswold, and said they came specifically for

the band.

Decora said they managed to get "pretty close" despite how crowded it was, and enjoyed the performance. The girls added now that they'd seen the fair, they planned to return.

This year was also the first for Don and Brynna Perrault and their daughter Madeline. The family made the trek from Newington to check out the scene because "it seemed like a good time," said Don Perrault.

"It's something to do," he furthered, saying the family was looking forward to food like fried dough and taking their daughter to see the animals.

Glenda Miner was also experiencing the fair for the first time with her granddaughter Jocelyn. Jocelyn, 6, was all smiles as she talked about her favorite things: eating cotton candy, watching the DockDog competitions and going on some of the carnival rides (which she was finally tall enough to do) like the Ferris wheel and the Scrambler.

But for Miner, waiting in traffic for an hour to get to the fair followed by a significant wait for tickets and a long line heading out in the evening had put a damper on her desire to make the trip from North Stonington in the future.

"I'm not sure I'll come back again," she said.

But the wait was perhaps inevitable: the increased attendance Sunday meant plenty of traffic to go with it. On Tuesday, Town Manager Andrew Tierney recapped the scene.

The first three days of the fair "traffic flowed perfectly," he said. But Sunday didn't play out quite as anticipated. The thought had been that there would be a steady flow of traffic throughout the day. Instead, there was an early rush, followed by an onslaught of traffic during the afternoon.

"From noon on a lot of people converged onto Route 85 and gridlocked, creating long lines, waits for buses and at the gates where tickets were being sold," Tierney explained. "We had extra people and security in place to

handle it but with two entrances off the same road it's only one way in, one way out, and with 34,000 people we knew there would be somewhat of a delay."

But overall Tierney said things went "very well."

"All in all there were no issues," he said. "There was beautiful weather - it went very well. I'm happy for the Lions."

Although Florida Georgia Line's performance and the extra planning their appearance required has been a regular topic of discussion surrounding this year's fair, they were by no means the only draw.

In addition to the duo there were musical performances by artists such as the band Just Us, The Large Flowerheads and Kari and Billy (who also returned to open for Florida Georgia Line) and six local bands who participated in the first annual Farmer's Cow Country Show-down.

Along with the musical acts and a carnival that came with 38 rides, the fair entertained with features like magic shows, a pie-eating and bubblegum-blowing competition, a petting zoo and pony rides, a demolition derby, and tractor and truck pulls. There were also numerous exhibitions and vendors selling an array of items and services.

Additionally, fairgoers could venture into the Arts and Crafts Building to look at items such as paintings and photographs, goodies from the baking competitions, winning fruits and vegetables and handcrafts such as quilts and clothes.

Or, over in Hodge's Farm Display, those interested could "take a walk down memory lane" as a sign inside the building suggested, and look over an array of antique farm equipment and home merchandise.

For Plainfield residents Art and Amanda Berry, the concert, DockDogs and other fair animals were points of interest, as was the food. Amanda called the fried Oreos "pretty good," while Art enjoyed the pork sandwiches and recommended the fried vegetable tempura.

And if those items didn't cause a particular mouth to water, there were many other options like baked potatoes, taco salads, falafels, Thai food, pizza and burgers, a variety of "dogs" from corn to chili, fried dough, ice cream, apple crisp and more.

But now, all that's behind the Lions, who will take the rest of September to catch a breath and clean up. Miclette said at a meeting held next month the Lions will then critique this year's event and budget preparations for next year will start.

"As soon as the budget is established, preparations for next year, the 44th Annual Hebron Harvest Fair will begin," he said.

But at this point, Miclette said he's not yet certain how he'll follow an act like Florida Georgia Line.

"I have no idea who we're going to get next year. I haven't pulled that rabbit out of my hat yet," he said. "We got lucky this year; this was the perfect storm. This is never going to happen again."

But, Miclette added, "we'll have a quality, up-and-coming star. And when we booked Florida Georgia Line [in January], they were a quality, up-and-coming star - they just blew past everybody else."

But pushing next year aside for a moment, Miclette focused on this year's fair - and reflected on what were four very good days.

"It was a huge success," he said. "The weather was on our side; it was a home run."



Plenty of attendance records were set during this year's fair, including the best total attendance ever. On Sunday, the best single day in the history of the 43-year-old event, the crowds were endless, as people enjoyed all the fair had to offer with family and friends.

Take a Stroll in Hebron and Shop the Town

by Geeta Schrayter

In an effort to increase awareness of some of the nature trails in town while providing an opportunity to shop at some local businesses, the Hebron Parks and Recreation Department, the Economic Development Commission and participating businesses have joined together to present the first “Shop and Walk Hebron” event Saturday, Sept. 21.

During the all-day event, attendees will be able to take guided walking tours of the nature trails near the town center or go for an autumn walk along the clearly-marked trails by themselves.

Simultaneously, a sidewalk sale will be going on along Main Street and Country Carpenters will hold its fourth annual Colonial Day from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Economic Development Coordinator Randy Anagnostis explained this week the event started off with a focus on the nature trails, but grew after it was discovered some area busi-

nesses were making plans for a sidewalk sale.

“So we thought it would be worthwhile to combine the two activities and promote them together,” he said. “There will be face painting and exhibits and shows, different food vendors – and I know many of the businesses are offering special discounts for the day.”

In a release sent out regarding the event, it was explained Liberty Square Collectibles will be having its fourth annual Craft Show and Family Fun Day “with local crafters, food, drink, music, face painting and jewelry.”

In addition, Brain Freezers frozen yogurt will offer 10 percent off yogurt for the day, and Piece of Mine Consignment will be celebrating the grand opening of their new expansion and will have free apple cider for visitors. The Savings Institute will provide free popcorn, and the Hebron Friends of Seniors will be holding a bake sale.

Other activities will take place in the park-

ing lot of Ted’s IGA Supermarket, where other businesses and organizations will be set up.

Anagnostis said the underlying point of the event is to get people aware “both of what businesses have to offer and what the town has done to improve some of the open space areas adjacent to Main Street.”

“This just sort of gives people an opportunity to get out and about toward the center of Hebron and see what the town has to offer,” he concluded.

Selectman Brian O’Connell, who is also the liaison for the Economic Development Commission and has his own business in town (O’Connell Wealth Management), said this week any event that tries to draw people into the center and area businesses is “a good thing.”

O’Connell said he’d participate in the event, and will bring a shredding truck for people to get rid of documents. He said it was “good to have people come to the center of town and have

some involvement in local businesses.”

“The ‘walk around town and shop’ type of thing I think is a real positive for the community,” O’Connell continued. “I hope people come out and take advantage of it. A lot of people in the community have businesses in town and it’s important to support them.”

Town Manager Andrew Tierney agreed, saying he hoped others would join him in attending.

“Hebron’s a pretty town – it’s going to be showcased. A lot of businesses are stepping up to the plate,” he said. “I’m going to be there and attend and I hope everyone else does as well.”

For additional information on the event, contact the Hebron Planning Office at 860-228-5971 ext. 137 or email Anagnostis at ranagnostis@hebronct.com. A rain date has been scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 28.

St. Mary’s Says Goodbye to Fr. John, Welcomes New Priest in Portland

by Elizabeth Bowling

The last 10 weeks of Father John Ashe’s career as a priest were nothing short of busy. In addition to his usual responsibilities for Masses and funerals, the 75-year-old retiring priest moved his belongings into his new home in Middletown.

To put that in perspective, Ashe said, “Imagine 50 years’ worth of accumulation.”

Ashe was ordained June 29, 1963, at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris when he was 25 years old. He said he always knew he wanted to be a priest.

To celebrate Ashe’s 23 years of service to St. Mary’s Church in Portland and 50 years of service to the Catholic Church, his parish – which is made up of about 1,100 families – had a party at St. Clement’s Castle in Cobalt after its Sunday Mass on Aug. 25.

Ashe said about 400 people joined in the celebration, which included a “roast,” during which members of the parish poked fun at Ashe’s unique idiosyncrasies.

“We had fun,” Ashe said. “There were many different things that we laughed about.”

The Castle catered for the event and people bought their food tickets ahead of time, Ashe said.

The priest’s retirement party was a celebration he won’t soon forget; after all, it started and ended with a special ride to and from the Castle, thanks for Portland’s former fire chief, Sal Patracelo.

“I even got a ride to the castle in an old, restored fire truck from 1946,” the priest recalled with excitement.

The party carried on throughout the entire

afternoon. It started at 1 p.m. and lasted until 5:30. Ashe was also happy to gather together as a community one last time to say goodbye.

“A church is not a building, but it is a community,” Ashe said. “We have a very active, involved parish.”

Post-retirement, Ashe said he plans to attend St. Pius X Church in Middletown, as well as St. Patrick’s Church in Hartford because of its open community.

“[St. Patrick’s Church] welcomes everybody,” he said, referring to the “different lifestyles” of the parish members.

“Leaving is very, very difficult,” he said, but added, “I don’t have the energy or the ability to finish doing this.”

