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Ava Piela (left) and her sister Amanda Piela of Coventry took home best in show during the sixteenth annual Pumpkins 'n' Pooches event in Colchester. The two dressed up as Elsa and Anna from the hit Disney movie "Frozen," with their Siberian husky, Max, dressed as the snowman Olaf.

Pumpkins and Pooches Fill Colchester Green

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The town green was covered in fur last Sunday for the sixteenth annual Pumpkins 'n' Pooches event. Dogs and their families walked the green, visited booths and the farmers market and competed in contests for their costumes.

The Piela family of Coventry took home best in show with Max, a Siberian husky. The Piela daughters, Amanda, 14, and Ava, 8, came to the festival fully dressed as Elsa and Anna from the popular animated children's movie "Frozen," with Max as the snowman Olaf.

"We get a kick out of coming," Amanda Piela said. "We brought Max a couple years ago and won with the Wizard of Oz."

The girls and Max were entered in best of show after they won the talent class with Max's howl singing. Their mom, Angela Piela, said she grew up in Colchester and comes to Pumpkins 'n' Pooches every year.

"My sisters live here," Angela said. "I just can't get away from my hometown."

The event, hosted by the Colchester Lions, has been a popular fall attraction in town, drawing hundreds onto the green with their dogs to enjoy good food and great company. The sky was bright, chilly and clear Sunday after Saturday's rain, and residents seemed happy to get out and about.

Charlene Picard of the Colchester Lions said this year's weather was probably among the best they've had.

"It was definitely one of our better years," she said. "We exceeded our expectations."

This year was the first time the event coincided with the farmers' market and Picard said

it was a good fit.

"It benefited the market a lot," Picard said. "They did really well and we filled up the green more and helped local farmers and vendors."

The Lions had hoped to host the event on a Saturday this year with the next day being the rain date instead of having it on the following weekend. However several months ago they noticed it would have fallen on Yom Kippur if it had been Saturday and they decided to hold the event on Sunday - but just for this year.

"Next year we're doing Saturday," Picard said. "I haven't had an opportunity to talk with the [Farmers] Market Master, but I think we might have them do it on Saturday that weekend."

Entries to the dog contests were down a little this year, Picard said, but that could be contributed to the amount of dogs sick with kennel cough from the dog park and having the dog park closed for the last two weeks.

"People with sick dogs either left them home or stayed home with them," Picard said. "Some people were concerned for the health of their own dogs."

Overall around 40 dogs competed in the contests.

Categories for costumes included best in show, cutest dog, scariest dog and biggest ears among others. In the end, those that won a category competed in best in show. Winners also took home a professionally shot photo of their pet.

Newcomers to the event, Stephanie and Olivia Ignazio of Colchester, earned second in

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Portland Middle School Takes Home the Blue

by John Tyczkowski

Portland Middle School was recently recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The school was one of only four in the state to receive a Blue Ribbon nomination this year, and was recognized for being an "exemplary high performing school."

It's a recognition Board of Education Chairwoman MaryAnne Rode called "something that Portland as a whole should be proud of..." and one that came after the school submitted a lengthy report to the state about PMS; it was 25 pages comprised of multiple 400-800 word essays on Portland Middle School, its students, teachers and educational culture - and it didn't just write itself.

A group of five teachers worked with Principal Scott Giegerich to make sure their application was on time, accurate and represented the middle school as completely and detailed

as they could.

Carol Levesque, an eighth grade team leader and math teacher who has worked in the Portland Public School system for over 30 years, served as an essay author as well as a chief editor for the application.

"The community here is small and close, the families are involved and everything is very positive," Levesque said. "We know a lot about what is going on inside and outside of school, so this report truly reflects what PMS is about."

The other chief editor was Melissa McManus, an eighth grade language arts teacher who has worked at the middle school for about eight years. She was also an essay author.

"We try to address the whole child here at the middle school, and you'll see that in the report," McManus said. "And because we're so small, there's a high level of trust and comfort

between the students and teachers."

Both Levesque and McManus said they are extremely happy with the atmosphere at the school as well.

"Teacher morale, camaraderie and spirit is through the roof here," Levesque said. "It's a phenomenal place to work. The leadership defers to the people in the trenches because they know we know what we're doing."

McManus agreed.

"[Leadership is] very open to suggestions here as well, and they're very flexible and accommodating to both students' needs and teachers' needs," she said. "That makes it a better environment for everyone."

The three other middle school teachers involved as essay authors were foreign languages teacher Jerome Manning, seventh grade social studies teacher Sarah Harris and Brian Oleksiw, an eighth grade language arts teacher.

Manning, a teacher at the school for seven years, said he spent time working on the report "mainly at night and on the weekends" because of how busy his school days are, but he said he felt it "was worth spending the extra time [on]."

"I feel we truly care about each and every child who comes through our doors and consistently do our best to help these children in any way possible," Manning said in an email. "I believe this is what leads to our students' consistent high achievement and thus our being nominated for the Blue Ribbon award."

Harris, a 2008 PHS graduate and 2013 UConn Neag School of Education graduate in her second year of teaching at the middle school, said she was "excited to collaborate with other teachers" in order to recognize "the hard work of PMS students, faculty and staff within

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Fall Home & Garden Section Inside



Taking second and third place for cutest pooch last Sunday were Caesar the pug (left), owned by Stephanie and Olivia Ignazio of Colchester, who came as a Pugkin Spice Latte; and Teva, a Chinese Shar-Pei owned by Deborah Camp of East Haddam who was dressed as a geisha. One of the judges Sunday was Colchester First Selectman Stan Soby (far right), seen here looking over the carved and painted pumpkins by kids of all ages.

Pumpkins cont. from Front Page

cutest dog with their pug, Caesar. He was dressed as a "Pugkin Spice Latte."

"It's a play on words; pug, pumpkin," Stephanie Ignazio said. "I'm sure we'll come back."

"I thought it would be cute," Olivia Ignazio, 10, said of the event and dressing up their dog.

Third place for cutest dog was Deborah Camp of East Haddam with her Chinese shar-pei, Teva. Teva was dressed up as a geisha for the event.

Camp said the event gives her a good opportunity to get her dogs out and help socialize other dogs. Camp shows and breeds Shar-Peis.

"I always come, it's a nice event," Camp said. "The dogs are exposed to other dogs and it's good to help other people expose their dogs."

According to Picard, a big part of the annual event is the online dog photo contest.

"People submit photos online about three weeks before the event, and then we close to submissions, open up voting around a week before, close voting on Friday, print out the top eight and have them on display. People then vote with money."

The first place prize for the photo contest went to a silver Labrador named Izzy. Second place went to Roxie and third went to Maverick.