He said that after his retirement he won’t linger too much around St. Mary’s because, “I think it’s always good that when a priest leaves, not to be breathing down the neck of his successor.”

His successor is Paul Beaudreau, who Ashe called a “wonderful priest.”

Beaudreau took over at St. Mary’s Church Sept. 1, the day of Ashe’s official retirement. Beaudreau was offered the position at St. Mary’s until January, but could very well wind up being here longer.

“You never know how these things go,” he said. “The plan evolves.”

Regarding Ashe, Beaudreau said, “He’s a very competent pastor. He’s done extremely well.”

He added, “I’m stepping into his hard work and I’m enjoying the benefit of it. It’s very easy for me because of John.”

The 67-year-old served as a pastor in Old



Pictured above are Father John Ashe, left, and former fire chief and Knights of Columbus member Sal Pitruzzello on their way to the priest’s retirement celebration Aug. 25. Ashe retired Sept. 1 after 50 of service to the Catholic Church – 23 of those years were dedicated to St. Mary’s Church in Portland.

Lyme for six years, in Coventry for six years, and in California for three years where he also did some other developmental work for the area diocese, he said.

Beaudreau’s official title at St. Mary’s Church is administrator of the parish, but Ashe said he hopes Beaudreau will become the pas-

tor of the parish.

Beaudreau said his initial reaction to St. Mary’s parish was a positive one.

“It’s a great community with very active, responsible and resourceful people,” he said. “They take on responsibilities for their church and they get things done.”

Portland VFW Raising Funds for Building Repairs

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Portland Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6121 is having a “Rock for Vets Music Festival” fundraiser at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds tomorrow, Sept. 14, to raise money for renovations to the VFW building.

Portland VFW member Mike Hernandez, who spearheaded the fundraiser, said it’ll be a “tailgate type of event,” featuring four local bands.

According to Hernandez, Great Hill Mountain Band plays country music; Jamie’s Junk Show is a funk and groove duo that plays a wide variety of music from the 1970s to today; Bloomer plays a similar variety as Jamie’s but is an acoustic duo; and Addison Station plays today’s pop music, as well as a variety of hits.

Hernandez said he became motivated to throw a big fundraising event when he noticed all the little changes and improvements Richard Stake, the VFW Post 6121 commander, was making to the building.

“I’m trying to make this a better place for the veterans,” Stake said. He called the VFW building a “sanctuary for veterans.”

Slowly, Stake is trying to update the place, he said. He had a fridge donated from Portland Electric last week, as well as two toilets donated from Lyman Orchards last summer. But for the bathrooms to reach their full potential, Stake wants to make both the men’s and women’s rooms handicap accessible.

In addition to upgrading the bathrooms, Stake said the roof, which is “rotted and caved in on one side,” needs to be replaced.

According to Stake, a lot still needs to be done to the building, which was constructed in 1946. For example, its walls need to be stripped

so that insulation can be installed. It doesn’t have insulation currently, so it’s very expensive to keep warm in the cold months, Stake said.

He also said the trim needs to be replaced, as the current wooden trim is rotted. He said he’d also like to replace the windows if the club can raise enough money.

Stake said he’s hoping to raise \$5,000 through the concert fundraiser just to go toward buying supplies for the construction projects.

“If possible I’ll have volunteers [to minimize labor costs],” he said. “We’re going to do as much as we can free... to make this a more comfortable place.”

Presently, the Portland VFW consists of 42 members and is “always seeking new members,” Stake said.

The local VFW gets \$5 per year from each member. “That’s why we try to raise money,” Stake said, laughing about how little funding the club has.

“The way I know how to help out is to throw this music concert,” said Hernandez, who said he has a reputation in town of throwing big parties.

VFW members will sell water, as well as grill and sell hot dogs and hamburgers during the event, which was originally planned for June 15 also at the fairgrounds, but was rescheduled due to a rainout. Tomorrow’s concert will run from 2 to 10 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in advance or at the door. Tickets that were purchased for the June 15 show will also be accepted. For more information regarding tickets, contact Hernandez at 860-883-5087.



The Portland VFW Post 6121 is hosting a music festival at the Portland Fairgrounds tomorrow from 2 to 10 p.m. Proceeds will go toward necessary renovations to the VFW building on Brownstone Avenue, shown here.

Student Creates WJJMS’ First Sign in Colchester

by Melissa Roberto

“Puma pride” is a common characteristic associated with William J. Johnston Middle School, which has welcomed Colchester’s sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at 360 Norwich Ave. since 1989.

But this year, it’s fair to say that pride isn’t just noticed inside of the school’s classrooms, hallways or offices. In fact, it’s evident in writing right outside of the school’s entrance.

For the first time ever – since the middle school inhabited the former building known as the old Colchester Intermediate School (CIS) – WJJMS has its very own sign defining just what that large building on Norwich Avenue is, and its characteristics.

The sign is the result of a joint effort between an administrator, teacher and a former student of the middle school. Grant Peters, 14 and now a sophomore at Bacon Academy, is the artist behind the masterpiece that is now seen each day by many at the school and passersby.

Peters’ artistic talents were noticed by reading specialist Virginia Goncalo back when he attended the middle school. Some of his drawings still hang in her office. When he was in seventh and eighth grade, Peters’ artwork appeared on the cover of the school’s agendas used daily by nearly 700 middle school students. But it wasn’t until the end of Peters’ eighth grade school year that Goncalo approached him with the request to design the school’s first sign.

WJJMS Principal Chris Bennett said he had been searching for a way for the school to get a sign.

“That old sign had been sitting out back in the portables in storage,” Bennett said of the former CIS sign. “We’ve been looking for a way to get it redone and reused because we’ve never had a sign.”

When the idea to revive the old sign came about, Goncalo didn’t need to look far to help find an artist equipped with skills to get the job done. Peters was approached at the end of the 2011-12 school year and, though he was making the transition to high school a few months

later, he humbly accepted the opportunity.

“It was nice to be asked to do it,” said Peters. “The school sort of needed a sign, I thought.”

And now, the sign clearly defines just what the middle school is. The sign is painted in the school’s colors – royal blue and white – and in addition to its name and slogan Peters added another layer of wood onto it in the shape of an oval. The oval includes the painted face of a puma, the school’s mascot, with the four core values of WJJMS surrounding it, which read “Be Safe,” “Be Responsible,” “Be Respectful” and “Be Honest.”

“Those four core values fit into how children and staff behave at the school,” Goncalo said.

Though Peters said it took “three or four days” to complete, the teenager pooled resources before he started painting. With the help of his mom Tearice, who has a background in marketing and design, Peters gathered plywood and exterior paints.

In order to make the oval, Peters said he used one of his dad’s old engineering books to figure out the dimensions. He also printed out a picture of a puma, which he drew on a larger scale himself.

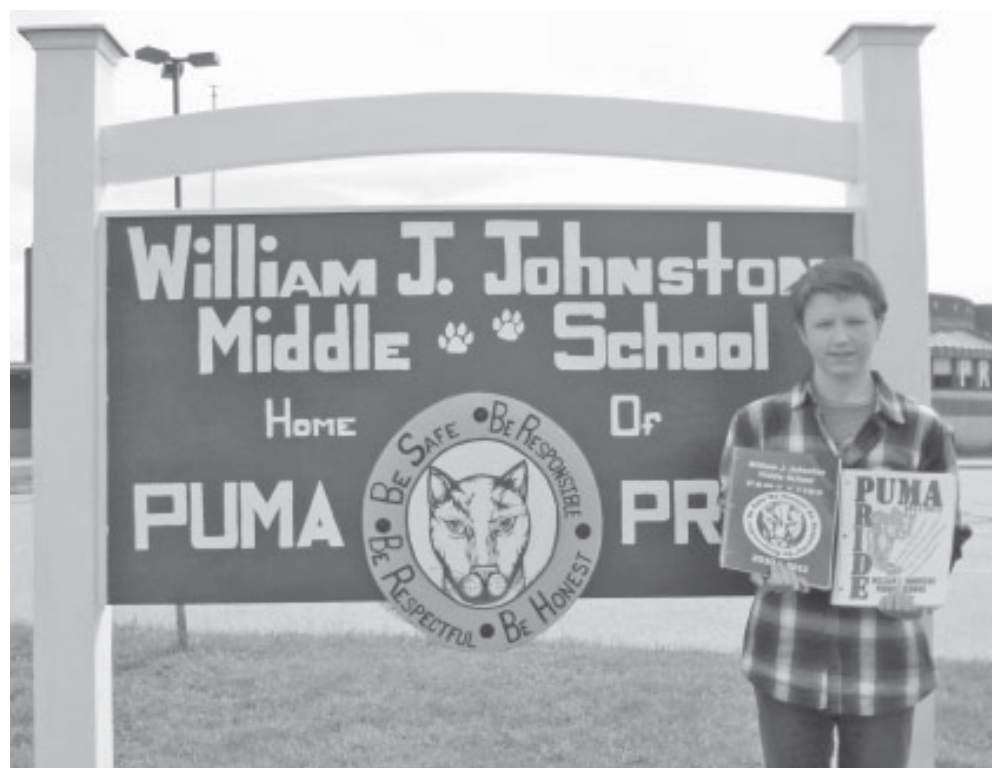
The 14-year-old added that while he enjoyed making the sign, art isn’t his passion. Instead, he prefers tasks that include math and engineering skills, and hopes to one day become an architect.