"There was hot and heavy competition between two of them," Picard said. "We ended up raising twice as much as our average."

Picard went on to say the photo contest has been a great way to get people excited for Pumpkins 'n' Pooches weeks before the event.

Also present at Sunday's event were Freedom Guide Dogs and Guiding Eyes for the Blind, who brought some of their dogs in training to the green. Their dogs ranged from the smallest golden retriever puppy to a Labrador

collie mix. The groups have been coming since 2011, Picard said, especially since the Lions' main charity involvement is with raising money for guide dogs and eye research.

First Selectman Stan Soby was present Sunday, and helped judge not only the dog events, but the painted, decorated and carved pumpkins.

"People put such great thought into their costumes," Soby said. "They taught their dogs tricks and it was just such a fun thing to try and judge the waggiest tail."

Soby went on to commend the Lions for their work on the event.

"There's lots of things that wouldn't happen in Colchester without their effort," Soby said. "Every dollar the Lions raise comes right back to people in town, it's pretty remarkable."

The paint your own pumpkin station and the pumpkin contest is managed by the Colchester Leos Club, the youth division of the Lions. Picard said it's been a great way for the Leos to raise money and play a bigger role in the event.

Canine freestyle group Top Hat and Tail also performed their freestyle and frisbee demonstration for onlookers Sunday, showing those in attendance other fun things they can do with their dogs.

And along with all the goings-on, the Lions served up homemade apple crisp, hot apple cider, hot dogs, chili, fried dough and more for hungry families. Picard said some people come just for the crisp and next year they may offer make-your-own kits for the apple crisp for people to take home.

In short, Sunday proved a perfect day, with plenty for people to see and do at this year's Pumpkins 'n' Pooches, whether they came for the pumpkins, pooches, apple crisp or an excuse to get outside.



Also found on the green during last weekend's event were Malory Gowac, 8, (left) and Madelyn Gowac, 6, both of Colchester, with their dog Nay dressed as a cowboy.

Blue cont. from Front Page

and beyond the community."

"A former PHS teacher once described the Portland Public Schools to me as a 'hidden gem.' I think this perfectly describes our small school district with so much to offer, and the Blue Ribbon Award only serves to further support this idea," Harris said in an email.

Giegerich said that while these teachers were involved in directly writing and editing the application, everyone at the school deserves praise.

"Each teacher, support staff member and other staff member are responsible for the successes we have been fortunate to have been recognized for," he said.

According to Portland Middle School's National Blue Ribbon Schools Program application, the school has 244 students across both grades, 31 staff members, a 23:1 student-teacher ratio, and a 96 percent daily attendance rate.

The essays in the report are divided into three sections, which include a summary of Portland Middle School and its educational culture, a section on academic success indicators and a section detailing curriculum and instruction at the middle school.

The essays mention unique components of the middle school, such as its entrepreneurs program, which brings manufacturing/technology education students and family and con-

sumer sciences students together to create, market and sell their own products at a biannual Portland's Own Products (POP) Expo.

At Tuesday's Board of Education meeting, Chair MaryAnne Rode said from her research, Portland is the only town in its district reference group to have had two Blue Ribbon Schools, which are Portland Middle School this year and Brownstone Intermediate School in 2011.

"It's good to be able to toot our own horn," she said.

She also said the award was the result of support and work across the whole town, including students, teachers, staff, administrators, families and town residents who have supported education budgets.

"This is something that Portland as a whole should be proud of, the school and the town should celebrate this achievement," Rode said. "It's one measure, yes, but certainly it's not something that's just handed out casually, by any means."

Superintendent of Schools Philip O'Reilly also added his praise at the meeting

"I'm very happy to recognize them publicly here," O'Reilly said. "It's a very important achievement to be designated a Blue Ribbon school."

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said she

was "thrilled" when she heard about the award last week.

"I'm very proud of our teachers, staff, students and families," Bransfield said. "It's a well-designed recognition of everyone's efforts."

Portland Middle School received the National Blue Ribbon Award in the Exemplary High Performing Schools category, which gauges student achievement and graduation rates.

More specifically, to receive an award in that category, over 90 percent of students at the middle school performed at or above state goals in reading, writing and math on the Connecticut Mastery Test.

The award is also given to schools that have at least 40 percent of their students come from disadvantaged backgrounds, which then improve student standardized test performance to "high levels."

In addition, according to data from the Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools website, only 148 public and private Connecticut schools have achieved this honor since the program began in 1982, in either category, furthering the idea that the award is certainly something to celebrate.

Those interested in reading Portland Middle School's full application to the U.S. Department

of Education, including all essays and testing data, can view it at http://www.nationalblueribbonsschools.ed.gov/awardwinners/school_application/14ct102pu_portland_middle_school_final_application.pdf.

A link to the middle school's Blue Ribbon profile page can be found on the middle school's website, portlandctschools.org/portland-middle-school.html.

Candidates Debate in Colchester About State Issues

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Tensions were high Tuesday night during the Colchester Business Association's Meet the Candidates.

Candidates Emily Bjornberg, Evan Evans, Art Linares and Linda Orange spoke and debated at the late night meeting, discussing issues such as the economy, electric vehicles, manufacturing, the gun law and state infrastructure.

During opening statements Evans, who is a member of the Army National Guard and the Republican candidate for the 48th District State Representative seat, covering Colchester, Lebanon, Windham and Mansfield, stated there was a need to create an environment that would keep graduates in the area. Evans said he's seen too many college students leaving the state after receiving their diploma.

Orange, his Democratic opponent and the current incumbent, said she's successfully been the representative for 18 years and prides herself on listening to the people in her district.

Bjornberg, the Democratic candidate for the 33rd District State Senate, which covers the *Riverast* towns of Colchester, East Hampton and Portland, said growing up with a family in small business has shaped a lot of her opinions. She shared she also worked in South Africa at an AIDS clinic and is currently with the Deep River Congregational Church. Bjornberg said her main point is that small towns deserve a voice.

Linares, Bjornberg's Republican opponent and the current incumbent, said he also understands small business owners since he co-founded a solar business, Greenskies, when he was 19.

Going into the questions section of the debate, the candidates were first asked about the state's infrastructure and issues surrounding it.

"The DOT and the feds are helping states repair roads and bridges," Orange said. "The federal money to states is dwindling. We can't afford to pay for it on our own. I'm not in favor of increasing the gas tax."

Bjornberg said her main concern is making sure the gas tax actually goes to the roads.

"We should be maintaining the roads," Bjornberg said. "Don't let them degrade to where they are much more expensive to fix. Keep them at a decent maintenance level."

Linares backed Bjornberg, saying the gas tax

money does not truly go to the state's infrastructure.

"We are 49th out of the 50 states for infrastructure," Linares said. "The gas tax goes into the special transportation fund. We should use it for what it's designed for. People in Hartford have a tendency to pull from the cookie jar and put it into the general fund."

Evans said it's time to make tough choices and the towns should be able to decide what they wish to do with the money.

Following the infrastructure questions, candidates were asked a similar question regarding the return of tolls on Connecticut roads.

"No' to restoring tolls," Bjornberg said.

"We don't have revenue issues," stated Linares. "We have a spending issue. We need to live within our means."

Evans said he remembers the 1983 truck crash that killed seven people in Stratford on what's now I-95 and contributed to the end of tolls in the state. While the accident has been reported as the main reason for ending tolls, they also ceased because federal legislation back then forbade states with toll roads to use federal money for road projects.

Although Orange said, "I'm not a fan of tolls," she added "however I would see what people felt."

The candidates then switched topics to discuss the gun law.

"I voted against it," Linares said. "It was overreaching. The law did not have a public hearing. I would vote against it again. It didn't solve the problem and that problem is mental health."

Evans also cited mental health as something that should be taken care of before gun laws.

"I would vote to repeal it," Evans said. "I have several friends with children in that school [Sandy Hook]. I knew the opportunity would be taken to implement more restrictive measures. The law would not have changed a thing. With a bladed weapon or blunt weapon, they can kill if they know what they're doing."

Orange said she did not vote for the gun law because it was really three bills put into one.

Bjornberg however, said coming from a military family, she would have voted for it because nothing is more regulated in the military than guns and ammunition – and it makes sense for them to be just as regulated for civilians.

The candidates were then asked about eco-



Candidates (l-r) Evan Evans, Linda Orange, Emily Bjornberg and Art Linares met Tuesday, Oct. 7 at the Colchester Business Association meeting to debate current topics affecting the region.

nomics incentives in the state to get businesses to come to Connecticut – or to make those who are already here stay.

"We need to make a good environment and people will come," Evans said.

Orange focused on her work with the manufacturing bill to help increase manufacturing jobs in the state, while Bjornberg said she supports technical schools and also having a good small business climate.

Linares, like Orange, said he's been supportive of manufacturing. He mentioned there are currently over 2,000 jobs in manufacturing that we don't yet have the qualified workforce, so more people need to be trained.

Candidates then discussed electric vehicles and charging stations. The general feeling was that although the technology isn't widely used yet, electric cars are the way of the future and they need to stress to Hartford that small towns need charging stations too, not just in the capital; currently, Hebron has a charging station at its town hall.

The debate finished with discussion on what

the important issues will be in the next five years.

"The economy," Bjornberg said. "We need to reduce spending in a sustainable way."

Linares added, "We need a tax code that's competitive with neighboring states. It's hard to leave America, but easy to leave Connecticut. Sales, gas and income taxes are all higher here."

Evans cited jobs and the economy as the important issues and also suggested possible term limits for those in legislation.

Orange meanwhile, said the economy, education and health care are the big ticket items. She also said people need to take care of one another.

"Everyone has been hurt in this past budget," Orange said.

As the debate came to an end, those in attendance were left to mull over the words of the candidates, potentially settling on a name to check off in just a few weeks; the four candidates are readying themselves for the upcoming Nov. 4 election.

Colchester Selectmen Propose Changes to Commission on Aging

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

At the Oct. 2 Board of Selectmen meeting, the selectmen proposed changes to the Commission on Aging that will go in front of the town at a future town meeting.

Included in the changes are the requirements for members of the commission and the operation of programs for the elderly. The changes were originally proposed by the Commission on Aging and align the commission's ordinances with their bylaws.

Some of the changes include that members should be chosen from the electors of the town and should be appointed if they are interested in, and committed to solving problems experienced by the elderly and the aging. There would also no longer be a requirement for a specific member makeup, which currently includes requirements for one representative of an elderly organization, one member from the Colchester chapter of the A.A.R.P., three members of the public and two members of the public who are 60 years or older; one male and one female.

Another change regarded the wording for programs, which would now say that the commission shall operate senior center programs, but can also operate other programs that support Colchester's elderly and aging population.

The board also officially passed the tax exemption on horses and ponies in Colchester last Thursday, joining a number of towns including Cromwell and Lebanon that have also passed the exemption.

The exemption passed after it was presented to the board at its last meeting that the town was paying more to collect delinquent taxes for horses and ponies than the tax itself. On average the town had been collecting around \$300 a year.

"Horses are the last animal to be taxable," Tax Assessor John Chaponis had told the board Sept. 18. "We send out delinquent notices sometimes for \$15 or \$20."

As the tax states now, the first \$1,000 of a horse is exempt and owners have to pay the remaining amount which many times ends up being a very small amount. Chaponis went on to say that the tax creates "lots of traffic in the office and nothing is a positive interaction."

In addition, the board approved the contract for the 911 services and regional dispatch consolidation with KX and Montville. According to First Selectman Stan Soby, Marlborough, Colchester and East Hampton are all set while

Bozrah, Salem and Montville are still reviewing the contract. At present, East Haddam and Haddam Neck are looking at Valley Shore for their dispatch services and Lebanon is looking at Willimantic in comparison. It is unsure who they will go with.

"We're hopeful that things will go through and they will remain with their service through KX," Soby said. "Colchester is committed to KX and we're hoping all is resolved very soon and gets underway."

Contracts for snow plowing were awarded Thursday to B&B Superior Contracting for \$157 an hour for two trucks, and Clark's Landscaping for \$135 and hour for two trucks. Currently out of 14 routes in town, 10 are done by the town's public works department and four are contracted out, therefore each of the contractors received two routes. Action Jackson was also chosen to plow at the schools for \$71,100 each year for the next three years.

Also approved last Thursday was a change in the number of members for the Economic Development Commission. After the commission fought to make quorum multiple times, the

board voted to decrease the nine member commission to seven members and two alternates.

A report on the 57 Fest was also made at the meeting. Soby said the event went very well and the festival had additional businesses and people come in and sponsor.

"We're far closer to breaking even than a few weeks ago," Soby said. "People responded tremendously well. It was one of the largest crowds we've had."

Soby said many of the food vendors reported that they completely sold out and the town will be sure to plan and improve for next year.

The board also handled some appointments and resignations at the meeting. They welcomed Charles Csere to the Agricultural Commission and accepted the resignations of John DiLorio from the Ethics Commission and Priya Tandon from the Board of Directors for the Chatham Health District. DiLorio cited the fact that he is moving and leaving town as reason for resignation and Tandon cited scheduling conflicts.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Phase III of Marlborough Sewer Project Moves Forward

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The Board of Finance passed Phase III of the sewer project following a public hearing last Thursday, and the project will now move forward to a town meeting Oct. 21.