“I’m more of a technical math person,” Peters explained, adding that math is his favorite subject.

But whether Peters thinks of himself as an artist or not, Bennett praised him for a job well done, and for creating something that shows the public what, who and where WJJMS is – a goal that was a long-time coming for the middle school.

“He’s a very talented but modest young man,” Bennett said of Peters. “It’s a beautiful sign.”

After Peters finished the sign, it actually took



Former middle school student Grant Peters, who now attends Bacon Academy, stands next to the new William J. Johnston Middle School sign that he created and painted. It is the very first sign the school has had since its relocation to Norwich Avenue in 1989.

a year to put it up, because the school needed to abide by signage laws in town, and it also had to determine how to install the sign.

Goncalo’s husband John took on the latter task. John owns his own business in Deep River called Still Water, LLC and purchased additional materials to make the posts that allow the sign to stand.

“I like it,” John Goncalo said of this sign this week. “I always felt that [WJJMS] needed it and I thought it would be valuable for the kids to see it and understand what goes into it.”

The sign was installed one week before the start of the 2013-14 school year and just two weeks in, Bennett said he’s already received positive feedback.

Goncalo added she, like other teachers in the school, are proud the sign shows students, faculty and visitors what WJJMS is all about even before you walk through its doors.

“I’m really excited for Grant as well as the school community,” she said. “Now we have a sign to show who we are.”

Colchester School Board Reviews CMT Results

by Melissa Roberto

The time of year has come when districts all over the state start to review the results of last year's Connecticut Mastery Test, and the Board of Education did just that in its meeting Tuesday, while also taking a look at what the future holds for statewide school assessments.

The CMT is a standardized assessment administered to students in grades three through eight. Students are assessed in the content areas of reading, math and writing, and, for grades five through eight, science as well. CMT scores are ranked in five categories: below basic, basic, proficient, goal and advanced.

Colchester's director of teaching and learning Barbara Gilbert walked the school board through the district's results. In comparison to the state average, Colchester exceeded the percentage of students at/above goal in all of the categories, Gilbert said. However, she pointed out third-graders hit a low point of 65.6 percent at or above goal in math in 2013.

"That was really low for us," Gilbert said. However, Gilbert stressed there's a sensible reason for the dip. While the new Common Core State Standards aren't required to be implemented in school districts until the 2014-15 year, Colchester got a three-year head start in launching the new curriculum, Gilbert said – adding that now the town has implemented the Common Core 100 percent.

"Three years ago the state said 'you have three years to implement the Common Core,'

Gilbert explained. "We jumped in the first year and got started."

Meanwhile, the tradition of administering the CMT tests has continued. In 2014-15, when Common Core is fully implemented across the state, a new test called Smarter Balanced assessment will replace the CMT.

Gilbert explained the Smarter Balanced tests are aligned with the Common Core curriculum. She added there are differences in CMT content and the Common Core throughout all grade levels thus causing the drop in math scores for third-graders, who had been taking the CMT for the first time.

"It isn't that they aren't working hard," she concluded. "CMT may have tested students on topics they have not encountered over the course of the year."

Because of this disconnect, the dip in the third-grade math scores, Gilbert said, "makes a lot of sense."

The director then highlighted multiple differences between the new curriculum and the CMT for the board. For example, she said probability is something that used to be expected by third grade students but in the Common Core, it's not taught until grade seven.

Gilbert also briefly touched upon how Colchester's scores match up to other towns in District Reference Group (DRG) D, which the town falls under along with towns of similar socioeconomic statuses including East Lyme,

Waterford and Stonington. Gilbert explained Colchester's scores exceeded the average percentage of students at goal in 13 out of 20 categories.

Tuesday's discussion then shifted into a conversation about future testing. Gilbert said there is a possibility Colchester's assessment could change this year. She explained the state has applied for a waiver which the federal government still needs to decide on. If approved, the waiver would allow Connecticut districts to choose whether they'd like to administer the CMT or the Smarter Balanced test this year.

Gilbert explained the federal decision is anticipated to come in the next few weeks and if districts are allowed to choose, Colchester's administrative team decided the district would administer the Smarter Balanced assessment.

"We felt it made sense because we're teaching to the Common Core," she said.

But the Smarter Balanced assessment isn't exactly going to prove to be a piece of cake, Gilbert hinted at. In an effort to prove just how "rigorous" the new test is, Gilbert pulled up a practice test and gave board members a chance to answer third-grade math sample questions.

One aspect of the Smarter Balanced test that differs from the CMT is the level of technology involved. While the CMT is mainly a fill-in-the-bubble exam, with the Smarter Balanced tests, students are required to take the test on computers, and are responsible for dragging

their answers – in the board's case on Tuesday, numbers – into boxes. These additional steps of learning how to use the technology raised eyebrows from some of the board members.

"I think it showed how challenging it's going to be for our third-graders to do multi-step math programs and to use the technology," Gilbert said after the meeting. "I think it's important for the adults to know the rigor that's involved so we also don't misunderstand the results when we get them."

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein said he felt board members weren't so much surprised by the tests, but were expressing their awareness that the new testing method "raises the bar" of expectations of students – a phrase several board members and Gilbert used to describe the common core state standards.

This week, Gilbert also highlighted other necessary rules and skills students will need to learn before taking the test. For example, Gilbert explained to the board multiple choice questions could have more than one answer – something students will need to understand.

On a conclusive note, Gilbert assured the board she feels the district is in "a good place as we move through the [new] curriculum."

"But it is challenging," she added. The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 7 p.m., in the Bacon Academy library/media center.

East Hampton Seniors Are 'Experts at Living Well'

by Elizabeth Bowling

September is National Senior Center Month and the East Hampton Senior Center is celebrating. Monday afternoon, more than 30 seniors attended an hour-long seminar called "Experts at Living Well," during which 12 local seniors sat on the "expert panel" and participated in a Q&A.

Regarding the turnout of the event, JoAnn Ewing, the senior services coordinator, said, "I'm ecstatic. It shows you how important the senior center is to people."

She explained that the Senior Center Month Planning Committee selected the "Experts at Living Well" panelists, who answered questions including, "What is the biggest challenge of being retired?"

For panelist Judy Parenteau, the hardest part was adjusting to spending so much time with her husband.

"It's very difficult for a couple to be retired and to be together every single day," she said. "You really get to know each other."

But Ivy Maurice, who sat on the panel next to her husband Nelson, said she likes to "take advantage of being together." She added, "We found that we have more in common than we knew."

Another panelist, Ann White-Sullivan, said the most difficult part of being retired is handling her expenses. She said she has to "accommodate all the rising costs of things."

But on a more personal level, panelist Cindy Baloga said the greatest obstacle to overcome when she retired from dancing was a "fear of losing your identity."

Ewing elaborated that one of the first details you tell someone about yourself is your occu-

pation, so it's hard to let go of that.

But panelist Lance Johnson laughed that he's busier in retirement than he ever was when he was working. The only problem was that he missed the "social contact" that comes with having a job. But that's why he, and many of the other panelists, took to volunteering.

Panelist Joan Youngs added, "I don't think there's a day that goes by that I don't do something."

Similarly, White-Sullivan said, "Putting one foot in front of the other is the best way to start the day."

Parenteau added that "getting out and staying active" is the key to staying young.

Johnson said the key is to "enjoy yourself every day." He added, "To me, every day is a gift."

When asked if there's anything he can't do anymore that he used to do when he was younger, Johnson joked, "I can't climb trees anymore. An older man has to know his limitations."

More seriously, Youngs said, "I've curtailed my driving." But despite her lack of night driving, Youngs still does everything she wants to do; she just gets a ride from a friend, she said.

Baloga, a former dancer, has had multiple sclerosis for 11 years – and was able to hide it for the first seven, she said. In the past four years, though, her disease progressed, causing her to now use a walker. But despite her progressing physical limitations, she said she exercises for an hour every day – something her doctors say has kept her from breaking any bones.

"I have an aging disease. I have pain. I have



In honor of National Senior Center Month, the East Hampton Senior Center held a seminar this week called "Experts at Living Well." A panel consisting of 12 experts included, from left, Bob Petell, Nancy Zimmer, Judy Parenteau, Lance Johnson and Ann White-Sullivan.

stiffness," she said. "But I feel more blessed than sorry."

She can't dance anymore, nor can she go for a leisurely walk, but she has mastered the scooter and can now go shopping and get around by using one.

Ronnie Stoekle also attested to the importance of a positive attitude, which, she said, got her through the cancer she's been fighting "on and off and on and off" for 21 years.

"I think attitude makes the world go round, no matter what age we are," Ewing said. "You

just have to step back a little bit and enjoy."

Audience member Donna Long added, "You have to keep a sense of humor."

Ewing called the senior center a place with "delightful camaraderie" and said, "We have a lot of fun."

National Senior Center Month continues all through September at the East Hampton Senior Center. Among the activities planned is an open house Saturday, Sept. 21, from 1-4 p.m., which will include a flu clinic, Ewing said.

East Hampton School Board Discusses Kindergarten, Announces Goals

by Elizabeth Bowling

While not everyone seemed terribly enamored of the idea, the Board of Education Monday agreed to a study to determine the feasibility of full-day kindergarten.

The school board kicked off its Monday night meeting by introducing East Hampton's new administrators, teachers and staff.

Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas and Board of Education Chairman Mark Laraia also presented "Friends of Education" awards to nine East Hampton residents who have made an outstanding contribution to public education. The recipients included Chris Briggs, Barbara Razel, Ruth Vietze, Kelley Caruo, Rich Arnold, Amy Conklin, Alex Balletto, Rose Nosal and Donna Finkelstein.

Dugas also informed the board that enrollment for the 2013-14 school year is "steady at approximately 1,900 students total across the district."

Of those 1,900 students, 138 are kindergarteners. Dugas explained to the board the full-day kindergarten lottery system, which is used to decide which kindergarteners attend full-day classes and which attend half-day classes.

If all kindergarten students don't have access to full-day classes next year, Dugas said she would like to modify the lottery system. Specifically, she'd like it to be public.

Also regarding kindergarten classes, Dugas proposed a full-day kindergarten feasibility study that would last from the end of Septem-

ber to the beginning of January so that the process could be completed by budget time. The process would include collaboration between Memorial Elementary School Principal Mindy Wilkie and Assistant Superintendent of Schools Tim Van Tasle.

The study would consist of a parent survey, a cost analysis and a list of recommendations, Dugas said.

Regarding the feasibility study, vice chair of the board Joanne Barmasse asked, "What is the true point of doing all this? What are we out to discover?"

Barmasse, referring to the board's prior decision to try to implement full-day kindergarten for next year, noted that a feasibility study seems like "an awful lot of work for something we decided last year."

Board member Don Coolican told Dugas, "I think you're wasting your time," though he personally hopes a feasibility committee would discover that full-day kindergarten isn't necessary.

Coolican said he hopes the committee will see both sides of the full-day kindergarten debate. He said full-day kindergarten in East Hampton "shouldn't happen" and was the only board member to oppose a motion to form the feasibility committee.

Also regarding the feasibility study, board member Ken Barber said, "I didn't anticipate this would be such a process."

Alas he said he does support the study so long as board member Scott Minnick acts as the Board of Education representative on the feasibility committee, which is Minnick's intent.

Minnick supported Dugas' idea for a feasibility study because, he said, "I'm a big proponent of making informed decisions."

Dugas added that the purpose of the study is to justify the board's ultimate decision regarding full-day kindergarten using rationale.

"I want to commend you on doing this," board member Bill Marshall said to Dugas. "We ought to know what [full-day kindergarten] is and why we're doing it."

Board member Carol Lane said, "I would like a survey of everybody, not just some parents."

Laraia said full-day kindergarten is necessary so that East Hampton students can keep up with the national Common Core curriculum standards.

"I don't necessarily see this as a parent demand," he added.

Also regarding the Common Core, Dugas said East Hampton schools have three goals for this academic year. She said the goals include advancing the Common Core state standards, digital literacy and the new teacher evaluations. The board will vote to approve or reject the goals at its next meeting.

Coolican asked, "How will we know when we've met these goals?"

Dugas responded that there are set, expected outcomes for each goal. She added that the state standards are already set.

Minnick suggested progress reports that would "let us know where we're at currently, what we're doing currently and what we still need to do."

Board member Josh Piteo asked if parents would criticize the Smarter Balance Test – which assesses students' understanding of the Common Core curriculum – the same way they criticized the Connecticut Mastery Test. That is, he wanted to know if parents would protest that teachers focus their teaching toward getting good test scores.

Dugas said that wouldn't be the case because the Common Core is not just a test; rather, it prepares students for life, she said.

Minnick added that teachers can't actually prepare students for every Smarter Balance Test question because there are over 40,000 questions and the digitized test allows for varying questions from student to student.

Also at Monday's meeting, Laraia suggested having a Board of Education member attend every Town Council and Board of Finance meeting to act as a liaison. The board decided to address the issue after elections.

The next regularly scheduled East Hampton Board of Education meeting is Monday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m., at the East Hampton High School library.

Lake Levels Causing Controversy in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Bowling

The water level of Lake Pocotopaug has been a cause for concern this summer to many East Hampton residents, particularly those who own waterfront homes.

Aside from the dry spell this spring, followed by heavy rains this summer, some residents are blaming Matt Bevin, who owns the dam attached to the lake.

John Jordan, a lakefront property owner, spoke out about "letting the water out of the bathtub early" at Tuesday night's Town Council meeting.

"We have a problem with the person who controls the level of the lake," he said. "I don't mind paying higher taxes because I have lakefront property, but what I do mind is being denied the usage of that property that I'm paying extra money for."

Jordan noted that the water was "drawn down" before Labor Day this year.

"We had no notification of this whatsoever and believe me, I'm down three feet on my side of the lake," he said. "That's not acceptable."

Jordan asked the council to contact Bevin, who lives in Kentucky, and "work out a reasonable solution to this."

He added that the town has the right to exercise eminent domain over the dam.

However, Town Manager Mike Maniscalco said, "That's something we're not really considering at this point."

But, if the town were to exercise eminent domain, the Town Council would make that call, he said.

Regarding the town's hypothetical acquisition of the dam, Bevin said over the phone Wednesday, "If the town wants to buy it at a price that I think is fair, they can make me an offer."

But in reality, Maniscalco said the State of Connecticut recently passed legislation for private dam owners stating that they must implement a management plan that identifies "the practices and procedures for how, when and who is opening and closing the dam and for what reasons."

He said the legislation also requires that a dam owner have annual dam inspections. According to Maniscalco, the last inspection of Bevin's dam was conducted in 1995.

Bevin said he couldn't respond to the legislation at this time because he does not know much about it.

Maniscalco said he proposed implementing a basic management plan to Bevin in the past, but the proposal was "not well-received," meaning, Bevin wasn't interested.

The town manager had also asked Bevin this summer to open the dam prior to a major tropical storm. Again, Maniscalco said the request wasn't well-received.

Maniscalco said John Moore, the chairman of Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, then asked the same thing of Bevin, and Bevin complied.

According to Moore, the water level was very low this spring due to the lack of rain but the lake "filled right up in June and July" after the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug requested that the dam gate be dropped.

Bevin said there are always people who think the water is too high and people who think the water is too low.

"Depending who you talk to, there's always some of each," he said.

But, Bevin said, "I have no ability to control it. The only way you could control it is to leave the dam open always and Mother Nature can fill it as she sees fit."

However, Bevin does not want to do this, because he thinks the lake provides a lot of benefits to the town.

One of those benefits is lake recreation. But, Moore said, "It's been difficult for the past couple months for a lot of the homeowners on the lake who are trying to take their boats out."

One local boater, Town Council member George Pfaffenbach, attested to that at Tuesday night's council meeting saying, "I hit bottom yesterday where I never do."

Of course, it's difficult to regulate a lake that exceeds 500 acres, Bevin said, noting that the still lake on the other side of the dam is quite small.

He said there is no spigot to fill the lake and no plug to drain it. Rather, the level of the water is mostly determined by the weather, he said.

"There's really no way to control it," he said. "That's literally the whole story."

"If people really want to make it more trouble than it's worth," he said, "I could empty it." He added, "At a certain point maybe it's not worth



Lake Pocotopaug is considered one of East Hampton's finest assets, but some residents are concerned that the level of its water is not being managed properly.

my trouble."

But he said he wouldn't do that because he doesn't think people want to be able to walk out to the island like they could 100 years ago.

Moore said he is hopeful that there will be a vast improvement in communication regarding the dam and its control of the water level by the spring of next year because just in the past two months, the lake has experienced "better housekeeping."

"The new public works director has dug in quickly and cleaned the storm drains and catch basins," Moore said.

In addition to regular maintenance, Moore said opening up communications would be necessary in seeing improvements to the lake's quality. Specifically, that communication would need to be between Maniscalco, Bevin and the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, Moore said.

Moore said his ideal projects for the lake

would be simple, like curbing along the road to reduce the amount of storm water runoff that goes into the lake. He also suggested proper road maintenance, like sweeping the roads.

Moore said it's important to keep in mind that "the lake seems to always get a little cloudy as the water temperature rises through July and August."

"We take two measurements for clarity," Moore explained. He said this summer, the measurements were "average" but added, "It's marginal. It depends on where in the lake you are."

Moore said that generally "if there's more water in the lake then the chance of it being cleaner are greater than if there's less water."

Bevin said, "For those who think it's too high, they should get floating docks. For those who think it's too low, they should pray for rain."