In sum, the meeting came down to town officials saying that the four finance members present shouldn't be the ones to stop an entire project from being voted on by the town. Members present included Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout, Clifford Dennis, Doug Knowlton and alternate Midge Denno.

The board presented a PowerPoint of the project including the debt the town would incur from this phase – which is different from Phase II. The previous phase incurred no additional debt because the town received money for the project from the health center. But this time around, the town will be taking on \$100,000 more debt.

Some of the benefits of the project, the board stated, includes stabilizing the operating and maintenance budget and helping businesses by not increasing operating and maintenance costs. In addition, now was touted as the only chance to get the phase done because of the grant and loan provided by the state. The board reported that with the Clean Water funding approved, the town may not get a chance to do this phase again at this cost.

The grant from the state covers \$848,750 out of the \$3.5 million project while the loan from the state with interest over a 20 year time span totals \$3,218,936. Included in the loan payment is the user contribution to the yearly loan payment for residents living in the sewer district which would total \$63,000 a year and add up to \$1,287,574 over the 20 years.

Concerning residents in the district, households would pay \$603 a year per Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU) toward the loan payment and an operating cost of around \$431 per EDU. The operating costs are flexible and could increase or decrease, Godbout said.

Therefore if a homeowner in the sewer district has a larger house, they are paying more than \$1,034 depending on the amount of EDUs.

According to the board, Phase III includes Coleman Lane, North Main Street, Lafayette Road, Lake Road, Pettingill Road, Roberts Road, and Walker Lane; the phase affects 98 properties which includes 105.25 EDUs. For instance, a four bedroom home would have two EDUs.

Godbout stated, "This will be the completion of the sewer around the lake watershed."

In addition, she went on to state unlike some of the other phases, there will be no acquisition or easement costs with Phase III.

But during the public hearing portion of the meeting, residents from different phases of the project expressed concerns about moving into Phase III, stating that things from Phase I and Phase II hadn't gone well.

Jeri Taylor, a homeowner in Phase II of the sewer district, spoke up about the problems in her phase of the project and how she is refusing to hook up.

"The reason there hasn't been as many hiccups in Phase II as Phase I is that so many people were disgusted with the lawsuits from Phase I that they stepped back and let things go," Taylor said. "There's a number of people not stepping forward because they feel their voices and comments fall on deaf ears. I will personally go door to door in Phase III for individuals thinking of hooking up. What's on paper is not what happens at the end of the day."

Taylor went on to say the costs were not what the board stated they would be and that she had tried to deal with the town on multiple issues with no calls back.

"I have tried to deal with the town with multiple calls to [First Selectwoman] Cathi [Gaudinski]," Taylor said. "They go unanswered until after a vote or referendum. She intentionally does not return calls until it's too

late."

Taylor went on to say that the town states the project helps the lake's cleanliness, but has yet to see evidence of that.

"The cleanliness has nothing to do with the sewer," Taylor said. "It has to do with boats, garbage, geese, ducks and feeding. The lake is no cleaner today than four years ago."

Taylor also stated that the costs have gone up with more units, not down with Phase II being added.

Amy Traversa, a resident in Phase I, said she's been against the sewer since the day it started being mentioned.

"The numbers never made sense," Traversa said. "The costs have not gone down nor are they going to go down. The PowerPoint is hopeful, but is it realistic?"

Traversa said the operating costs are portrayed like they will go down in the future with more users, but they have yet to see that from when Phase II was added.

"The health care center is eating up the credit," Traversa said. "There's no reason to believe it will be any different with Phase III. Most of the costs in the budget line items are not fixed costs. They are per gallon costs. More users, more cost."

Traversa went on to say that the project's only redeeming factor was keeping the health center in town.

"There's no real economic development in town," Traversa said. "There's less economic development or even people leaving quite frankly."

Traversa, along with other residents present, pointed out to the board that many people are not paying and are delinquent in the costs for the sewer.

"Certain people aren't paying and it's money that I'm supposed to pay," Traversa said.

The board later discussed the issues of delinquent users on the system and shared it would

force a lien on the household not paying and the town would see the money "eventually."

Traversa went on to say that the slides were misleading and that the information favorably portrayed the project.

"I've fought each time and lost each time, it's not just my vote," Traversa said. "The whole town gets to vote for something that's not proportionate."

Jane Boston, chair of the Economic Development Commission and an alternate on the Lake Advisory Committee, said Lake Terramuggus has always been one of the cleanest lakes in the state well before the sewer came through.

"Down the street in East Hampton, they're not so fortunate," Boston said regarding Lake Pocotopaug. "You have to look at how the sewer impacts the entire town and look at individual residents. The original proposal was completely different and the costs have gone up dramatically over time."

Boston said to look at Hebron for an example, where they pay 40 percent less than Marlborough for their sewer.

"I urge the town to look at how to reduce costs for everyone," Boston said. "You just can't keep adding to the system and dividing by a greater number of users."

Boston said for instance Glastonbury has solar power on the sewage plant by the river to help keep costs down.

During the board's discussion on the project, Godbout said if she was part of the sewer district, "I would be struggling myself to take those kinds of increases."

But in the end, the members present voted the project forward; Phase III will now go to a town meeting Oct. 21 after which it will be included on the Nov. 4 referendum ballot. If approved, the project is projected to start May 1, 2015 and be completed by Oct. 31, 2016.

Marlborough Resident to Appear in Wally Lamb Movie

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

When author Wally Lamb's book "Wishin' and Hopin'" comes to life on the screen in December, viewers will see the familiar neighborhood face of RHAM High School freshman Anna Greenwald of Marlborough.

Greenwald, 14, was cast in the movie as Kitty Callahan, one of eight students in the movie. She joined stars such as Molly Ringwald, Conchata Ferrell and the voice of Chevy Chase.

Directed by Connecticut resident Colin Theys, the movie takes after Wally Lamb's award-winning book set in fictional Three Rivers, Connecticut. Filmed at Norwich Free Academy, where Lamb used to teach, the book follows Felix Funicello, a Catholic school fifth-grader at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parochial School in 1964 during the holidays. According to the synopsis, the movie celebrates "where we've been and how far we've come" while Funicello "learns the meaning of French kissing, cultural misunderstanding and tableaux vivants."

Greenwald attended auditions this past May after her mother, Robin Greenwald, heard about the movie from one of her students who was also auditioning.

"We waited in line for hours," Robin Greenwald said. "She did her monologue and they sent her out with a script to practice and come back."

However both mom and daughter said the wait was horrible, since they didn't know until a week or so before filming in July that Greenwald had made it in.