East Hampton Town Council Holds Off on Agriculture Ordinances

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Town Council discussed both the Right to Farm and the Agricultural Commission ordinances at its Tuesday night meeting – and ultimately decided to postpone making any decisions on either one.

Regarding the development of an agricultural commission, Town Manager Mike Maniscalco said the Town Council would appoint seven commission members, as well as three youth members.

The youth members – which would most likely be high school students – would serve a one-year term, and the other seven members would serve staggered three-year terms.

“I would like to see this go forward,” council member Kyle Dostaler said, calling the passage of the Agricultural Commission Ordinance a “no-brainer.”

The council also saw the updated draft of the Right to Farm Ordinance, but decided to hold off on voting on it.

Council member Barbara Moore said she wanted to speak with some local farmers before putting the passage of the ordinance up to a vote.

“I want to make sure it’s what they really want,” she said. “I’m not comfortable with moving forward.”

Board member Derek Johnson didn’t want to move forward either, because he said some of the language in the Right to Farm Ordinance “is inappropriate.”

Johnson said one example of the “inappropriate” language was regarding the

ordinance’s “purpose of intent.” He read from the ordinance, “We determine that whatever impact may be caused to others, if it’s through a generally accepted agriculture practice, such impact is offset by the benefits of farming to the neighborhood, community and society in general.”

“I’m not quite sure how it is possible that we can actually legislate that,” Johnson said.

But Dostaler noted that a lot of the language in the Right to Farm Ordinance comes from the state.

“Such language is just a matter of course for such farm ordinances,” he said.

But the vice chairman of the council, Glenn Suprono, didn’t want to dwell on the details.

“I don’t think like a lawyer,” he said. “I make this little leap of faith that says, ‘Yeah, we’re saving that lady’s rooster and the guy can have his cow.’ And now the farmers have a little rulebook that keeps them alive, that somehow allows them to fight the good fight. And this little piece of paper [the Right to Farm Ordinance] helps them do that.”

“Let’s move it on,” Suprono said. “Let’s move it to the public.”

But Johnson said that putting the two ordinances together – the Right to Farm ordinance and the Agricultural Commission ordinance – is making them both “impalpable.” He suggested a “different set of timelines for both.”

Ultimately, the council decided to further discuss both ordinances at the next Town Council meeting.

* * *

In continuing news, an East Hampton resident, Haim Zahavi, has been working on developing property on 13 Summit St. for about two years already. The development would consist of 29 condominium units that would be sold, not rented, and an office space.

The development would require access to the village center’s water system.

Zahavi’s attorney, Edward Cassella, said the project would use 6,600 gallons of water per day, leaving 800 gallons of water per day for a “safe yield.”

Cassella said, “If this doesn’t proceed in a timely manner, that water is going to be held up for another developer.”

During public comment, Cindy Ruth, president of the Economic Development Commission, said, “We have a building that’s basically blighted... We have somebody with money that wants to take over that building and make it useful.”

Ruth said the water amount that Zahavi is requesting is “within the town’s limits,” and added that the town needs the development of 13 Summit St. in order for the village center to thrive.

“You need to have residential to make the commercial work,” she said. “If [Zahavi] doesn’t build it, somebody else is going to build it. ... The water is going to go to somebody someday.”

Regarding the council’s request that the developer pay for a well study, Cassella said,

“A well study was done in 2008, so there was a recent well study completed.”

He also said, “We understand that the water system is operating at a deficit.

Maniscalco confirmed that the water system experiences a financial deficit each year.

“The town actually has to kick in additional money to make it financially viable,” he said.

Cassella said that the required fees, like the tapping fee, that would go along with this project would hopefully “bridge the deficit.”

“There’s going to be economic benefits from this development to the town that can be used to fund additional studies because in this case you have a developer who owns the property, who has invested a lot of money, time and plans,” he said. “Here’s a developer who’s ready to move forward.”

Jim Gooch, a member of the economic development committee, said he thinks the council should allow the developer to move forward with his plan.

“The town has a problem with water in the village center.” He added, “It appears the council would like to hold the 13 Summit development responsible for helping us to leverage ourselves out of that problem.”

Alas, the council decided to wait to make any decisions regarding the 13 Summit St. development.

* * *

The next regularly scheduled Town Council meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 6:30 p.m., in the East Hampton High School library.

Andover Superintendent Praises Student CMT Scores

by Geeta Schrayter

Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia went over the results of last year’s Connecticut Mastery Tests at Wednesday’s Board of Education meeting – and had nothing but praise for how Andover Elementary students fared.

“Andover does a good job,” he stated. “Our students performed very well, especially the sixth grade class that goes into RHAM.”

In all three categories sixth-grade students were tested on – math, reading, and writing – over 90 percent scored at or above state goals: 90.9 percent scored at or above the state goals in math, along with 97 percent in reading and 93.9 percent in writing. The state average is 67.2 percent in math, 73.3 percent in reading and 65.2 percent in writing.

“I think the results speak for themselves,” Maneggia furthered. “They’re the result of a lot of hard work by our staff and really focusing on the needs of students and making sure that we improve in those areas that we may have slipped on a bit.”

Maneggia went on to call the sixth-grade scores “phenomenal,” but added, “all of our scores are very good.”

Maneggia noted the state average for students at or above math in third grade was 61.6 percent, while in Andover the number is 77.3 percent.

“That’s a considerable difference,” he said. Along with the math score, 68.2 percent scored at or above in reading (compared to the state average of 56.9 percent) and 76.6 percent in writing (compared to 60 percent).

In the fourth grade, 81.4 percent scored at or above state goals in math and reading while 76.7 percent scored at or above in writing. The fourth-grade scores are also significantly higher than the state averages, which clock in at 65.4 percent for math, 62.7 percent for reading and 63.1 percent for writing.

Lastly, in the fifth grade, 90 percent scored at or above state goals in math along with 82 percent of students in reading, 84.3 percent in writing and 74.5 percent in science. The state averages are: 69.4 percent for math, 66.9 percent in reading, 65.6 percent in writing and 62.5

percent in science.

Maneggia said it was important to note the percentages listed include students who scored at or above state goals. Scores are sometimes reported that also include students who performed “proficient” on the tests, but Maneggia said in Andover that’s not the case.

“We don’t include students who scored at proficient in our numbers. If we did that we probably would be in the 90 percent range,” he said. “But our standards are higher than proficient.”

When compared to last year’s scores, this year’s numbers fluctuate – some increased significantly while others decreased: in the third grade, for example, writing was a slight improvement over last year’s 73.2 percent, but math and reading were a decrease from last year’s 87.8 percent and 80.5 percent.

In the fourth grade, this year’s scores remained close to the year prior, but were all a slight decrease: 81.6 percent scored at or above state goals in math and reading in 2012 along with 78 percent in writing.

The following grade saw decreases in math, reading and science but an increase in writing. Last year, 97.1 percent of fifth-graders scored at or above state goals in math along with 91.2 percent in reading, 82.9 percent in writing and 88.6 percent in science.

The sixth-grade scores were all an improvement over 2012, when 80 percent scored at or above state goals in math, 86.8 percent scored at or above state goals in reading, and 68.3 percent scored at or above state goals in writing.

However, Maneggia stressed comparing scores from the same grade one year to the next compares different students. In order to garner a picture of student achievement, he said scores from a particular grade in one year should be compared to those in a grade higher the following year.

For example, 81.6 percent of fourth-grade math students scored at or above state goals in 2012. As fifth-graders in 2013, 90 percent scored at or above state goals. Those same students increased their reading and writing scores from their previous tests, moving from 81.6

percent and 78 percent as fourth-graders to 82 percent and 84.3 percent respectively.

But those comparisons show there were still a few decreases in performance. For example, 87.8 percent of last year’s third graders scored at or above state goals in math. This year, as fourth-graders, 81.4 percent scored at or above state goals. In addition, 97.1 percent of last year’s fifth-graders scored at or above state goals in math, compared to 90.9 percent this year as sixth-graders.

But overall, “we did very well” Maneggia said. “And that’s a compliment to the teachers, to the parents and to the kids, but the reality of it is we have some areas we need to work on also.”

* * *

In addition to discussing CMT scores, the board also approved a new teachers’ contract for July 1, 2014-June 30, 2017.

“I can tell you, the contract reflects all of the things we talked about in negotiations and there’s nothing new [in the contract] the board has not agreed to,” Maneggia said.

He went on to explain the board had been able to negotiate some changes in insurance, like greater co-pays and a sunset on one of the types of insurance plan that had been offered.

Under the new contract, the premium cost share for the Preferred Provider Plan (PPO) and the Point of Service Plan (POS) will be 19.5 percent for 2014-15 (up from 19 percent for the current year), 20 percent for the 2015-16 year and 20.5 percent for 2016-17.

(However the POS plan is only available to those enrolled for the 2013-14 school year and has a June 30, 2017 sunset.)

The high-deductible plan with a health savings account (HSA) will be mandatory for new hires effective July 1, 2012 and has a 9 percent premium cost share for the 2014-15 year (up from 8.5 percent for the current year), followed by 9.5 percent in 2015-16 and 10 percent in 2016-17.