"They really liked me," Anna Greenwald said. "My character has messy hair and so do I. They liked my look."

Greenwald, who has performed in 12 plays, said she figured "it's a movie, I'll do it."

What Greenwald wasn't ready for was the production schedule; along with rehearsing for the play "How to Succeed in Business without

Really Trying," with the AHM summer youth theater she was putting in 10-hour days for three weeks to film the movie.

"I was really tired," Greenwald said. "I would be willing to do a movie again, but not both at the same time."

However the good times Greenwald had while on set made everything worth it. Along with meeting Lamb, she ate lunch with Ringwald and had her mother also on set for a few days as an extra.

She said one of her favorite scenes was one where the class is headed to confession and they must wear mantillas, a kind of head covering. If the students forget their mantilla, they have to tie a sweater on their head. Greenwald said her character is the one to forget her mantilla and a sweater and the sister in charge pins a napkin on her head and gives her detention.

In another scene where Ringwald's character is introduced, the class is dealing with a bat in the room when Funicello hits it with a spit ball. Greenwald said she remembers being shocked at what was happening in the scene, knowing that if it happened to her in real life she'd be freaking out.

"I'm not a main character, I have no lines, but I'm not enough in the background to be an extra," Greenwald said.

She added she got used to the different camera angles and how the production crew would say "rolling" when the cameras were on, but they had to wait until "action" to move.

"With plays, there are no cameras in front of you," Greenwald said. "There were a couple practices then the real thing in a few minutes - versus weeks [rehearsing] for a play."

On average, Greenwald said it took almost a half hour to shoot one minute of the film. The movie was also filmed in the middle of July even though it's supposed to be a holiday movie. That meant the cast was wearing jackets and winter clothes while the rest of the effects would



Anna Greenwald of Marlborough (left) poses with Wally Lamb and her mother, Robin Greenwald during the filming of "Wishin' and Hopin'".

be put in afterward.

Even though she enjoyed being in the movie, Greenwald said that being a full-time actress probably isn't for her.

"I have thought about being an actor, but there are a lot of people who try to be actors and aren't successful and waste their time," Greenwald said. "They're trying so hard for

something that's not going to happen. I'm not going to waste my time and money. I'll be perfectly happy working another job. I still can say I was in a movie."

"Wishin' and Hopin'" premieres at the Garde Arts Center in New London on Nov. 23. It will then head to television, where it will air on Lifetime on Dec. 6 in time for the holidays.

Haunted Trail Tour Returns to Portland

by John Tyczkowski

The Brownstone Quorum and Portland Parks and Recreation are bringing back last year's Haunted Trail Tour for another round.

Frank Winiski, a member of the Quorum and a co-organizer of the event with his wife Carol, said the Haunted Trail was an extension of the summer concert series at Riverfront Park.

"We have four different concerts throughout the summer, and those went well—we had hundreds of people attend," he said. "We wanted to follow that up with another activity in autumn to get some money for park improvements, and the Haunted Trail was our idea."

He also said it was designed from the ground up as a "fun, family-friendly activity" that would get people to visit and enjoy the park.

The fundraiser is designed to raise money for park development costs, Winiski said, which the Quorum has been helping with for seven years.

The Brownstone Quorum is a non-profit organization "authorized by the town government to support and improve the area of and adjacent to the Portland Brownstone Quarries, a designated National Historic Landmark," according to their website, brownstonequorum.org.

Though the Quorum doubled their advertising efforts for this year's Haunted Trail Tour with more flyers around town and a booth at the Portland Agricultural Fair, Carol Winiski said people talking about the event was also very effective.

"Word of mouth helped a lot," she said. "Many people remembered it from last year and were eager to go again."

Carol also said that while fundraising for the park is important, keeping the event affordable for families is also key.

"You look at a lot of the haunted trails around, the prices can get really up there," she said. "We want to keep it so the townspeople can come with their kids and afford to have a nice time and enjoy the park that's been created for everybody."

The quarter-mile walking trail portion of the event will include lighting and sound effects, props and a cast of volunteer actors.

"The actors include students from the local high school, as well members of youth groups from two of the churches in town," he said.

Frank also said the trail was leveled and cleared "to make sure it's nice to walk on for everyone."

In addition, there will be activities and games for kids at the park's pavilion.

"We're going to have face painting, a fortune-teller, pumpkin decorating with stickers and markers, spin art, hanging donuts, a bean bag toss, things like that," Carol said.

She added the pumpkin decorating was a big hit last year.

"The kids were walking around, showing their pumpkins to everybody, it was cool, really. I was pleasantly surprised at how well it worked," she said. "The parents were happy because their kids were happy, and the kids had something with them to bring home."

Frank said that as a way of encouraging kids to try out all of the games and activities, they'll be letting kids spin a wheel for a prize of their choice after they've played a certain number of games; they'll receive a punch card to reflect that.

Carol also said that they're planning to have the Haunted Trail Tour stay scheduled for the weekend after Columbus Day.

"We want people to be able to have another thing to look forward to after the fair," she said.

The Winiskis said they'd like to double last year's attendance figures of 200, and that they'd like to see this event become an annual Portland fall fixture.

They added it's already on track to be so, and that expanding the event's offerings is part of that attempt.

"We've added quite a bit this year to what we had last year, and we hope every year to make some improvements," he said. "We really want to make it an annual event."

New features at this year's event include a wider range of props and costumes, as well as a larger cast of volunteer actors.

"We've invested quite a bit in terms of planning, designing the trail, getting the props, and so on," Frank said. "To not make it an annual event would be silly because of all the effort we've put into making it an enjoyable experience."

Carol said to that end, preparing for the Haunted Trail Tour is truly a year-round process.

"You're thinking about it all the time and always collecting things," she said. "You're always thinking, 'What's going to benefit the appearance of the Trail?'"

"We also have a lot of people helping who are very enthusiastic about Halloween, and in their own yards have elaborate designs and decorations. They are very helpful," Carol said.

Frank added another new component of this year's event is the inclusion of food vendors.

Gotta's Farm and Cider Mill, a fixture of Portland established in 1898, will be selling a variety of seasonal baked goods at the pavilion, as well as cider from their own presses, and several other town groups will be present selling their own treats as well, he said.

Carol furthered Gotta's is once again donating the sugar pumpkins for kids to decorate at the event.

The Ghostbusters of Connecticut will also be featured as special guests at the Haunted Trail Tour, Frank said.

"They'll be around for photo ops for the kids and to provide extra excitement," Frank said. He quipped, "And to keep paranormal activity on the trail to a minimum."

John Kantor, or Short Circuit, his code name on the group's website, said the idea for the Ghostbusters of Connecticut came a few days after Christmas 2012, when he and several other current members began chatting on gbfans.com, a Ghostbusters fan community.

They met for food on January 19, and the group was born.



The pavilion at Riverfront Park is dressed up Halloween-style during last year's debut Haunted Trail Tour. This year, the Brownstone Quorum and Parks and Recreation Department will expand offerings to include more activities and games for kids, as well as food vendors. Photo by Frank and Carol Winiski.

"Two hours later, we walked out as the Connecticut Ghostbusters," he said. "The next day we started our Facebook page and started to work on our logo, and we took off from there."

Just a few months after being established, Kantor said the group was invited to march with Ghostbusters International at the 2013 Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade.

"It was our first event as a group," Kantor said, adding the group enjoys being a charity group as well as a cosplay (costume play) group.

"Most groups around the world operate as unofficial charity fundraising groups, and we saw some of the awesome things they were able to accomplish," he said. "So we wanted to try and give something back to the community as well."

The group has gone to comic, TV/movies and video game conventions throughout Connecticut, as well as Boston Comic Con and Rhode Island Comic Con, to name a few, Kantor said.

However, he said the group's favorite outing was their "first official event," the St. Jude's Give Thanks Walk at Evergreen Walk in South Windsor, and that they'll be back at it again in November.

"This will be our second year walking as a team in support of St. Jude's Children's Hospital, and we're hoping to double our fundraising efforts," Kantor said.

Regarding the Haunted Trail, Kantor stated the Brownstone Quorum contacted the group

after hearing them talk about Hartford Comic Con on the Colin McEnroe Show on NPR.

"After a few meetings, we decided to be a part of this fun little event," he said. "We're looking forward to its execution."

The team will be collecting donations for St. Jude's in Portland as well.

Kantor also said he wasn't giving away any spoilers about what trail-goers can expect when they call the Ghostbusters of Connecticut.

"We have a lot of fun things planned for the trail, but you'll just have to come by and see for yourself!" he said.

The Second Annual Portland Haunted Trail Tour will take place Saturday, Oct. 18, with a rain date of Oct. 19. The "Before Dark Version" for kids up to 10-years-old will take place from 4-6:30 p.m., while the "After Dark Version" for kids over 11 years of age will happen from 6:30-10 p.m.

A flyer about the Portland Haunted Trail Tour can be found online at portlandct.org/Portals/12/Departments/ParkRec/PDF/HalloweenHauntedTrail.pdf, or those interested can call 860-342-2970.

Tickets will be sold in advance on all days at a booth at the Portland Agricultural Fair this weekend for \$5 per person instead of \$6 at the pavilion gates.

Those interested in learning more about the Ghostbusters of Connecticut can visit their web site at ctghostbusters.com, or their Facebook page, facebook.com/CTghostbusters.

East Hampton Police News

9/19: Jennifer Vanwycke, 34, of 14 Myrtle Rd. was issued a summons for sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

9/20: Robert William White, 44, of 14 Fairlawn Ave., was arrested for simple trespass and second-degree breach of peace, said police.

9/25: According to police, Michael Ryan Bloch, 37, of 31 Cone Rd., was issued a summons for disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief.

9/26: Casey Nadolny, 39, of 19 Sunset Dr., turned herself in pursuant to an active arrest

warrant. Nadolny was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and possession of drug paraphernalia, said police.

9/26: Sean Heller, 36, of 11 Brookhill Dr., was arrested for second-degree stalking, police said.

9/27: Ryan Lanzi, 26, of 16 Dogwood Dr., was arrested for failure to drive right and driving under the influence, according to police.

9/27: David Yarlott, 37, of 29 Depot Hill Rd., was arrested for violation of a protective order and disorderly conduct, police stated.

Colchester Police News

10/1: State Police said Michael Andrew, 43, of 417 Washington St., Norwich, suffered minor injuries and was transported to the Marlborough Clinic after he lost control of his car on Route 2 and rolled over.

10/2: State Police said Allen Tedford, 54, of 25 Woods Way, Windham, was arrested and charged with violation of probation.

10/3: State Police said a Colchester woman sustained minor injuries after she was hit by a white Subaru wagon while walking her dog on Wall Street. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.

10/5: Colchester police said Judith Flinn, 55, of 501 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny.

10/6: State Police said David Duquette, 41, of 65 Cataumet Lane, West Springfield, Mass., was arrested and charged with failure to display a certificate for home improvement.

Marlborough Police News

10/1: State Police said Patrick Hagan, 19, of 83 Bulkley Hill Road, Colchester, was arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary and conspiracy to commit second-degree larceny.

Portland Police News

10/04: Becca Davies, 19, of 70 Green Valley Drive, Enfield, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny, theft of a credit card and illegal use of a credit card, Portland Police said.

10/04: Cythia Davies, 55, of 70 Green Valley Drive, Enfield, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny, theft of a credit card and illegal use of a credit card, police said.

10/06: Dean Randazzo, 40, of 22 Joelle Drive, Portland, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

Board Discusses Portland Business Manager Position

by John Tyczkowski

Questions about Portland Public Schools' business manager position continued at the Board of Education meeting Tuesday evening, though this time, the focus was on the future.

Chair MaryAnne Rode said the board planned to discuss possible courses of action regarding details surrounding the business manager's hiring process and salary raises.

"We want to be moving in a forward direction with our discussion tonight," she said. "It's more of a focus on what do we do now, rather than rehashing what's already happened."

The board created the business manager position in June 2013 out of the then-current business assistant position. The board then awarded the business manager two raises, a \$20,000 raise in August 2013, and a \$20,000 raise in August 2014.

Rode said that she heard "loud and clear" the call for more transparency from the town, which is why she held this meeting in open session instead of executive session.

"This could have easily been classified under executive session as it has to do with a position and potential negotiation and changes," Rode said. "But I felt it was important to have the discussion in open session instead, to show that I heard that need for transparency."

Laying out procedure, she said the ideas the board brainstormed that night would then have to be run by counsel to make sure they were all legal, and then hopefully, responses would be back in time for a full discussion at the Board's next meeting on Oct. 21.

From there, each board member took time to go around and state their thoughts on how to proceed.

Robert Taylor said he'd like to implement contracts for non-union town employees, such as the business manager, and let the board preview and vote on those contracts before they take effect.

"That way, there's no ambiguity and everything that's been presented is straightforward and out in the open," he said. "It would be the same way we do things with union contracts, that we get to see them and vote on them, and everything is transparent."

Board member Ben Srb said as far as policies go, he wanted open position notices to be posted publicly in all cases.

"There's room for improvement here, to say the least," he said. "And public postings would be a good start on the policy side of things."