In addition, increases were seen in the cost of medical visits and services, prescriptions and out of network services. For example, under the PPO plan, teachers will be charged \$75 for in-

network emergency care, up from \$50; \$150 for outpatient surgery, up from \$100; \$250 for inpatient hospital services per admission, up from \$200; and, added to the new contract, \$75 to an annual maximum of \$375 for high cost diagnostics.

Under the HSA plan, some of the changes include an increase in the annual deductible and cost share maximum for in network services from \$1,500 for single enrollees and \$3,000 for families to \$2,000 and \$4,000, respectively.

In addition to insurance changes, Maneggia said “the rest of it dealt with salaries and longevity and things like that.”

For example, under the new contract, teachers with a bachelor’s degree and a year of experience would receive \$40,642 during 2014-15. Next year, that amount would increase to \$42,947 followed by \$45,352 in 2016-17; the salary increases based upon a teacher’s experience and education.

As a further example, a teacher with a master’s degree and five years experience would be paid \$52,127 in 2014-15, followed by \$54,873 in 2015-16 and \$57,737 for the 2016-17 year.

Changes were also made in regards to stipends and compensation. For example, extra-duty stipends were added for the Lego coach (\$600), the yearbook advisor (\$500) and the preschool/school readiness teacher in the amount of \$35 per hour for up to five required evening meetings.

In addition, teachers performing summer work will be compensated \$35 per hour, up from \$30.

“This is what both parties agreed to,” Maneggia said.

“We avoided mediation and we got [negotiations] done in a couple meetings – so this is the package we have to vote on,” added Board of Education Chairman Jay Linddy.

The board voted 6-0 to approve the contract (board member Sharyn Keeney was absent).

* * *

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Andover Elementary School library.

Ideas Expressed for New Multi-Use Field in Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

Andover First Selectman Bob Burbank said this week that a public hearing held Tuesday regarding the proposed multi-use recreation field in town went “pretty well.”

The public hearing, which he estimated was attended by around 50 people, was held to garner input on the project, which includes the construction of a field to be used mainly for soccer and lacrosse, along with a walking track and, if funds are available, a pavilion. In addition, the project, which has been in the works since 2007, will include the construction of a nearby parking lot.

The town was awarded a \$225,000 grant to pay for the field which will be combined with an additional \$225,000 grant originally awarded to help build a new senior center. But when a new center was estimated to cost over \$1 million, too much for the town to manage, the money was coupled with the field grant.

The complex was originally proposed as located by the ball fields on Long Hill Road, but after the engineers hired for the project found out the property came into wetlands, a piece of town-owned property located behind Andover Elementary School was eventually settled on.

Burbank said there were “good comments” at the public hearing and suggestions for things to add to the plan.

“There were good suggestions for things that we should do that we are certainly going to look into and add to the plans,” he said.

For example, Burbank said in the plans they hadn’t considered water or bringing electricity to the site.

“So that’s something we will certainly add to the plans as well as a potential well so we will have water available for watering the fields to make sure they are maintained in quality shape,” he said.

Burbank went on to explain some of the ideas depended upon how the bids come in and how much money is available.

“We’re working within a budget available from the STEAP [Small Town Economic Assistance Program] grant right now,” he stated. “We anticipate we will have monies to do most of these projects but we can’t be assured of that until we go out to bid with the contractors.”

Vice First Selectman Jay Linddy furthered that point.

“Everything is going to be prioritized on what we can afford,” he said, adding overall, the hearing had gone “very well.”

“There were some great ideas and I was quite pleased,” he stated, noting there were a range of residents present, from kids to coaches, seniors and “regular residents.”

In addition to the ideas mentioned by Burbank, Linddy said making the parking lot bigger – capable of holding 45-50 cars instead of 20 – was mentioned and made sense. But the idea to build regular bathrooms in the area of the field was also suggested, and Linddy said that wouldn’t be feasible.

Building regular bathrooms, he said, would be “impossible,” as it would cost around half a million dollars.

“But at least they were ideas,” he furthered. “And Bob [Burbank] wrote them down and I wrote them down and people asked a lot of questions and that’s good.”

At the Board of Education meeting Wednesday, Linddy brought the hearing up to the board.

“Everyone was really excited,” he said. “It will be good for the community and us.”

Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia, who was also present at the hearing, shared his thoughts on the proposal.

“I think that it will be a great asset to the community, and I’m talking about not just the school community but the total community in Andover,” he stated. “It’s much needed.”

Now that the public hearing has taken place, Burbank said the comments and ideas will be

used to revise the plan a bit.

“And we will bring those plans back to the Board of Selectmen for review,” he said.

At that point any additional comments will be taken into consideration, “and if that works out we will start to do the appropriate search for a firm to do the actual work,” Burbank stated.

Tuesday’s public hearing is the only one required for the project, but Burbank said if anyone had an idea they could bring it to his attention and, if he considers it credible, he’ll bring it forward.

But “some people get a little carried away and want something a little cost-prohibitive,” he said. “I don’t want to spend any tax dollars on this. I want to do it within the money allotted within the STEAP grant.”

Linddy expressed hope that the field would be ready for use in 2015.

“Hopefully we can actually start next spring and be able to have the field up and going for the year 2015,” he stated. “Like I said, it was a very positive meeting and everybody got what was on their chest off. Most of it was all great ideas.”

Colchester Police News

8/21: Colchester Police received a complaint of stolen equipment from a motor vehicle parked at the Colchester Recreation Complex located on Old Hebron Road. Police said a \$5,600 radio scanner was stolen from the vehicle personally owned by a town employee. Anyone with information is asked to contact Goss at 537-7555 ext.4083.

9/2: Colchester Police said a resident of Sashel Lane reported that sometime between 8/31 and 9/2 an unknown person(s) stole a Mongoose Index 3.0 BMX bicycle off of his front porch. The bicycle was reported black and red in color. This case is currently being investigated by the Colchester Police. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.

9/3: State Police said Michael David Lea, 25, of 88 Cato Corner Rd., was charged with criminal mischief and criminal trespassing.

9/4: Colchester Police said Alison Mayo, 40, of 24 Saw Mill Way, Hebron, and Heather Mckay, 38, of 19 Vicki Ln., were the drivers involved in a two-car accident at the Route 2 north bound exit 18 ramp. Police said Mckay reported hip pain and her passenger, Sharron Speek, 58, of 19 Vicki Ln., reported neck soreness. Police said Mckay was transported to the Marlborough Clinic by the Colchester Hayward Fire Department.

9/5: State Police said Vanessa Nixon, 18, of 24 Prospect St., was charged with first-degree failure to appear.

East Hampton Police News

8/29: Kyle Rutkauski, 19, of 127 Pearl St., Enfield, turned himself in pursuant to an active arrest warrant, and was charged with third-degree burglary and fifth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

8/29: Police responded to an Old Coach Road address due to a report of a runaway resident. Officers located the resident on Route 16 and returned him to the address. As the officers were leaving, however, the resident became extremely agitated and assaulted an officer. Wigberto Laboy, 32, of 17 Old Coach Rd., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, interfering/resisting an officer and assault on a police officer, police said.

8/30: Police responded to Wopowog Road to reports of a trespassing complaint. Upon arrival, police located the trespasser who was identified as Dylan James Moore, 23, who po-

lice reported having no certain address for. Police charged Moore with first-degree criminal trespass, possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to have labeling on a prescription bottle.

8/30: Wigberto Laboy, 32, of 17 Old Coach Rd. was arrested for misuse of the emergency 911 system and disorderly conduct, police said.

9/4: Richard Paul Vezina, 47, who police reported having no certain address for, turned himself in pursuant to an active arrest warrant. Vezina was charged with criminal possession of a firearm, police said.

9/5: Police responded to Rite Aid Pharmacy, 25 East High St., for a shoplifting complaint. The Rite Aid store manager was able to identify the shoplifter. As a result Barbara J. Abbott, 42, of 34 East High St., was issued a summons for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

Marlborough Police News

9/5: State Police said Kerrigan Cowles, 26, of 50 Grove St., Apt. 7, Manchester, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, evading, failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple-lane highway, insurance coverage failing to meet minimum requirements, DUI and possession of narcotics.

9/6: State Police said Michelle McNaughton, 39, of 215 Burnt Hill Rd., Hebron, was charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer.

9/7: State Police said Dwayne Shippee, 38, of 20 Lake Ridge Dr., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

9/8: State Police said Luis Condellas, 21, of 74 Abbotsford Ave., West Hartford, was charged with DUI, operating a motor vehicle under a suspended license and speeding.

Portland Police News

8/26: Shaun Burrows, 41, of 335 Bilton Rd., Somers, was charged with third-degree burglary and second-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

9/2: A 13-year-old female was arrested for operating a motor vehicle without a license, and failure to drive in proper lane, police said.

9/9: Jayquan Howard, 19, of 15 Chatham Ct., was charged with five counts of violation of probation, police said.