Srb said, however, the salary raise was a bigger concern of his, and that he wanted to know if the town could roll back the business manager's salary to \$80,000 annually from \$100,000 annually.

"If we do that, I also suggest if we choose to want to bring this position back up to \$100,000, we involve the whole town with more meetings, so we're very transparent with where we're going with this," Srb said.

Secretary Andrea Alfano said she "somewhat agreed" with Srb, but added her concern was related to how action items on board meeting agendas are explained.

"I voted [to raise the business manager's salary], but I was not entirely clear that I was voting for an increase to \$100,000 and my vote may have been different had I known that," she said. "But my vote is my vote."

Alfano furthered, "Discussion and communication are needed here. I think it's time to do what we can do to remedy this situation and be more clear everywhere."

Christopher Darby said that even though he wasn't involved in either of the salary votes, he said he agreed that the board's transparency could be improved upon, which could start with salary comparisons for future positions.

"I'd like to see how salaries in our town compare with those in other towns in our [district reference group]," he said.

Darby also said he was "blindsided" by what he saw as the board being out of step with the town's concerns about this position.

"The board didn't seem to be aware of the concerns of the town and town employees regarding how it was decided if this was going to be a union position or not," he said. "That's something I've heard a lot about."

Michael Pelton also said he took issue with the vagueness of meeting agendas and minutes about the second salary raise, which he said "may have been one of the reasons" the second raise was passed.

"I found things to be unclear because it didn't reference any of the discussions from before, and didn't list what the amount was going from and to," he said. "It was also set up as something that had already been approved and budgeted, so it didn't raise a red flag with me."

However, he said he thought this problem would be "easily avoidable" going forward.

"We can fix this with more clarification and some simple, simple steps," Pelton said. "That encourages me."

In addition, he said he wanted to know more about the exact qualifications for the business manager position, and wondered why the position hadn't been posted publicly if there may have been applicants qualified for it.

Rode said while she couldn't speak to the qualifications of the people in town, she said not posting the position was "at the request of the previous superintendent."

"She had said we had a viable candidate internally, and that she wanted to promote from within in that case," Rode said.

"But in hindsight, would it have been better to have the opportunity for everyone and anyone to apply?" she said. "Yes, it would have been better. The only thing we can do now is strive to do better, it was handled the way it was handled."

Srb also floated the idea of terminating the

business manager position outright and reposting the business assistant position if there ended up being no way to roll back the salary to \$80,000.

"We could go back to the position we had, and start over," he said. "If we aren't able to do the lateral adjustment, I feel that we have to still do something."

However, Alfano said she "had a concern" about that idea, since she said the business manager position and the position's salary only became an issue upon the last raise occurring, and not before.

"The issue of people saying why do you need a business manager, and wondering whether you needed one, that was never an argument until the salary got to that level [of \$100,000]," she said. "This was not an issue for anyone until August 2014."

From that discussion, the board decided upon three main points to present to Superintendent of Schools Philip O'Reilly, who they would authorize in a vote to speak to the board's attorney about on their behalf.

According to the motion the board decided upon, these points were whether the board could enter into a contract with non-union employee, and if so, if a template exists; whether rules or laws were broken by not posting the business manager position publicly, and if rules or laws were broken, what could the board do next; and if the board has the ability to roll back a salary without cause, and how they would do that if so.

The motion passed unanimously.

* * *

Later during public comment, Janet Ellsworth said she "was happy" about the board's attempts to fix the situation, but said she felt the secretive nature of how the business manager hiring and raises were handled was the main problem.

"I take responsibility as a towns person because it kind of slipped through me too, and all of the sudden, we have this position, and I don't think we need it. I think it was a want, not a need," she said. "It's not the \$20,000 it's the whole situation that's been created."

Ellsworth said she agreed with Srb's idea of eliminating the position entirely.

"I think you guys need to seriously consider going back and starting from square one, because you really did a bad thing," she said.

Judy Hannah, a town finance office employee, said she felt that the business manager position duplicated several services that other town employees already managed, in the areas of transportation and union negotiations.

She also said neither raise was warranted.

"Our union was aware of the first \$20,000 raise; we did not agree with it but we felt the board knew best what they needed for the position," Hannah said. "The second \$20,000 raise did not follow proper procedures and was handled inappropriately."

She concluded, "And now it's up to you to make it right."

* * *

The next Board of Education meeting will take place Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Portland High School library.



The Carr Brook Bridge on Route 17A reopened Tuesday afternoon after five months of construction work. Renovations replaced the bridge entirely with a newer design, expanded the bridge and road width, added new guardrails and resurfaced 500 feet of road on and around the bridge.

Carr Brook Bridge Reopens in Portland

by John Tyczkowski

After over five months of work, and six days longer than initially anticipated, the Carr Brook Bridge is open for traffic, and Route 17A is back in business.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said she headed down to check out the bridge Tuesday afternoon, very shortly after it reopened.

"It really looks great," Bransfield said. "And it's a very good return of state tax money to Portland."

The total cost of the bridge and road project was \$2,175,447, and Brunalli Construction Company of Southington was awarded the bid to manage the construction, according to a Sept. 24 release.

An earlier March 12 release stated "the bridge is structurally deficient and functionally obsolete," due to deterioration of the bridge, and a "substandard bridge roadway width."

According to an April 23 release on the project from the Department of Transportation, the purpose of the nearly half a year of roadwork was to replace the aging bridge with a new structure, as well as to replace guide rails

on and around the bridge and perform maintenance on 500 feet of surrounding road surface.

This project also included expanding the width of the bridge, road and shoulders slightly, to two 12-foot travel lanes with four-foot shoulders on each side, according to the DOT.

Also, the bridge was constructed of pre-cast concrete components and concrete that was cast in place on-site.

Bransfield said she felt the improvements to the bridge and road, including an expanded turnout for motorists, would help showcase the town's scenic river views.

"I'm very pleased with how it turned out," she said. "And it's just in time for the fair this weekend."

Though the bridge has reopened for traffic, some final work is still being done; the project is slated to be completed in full Nov. 19.

For more information on the bridge project, residents can contact the Department of Transportation's Office of Communication at 860-594-3062.

Obituaries

Hebron

Virginia M. Henaghan

Virginia M. Henaghan (Cocolla), 82, of Old Saybrook, Conn., passed away peacefully Sept. 30 with family by her side. With a smile that set the male hearts aglow, Virginia was a strong and wonderful woman. Her family will especially miss her sauce, meatballs, cookies, cheesecake and apple pie, and her unwavering support, no matter what.