Andover Police News

9/7: State Police said Maximillian Mikunda, 22, of 63 Debi Cir., Colchester, was charged with DUI and improper parking.

Hebron Police News

9/6: State Police said Heather L. Reese, 45, of 78 School Rd., Bolton, was charged with DWI, use of cell phone and distracted driving.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I braved the crowds and went to the Hebron Harvest Fair Sunday to catch Florida Georgia Line – and I’m very glad I did. Not only was the band great, but I got to experience the Hebron Fair as I’ve never seen it before – and may never see it again.

To say it was crowded Sunday would be an understatement. I’ve been going to the fair for several years now, and was never greeted with a backup of cars on Route 85 like I saw Sunday afternoon. I collected my mom – a big country music fan – and we took Route 85 from Bolton, and before we even got to the Mapleleaf Farm we were ensconced in traffic. It was amazing.

Eventually we made into the fairgrounds, though, and after making our way inside, were met with a huge crush of people. Now, I’ve been at the fair on warm, sunny Sunday afternoons plenty of times – I typically like to catch the country act headlining on Sundays – and while it’s been crowded, this past Sunday took things to a whole new level. Huge lines at nearly every food stand imaginable. But, we waited in one, each grabbed a hot dog (I got a lemonade too; it was fresh squeezed, I had to!), and made our way down to the stage area.

I wasn’t surprised at all to see folks packed in basically like sardines. Geeta Schrayter had reported a couple weeks ago the Lions were expecting 25,000 or more for Sunday’s show – indeed, as Geeta reports in her fair wrap-up story this week, a record-shattering 34,000 people flocked to the fair Sunday – so I had a pretty good feeling what to expect.

Eventually my mom and I were able to squeeze through to a spot where we could at least see the Lions’ main stage – and I found not everybody was as accepting of the glut of people as I was. A woman standing next to me seemed to be annoyed we had pushed our way through the crowd to get to the spot where she was at; she had been waiting with her family since 11:30 (on the other hand, my mom and I got to the stage area around 2). She didn’t criticize us in particular, but rather everyone who was pushing their way through to find a good spot. “Show some respect,” she said. I didn’t have a ton of sympathy for her (well, ok, I did when her daughter got stepped over); presumably, the woman wouldn’t have arrived at the concert at 11:30 a.m. – four hours before Florida Georgia Line was to take the stage – if she didn’t think it was going to be crowded. So it got crowded and, since there aren’t assigned seats or anything, people tried to find a good spot to stand. Was this a surprise?

Anyway, it wasn’t to me – nor was it when

I saw people had apparently snuck in some booze to sip during the show. Three women standing in front of me, for example, were having a great time, dancing along to the music, jumping up and down – and drinking some moonshine-ish concoction out of a mason jar throughout the concert.

Smuggled-in alcohol was to be expected, and to be honest I was surprised I didn’t see more than I did.

As we all stood there, waiting for the show to begin, I looked around at the enormity of the crowd my mother and I were fully enveloped in. This was big time; the crowds for artists like Sammy Kershaw and Heartland were sizable, but not mind-bogglingly so. Sunday’s crowd wouldn’t have been out of place at a concert at, say, the Comcast Theatre. Seeing it squeezed in to the stage area at the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds made for a most surreal experience.

Anyway, it was an immensely fun show. And, despite the enormous crowd stuffed into a fairly cramped space, everyone seemed to, for the most part, behave themselves. I saw one person escorted out of the concert by security, and two women near me got into a heated exchange that could’ve escalated into something physical (but thankfully did not). But there were no major incidents that I could see, nor did the Lions report any. It was just a great show – one that I’m not sure I’ll see again at the Hebron Harvest Fair anytime soon.

As anybody even near Hebron may have guessed, Florida Georgia Line is one of the hottest musical acts in the country right now. 2013 has been their year; their debut album, *Here’s to the Good Times*, has already gone platinum, and has churned out no less than *three* number one songs. In fact, the band announced during Sunday’s show that the third single from that album, “Round Here,” had just hit the number one spot on the country airplay charts that day.

While the Hebron Harvest Fair has had some big names in the past, they’ve never had a band nearly as huge as Florida Georgia Line is right now. The Lions booked them well before they got this huge; Adam Miclette, superintendent of the fair, has said he “won the lottery” on this band. He most certainly did, and I wonder if the Lions will try to catch lightning in a bottle for next year’s show.

That may be a tough order, but I’ll be pulling for the Lions. Though incredibly crowded, Sunday’s show was a lot of fun, and I would love to experience it all again.

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

Portland

Charles C. Packard

Born July 22, 1933, in Middletown, Church, formerly of Portland, succumbed to cancer in Augusta, Maine, on Monday, Sept. 2. He was the son of Ansel and Lytle Packard, late of Portland.

He leaves his wife Sandra in Chelsea, Maine; a son Edward and daughter Laurie, both in Maryland. Also, he leaves a sister Margaret in Hallowell, Maine, and a brother Herbert in Portland.

Charlie grew up in Portland and was president and valedictorian of the 1951 class of Portland High School. He earned a master's degree in physics from the University of Maine, graduating in 1957. After 31 years with IBM he completed a very successful career with UNISYS in Minneapolis.

While still formally employed he joined, directed and continued to serve one or two technical societies in his field. Charlie received several prestigious awards in the field of solid state electronics and was a superior corporate leader.

He was popular, admired, and respected and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Hebron

H. Frederick Bruggeman Jr.

H. Frederick Bruggeman Jr., 74, loving husband of Pamela (Nygren) Bruggeman, passed away quietly at home Wednesday, Aug. 28.

Fred was born in Tuxedo Park, N.Y., and raised in Lake Mohawk, N.J. and Carmel, Calif., graduating from Carmel High School, Class of 1957. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Connecticut, Class of 1962. Fred achieved the rank of lieutenant while honorably serving his country in the United States Navy.

He was an accomplished horseman, blacksmith and entrepreneur, operating two successful businesses in the town of Hebron. In his retirement years, Fred offered his professional experience and services to Central Connecticut Coatings of East Hartford, and Airborn Coatings of Oklahoma City and Charlotte. However, Fred's true vocation was fly-fishing, and he had a special affinity for the Farmington River and its discerning trout population.

Fred is survived by Pamela, his devoted wife of forty-six years; sons John F. Bruggeman of Denver, Colo.; Aaron T. Bruggeman of Charlotte, N.C.; Adam R. Bruggeman and his wife Heather of Hebron; granddaughter Emily R.; sister Judith A. Fryberger, of Littleton, Colo.; and numerous nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Farmington River Watershed Association, 749 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 (frwa.org).

Colchester

Dorothy Tedeschi

Dorothy Tedeschi, 79, of Bozrah, passed away Tuesday evening, Sept. 10, peacefully after a long battle with cancer at the Harrington Court in Colchester. She was born April 3, 1934, in New Britain, daughter to the late Otto and Anna (Tabellione) Leardi.

On Sept. 29, 1954, in Munich, Germany, she was married to SSGT, USAF William R. Tedeschi. He survives her.

Dorothy received her master's degree at the age of 61. She spent most of her life as a fifth-grade teacher. Being a devout Catholic she taught at Sacred Heart School in Taftville and Fields Memorial in Bozrah. Dorothy enjoyed reading, gardening, flowers, and teaching. Dorothy taught, "In kindness there is love." Above all she loved her family.

Besides her husband she is survived by her three sons, B. Tedeschi of Bozrah, Robert Tedeschi of Chicopee, Mass., Brian Tedeschi of Griswold; a brother, John Leardi; two sisters, Rita O'Meara and Linda Strattman; her six grandchildren, Nick, Nate, Tiffany, Jennifer, John and C. Lynn.

Calling hours will be held 5-7 p.m. today, Sept. 13, at the Gagne-Piechowski Funeral Home, 490 Voluntown Rd., Jewett City. A memorial Mass will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at Sacred Heart Church, 156 Providence St., Taftville. Interment will be private and at the convenience of the family.

For online condolences, go to gagnepiechowski.com.

Cobalt

Anne C. Pyne-Labagh

Anne C. Pyne-Labagh, 50, of Middletown, formerly of Cobalt, wife of James Labagh, passed away Thursday, Sept. 5, at Middlesex Hospital. She was the daughter of Rosalie (Wallace) Pyne of Cobalt and the late Andrew J. Pyne Jr.

Born Oct. 5, 1962, in Middletown, she was raised in Cobalt and has lived in Middletown for the last 20 years. She was a graduate of Mercy High School in Middletown and worked for the Travelers Insurance Company for many years. She was a member of the Polish Falcons Nest 519 in Middletown, an avid fan of Bruce Springsteen and a huge dog lover.

Besides her mother and husband, she leaves her brother, James Pyne of Virginia, sisters, Ellen Anderson of Maryland and Kathy Kearney of Cobalt, several nieces and nephews and her beloved dog, Berlin.

The family would like to thank the Middlesex Hospital Hospice for their care and compassion given to Anne and her family.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 10 a.m., from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial was in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society P.O. Box 22718 Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718, or to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

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

East Hampton

Genevieve Rankl

Genevieve Mary (Zawisza) Rankl, 93, of East Hampton, widow of the late John Rankl, died Friday, Sept. 6, at her home. Born Jan. 12, 1920, in Hebron, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Marcella (Warchot) Zawisza.

She had lived in East Hampton since 1941 and was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. She had worked at the former Gong Bell Co. in East Hampton for many years and was retired from the former Brownell Co. in Moodus where she was a machine operator.

She is survived by her daughter, Janice Cook of East Hampton; two sisters, Pauline Gamache of Columbia, Frances Robinson of East Hampton; two grandchildren, John Cook, Robin Hall; two great-grandchildren, Ryan Hall and Maya Robinson-Cook; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Stanley and Edward Zawisza; and five sisters, Carrie Lamphere, Mary Smith, Josephine Gondek, Charlotte Savitsky, and Helen Robinson.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated Wednesday, Sept. 11, in St. Patrick Church. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-91 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Maryann Helen Anderson

Maryann Helen Anderson, 81, of Colchester, widow of the late Warren Anderson, died Friday, Sept. 6, at Apple Rehab of Colchester. Born June 24, 1932, in Norwich, she was the daughter of the late William and Mary (Fedorowicz) Ous.

Maryann was a lifelong resident of Colchester and was a communicant of St. Andrews Church in Colchester. Maryann loved Bingo, tag sale, and collecting figurines. She also enjoyed tending to her Christmas tree farm.

She is survived by her two sons, Warren Anderson and his wife Susan of Kentucky, Dennis Anderson and his wife Carmela of Colchester; daughter Maryann Lancey and her husband Michael of New Hampshire; three brothers, John, Joseph and Edward Ous; six grandchildren, Paulina, Veronica, Georgina, Matthew, Roberta, Michelle Miner and her husband Ronald Sr.; and two great-grandchildren, Ronald Jr. and Shannon.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Sept. 14, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will follow in Lake View Cemetery.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Sylvia D. Morariu

Sylvia D. (Natalie) Morariu, 85, formerly of Portland, cherished wife of John and devoted loving mother of five children passed away Wednesday, Sept. 4, surrounded by the family she loved so much. Born in Middletown July 29, 1928, she was the daughter of the late Rocco and Rose (Marinello) Natalie of Miller Street.

Sylvia was the 11th of 12 children and is predeceased by her brothers Justin and Rocco and her sisters Augusta, Elizabeth, Anita, Rose, Beatrice, Clara, Ursula, and Gloria. She is survived by her sister Antionette Salafia.

Sylvia's passion was her family, she was an excellent cook and had the gift of hospitality. Despite her ailments later in life she maintained her dignity and persevered. She had a mischievous sense of humor and could always bring a smile to one's face. She enjoyed working at Tri-Town Foods in Portland for many years. She found joy in the simpler things in life including bird watching, crocheting and reading.

She leaves her daughter Frances and her husband Gary Yeaw and their sons Jason and Dr. Christopher Yeaw and his wife Nan and their children Natalie Grace, Mary and John; her son John Jr. of New York City; her son Thomas and his wife Joanne and their daughters Laura and Megan; her son Matthew and his wife Shelley and their son Samuel; as well as her son Mark and his wife Wendy.

Her family wishes to thank the nurses and staff of Middlesex Hospital and Hospice unit as well her doctors Stephen Franklin and Emmanuel Kenta-Bibi for their care and compassion. Sylvia's children would like to thank their father for his love and tireless devotion to their mother.

A memorial Mass was held Saturday, Sept. 7, at Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church on Freestone Avenue in Portland.

Portland

Joseph J. Gubilee

Joseph J. Gubilee, 94, formerly of Portland, husband of the late Theresa (Thompson) Gubilee died Sunday, Sept. 9, at the Middlesex Health Care Center in Middletown.

Born Feb. 13, 1919, in Middletown, he was the son of the late Carlo and Angelina (Tuccio) Giubilee. Joseph lived in the Portland/Middletown area all of his life. He proudly served in the United States Army during World War II as a sergeant. Joseph was employed as a chief inspector for Cushman Industries in Hartford from where he retired in 1981 after 17 years of service. He was a parishioner of St. Mary Church, a member of the Elks Club and past member of the Middletown Knights of Columbus.

Joseph enjoyed fishing, hunting and boating. He especially loved tending to his vegetable garden. Joseph was also an avid New York Yankees fan.

He is survived by his sons, Kevin J. Gubilee of Portland and Scott J. Gubilee and his wife Kerri of Florida; his daughter Susan M. Gubilee of Portland; a brother Francis E. Giubilee of Middletown, his sister Ann Roginsky and her husband Walter of Florida; two brothers-in-law: Myron Thompson, Fred Thompson both of Middletown; three grandchildren: Lindsey Gubilee, Ryan Gubilee and Katelyn Gubilee, all of Florida; and several nieces and nephews.

Joseph was predeceased by his infant son Dennis J. Gubilee; a sister Josephine Puglisi and his lifelong friends Jim Sullivan and Tom Sullivan.

His family would like to thank the staff of the Middlesex Health Care Center for the care given to Mr. Gubilee.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects on Friday Sept. 13, from 10:15-11 a.m. at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. His Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11 a.m. in St. Mary Church. Burial with military honors will follow in Calvary Cemetery, Bow Lane, Middletown. To send an online expression of sympathy please visit www.portlandmemorialfh.net.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mary Bereavement Committee, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

Marlborough

John T. Flannery

John T. "Jack" Flannery, 75, husband of Patricia (Leahy) Flannery of Glastonbury for 49 years, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family Thursday, Sept. 5, in Marlborough Healthcare Center, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Born June 18, 1938 in Hartford, son of the late John Flannery of County Offaly, Ireland, and Kathleen (Devine) Flannery of County Roscommon, Ireland, he lived in Glastonbury for the past 45 years.

Jack was a graduate of Bulkeley High School and the University of Connecticut. Prior to his retirement after a 35-year career, he was the director of the Connecticut Tumor Registry for the State of Connecticut Department of Health. Jack was a lifelong member of the Irish American Home Society. In his free time, Jack enjoyed bowling with the employees of the Dept. of Health, was an avid golfer in area leagues, loved to travel with family and friends and was a New York Yankee and UConn sports fan. He was a devoted family man who loved to spend time with his grandchildren.

Besides his wife, Jack is survived by two daughters, Kathleen (Flannery) Doucette and her husband Marc of Granby, Christine (Flannery) Merrill and her husband Justin of Glastonbury and four grandchildren, Matthew Doucette, Meaghan Doucette, Colin Merrill and Liam Merrill. He also leaves a brother, Francis Flannery and his wife Eileen of South Windsor. He was predeceased by a sister, Mary Flannery of Hartford.

The many relatives and friends who have loved him will miss his great sense of humor and warm smile. The Flannery family would like to extend special thanks to the staff of the Marlborough Healthcare Center for their thoughtful care.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, Sept. 10, in St. Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury. Burial followed in Holy Cross Cemetery, Wickham Rd. Glastonbury. Friends called at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury, Monday, Sept. 9.

Memorial donations may be made to the National Parkinson Foundation, Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 5018, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5018.

To extend online condolences, visit farleysullivan.com.

Marlborough

Paul S. Palmer Jr.

Paul S. Palmer Jr., 80 of Marlborough, died peacefully at his home late Sunday, Sept. 8. He was born March 19, 1933, in Hartford, son of the late Paul S. Palmer Sr. and Hazel (Davis) Palmer. He was a graduate of The Hartford Institute of Accounting and worked for William B. Carroll, CPA.

Paul passed the Connecticut CPA examination in November 1956 and joined The Travelers Insurance Co. in September 1957. He was employed by Travelers for 31 years, attaining the title of Director of Corporate Accounting. During his employment at Travelers, Paul continued working in public accounting with the firm of Ellsworth & Palmer, CPAs. In 1988 Paul retired from The Travelers and devoted his full time to public accounting. Upon the death of his partner, Elbert T. Ellsworth, Paul continued the practice as Paul S. Palmer, CPA. Paul was a member of the AICPA and CSCP accounting associations.

Paul loved sports and participated in bowling and golf leagues for many years. He was a lifelong Dodger fan, both while they played in Brooklyn and after they moved to Los Angeles. He loved gardening, the outdoors and loved to laugh and tell a good story.

Paul is survived by his ex-wife, Barbara Divine Palmer, and his three sons with first wife Merele Palmer, Brett Palmer and his wife Alicia Palmer, Thorne Palmer and his wife Birdie Champ, and Royce Palmer. He is also survived by four granddaughters and three grandsons.

The family wishes to thank Paul's longtime health aide Naomi Dix for her steadfast help and support.

Funeral services were Thursday, Sept. 12, at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, 35 South Main St., Marlborough, followed by burial in South Cemetery in Tolland. Visiting hours were Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury.

For more information, to order flowers or to leave an online condolence, visit glastonburyfuneral.com.