Virginia grew up in Hartford's South End and married Bill, her high school sweetheart. Together they spent 61 years as husband and wife. They lived in Hebron for most of their lives raising eight children, breeding Siberian Huskies, racing horses, showing ponies, growing orchids and traveling. She adored Neil Diamond and Pavarotti, but most of all, Virginia enjoyed her time with family, especially at Sunday dinners and their many Bahamas trips.

She is predeceased by her eldest son William John Henaghan III, and her brother Peter Cocolla. She leaves behind her husband William John Henaghan II, her sister Josephine Haagensen; seven children and their spouses and partners, nine grandchildren: William Faulkner; William, Kendyl and Devin Henaghan; Traci, Michael and Cody Artist; Casey Tsamis; and Danielle Lapierre; and one great-grandchild Alyssa Faulkner.

Family and friends were invited to calling hours Tuesday, Oct. 7 at Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm Street, Rocky Hill, and to church services Wednesday, Oct. 8 at St. Luke Church, 66 Bolton St., Hartford. Burial followed at Rose Hill.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Virginia Henaghan Rose Fund at the National Foundation for Cancer Research, 4600 East West Highway, Suite 525, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Hebron

Francis R. Danaher

Francis R. Danaher passed away surrounded by family and friends Sept. 26 after a brief illness. Son of the late Francis and Dorothy (Foell) Danaher, he was born and raised in Meriden, Conn. He was a graduate of St. Michael's College and the University of Hartford and was serving as the Director of Emergency Planning for the City of Hartford when he retired after 25 years. A resident of Hebron for over 40 years, he served on the Board of Education for eight years.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, June; his children, Heather, Breer and Matthew and their spouses Paul Etzel, Johanna and Laura; his brothers, Terry, Patrick, and Kenan and their wives Loretta, Terry and Anne; and his sister, Alannah and her husband, George. Most special to him were his granddaughters, Kaylee, Emily, Leah and Katie, who were a constant source of joy.

His greatest passions were boating and traveling, and he was an avid reader of history. He was able to fulfill his dreams of traveling to many parts of the world and spent a lot of time cruising the coast of New England and the canals of France. When home, he was busy with gardening, boating and visiting with family and friends. He was a larger than life figure to all of us and will be sorely missed as the best husband, dad, friend and grandpa.

The family would like to thank all the many friends and neighbors who supported us during this trying time, and to recognize the extraordinary and compassionate care given by the medical and nursing staff at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London, Conn. Thank you one and all.

There will be a private celebration of Sancy's life.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the L+M Cancer Center Campaign Fund for Research, c/o Development Office, 365 Montauk Ave., New London, CT 06320.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Colchester

Linda Jane Hall

Linda Jane Hall, 71, of Colchester Commons and formerly of Rhode Island and Maryland, passed away with her loving family by her side the evening of Thursday, Oct. 2.

Born June 28, 1943 in Baltimore, Md., she was the daughter of the late Adolph and Dorothy (Kern) Winkler.

To mourn her passing, she leaves her loving husband, James R. Hall; her son and daughter-in-law, Jeffrey and Carol of Portland; two grandchildren, Gerald and Aeryn; two brothers, Carl and Gordon Winkler, both of Maryland; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Barbara Dunn Stuke

Barbara Dunn Stuke, 77, formerly of Portland, Conn., Westerly, R.I., and Sebastian, Fla. passed away Oct. 3 with her family at her side after a long, brave battle with cancer.

She was the beloved wife of Ken Stuke for 56 years and together they raised four children: Debbie (Nicholas) Deseno of Ramona, Cali., Doug (Kathy) Stuke of Prospect, Paul Stuke of New Kent, Va. and Donna (Tom) LaBella of Portland.

The center of Barbara's world was her family. She loved to spend time and share smiles with each of her wonderful grandchildren: Nigel and Meaghan Stuke; Matthew, Jordan and Nicole Deseno; and Joshua and Jason LaBella.

Barb and Ken spent many years of their lives traveling, relaxing and spending time together with her sister and best friend Ann St. Amand and her husband Paul St. Amand of Sebastian, Fla.

She is also survived by Ellen (Sis) Pelles of Tolland and Disa Dunn of Las Vegas, Nev. as well as many cherished nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her siblings Mae Bartek, Edward Dunn and Terrance Dunn.

Mrs. Stuke was a deeply caring soul that would shine a light on all that got to know her. After graduating from St. Francis School of Nursing in Hartford, Barb's career as a registered nurse spanned over four decades. The majority of years were working at Middlesex Memorial Hospital in Middletown. She was blessed to make many lifelong friends while there, including Shelly Randazzo and Kay Muscatello.

Barb was one of the founders of the Middlesex Area Patient Services organization created to serve individuals with Multiple Sclerosis. After retiring, Barb and Ken traveled the world, enjoying time visiting family and friends and relaxing at the beach. Barb and Ken found many wonderful, new friends and became active community members in Sebastian Florida's Park Place Community. Barb cherished many hours of companionship and support with her dear friend Joy Fisher. Barb's life serves as an example of the power of unconditional love.

There will be a calling hour from 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 11 at St. Mary's Church, 51 Free-stone Ave, immediately followed by a funeral mass. A reception celebrating Barb's life will be held in the church hall after the mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Home Hospice Care of Rhode Island (hhcri.org), Middlesex Memorial Hospice Unit, Dept. of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St. Middletown, CT 06457; or VNA Hospice of Indian River County, 1110 35th Lane, Vero Beach, FL 32960.

For online condolences, visit averystortifuneralhome.com.



East Hampton

Alison Perry Varney

Alison Perry Varney of East Hampton died peacefully at the CT Hospice in Branford Oct. 2 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born in Hartford to Raymond Perry and her late mother Joann Perry.

Alison is survived by her father, Raymond Perry of Farmington; her sister Amanda Lee and niece Jessica Lee of Manchester; and numerous loving friends.

Alison was originally from Glastonbury. She lived in Maine for several years before returning to Connecticut. She recently worked for Napa Auto Parts in East Hampton, and Gengras of East Hartford. She will be missed.

A Celebration of her life will be held by family and friends at the Sears Park Pavilion in East Hampton this Sunday, Oct. 12 at 2 p.m.

East Hampton

Robert S. Moreland

Robert S. Moreland, 72, formally of East Hampton, passed away Sept. 19 with Pat, his wife of 52 years, by his side.

He is survived by his wife Pat; daughter Syl and husband Kurt; son Bob and wife Kim; son Scott and wife Wendy; and daughter Jen; his cherished grandkids Johnny, Scotty, Julia and Autumn; his Brother Al and sister Jackie; and many cousins.

Bob touched many hearts throughout his life, both friends and family.

He proudly served in the Air Force, was in real estate, food services at East Catholic High School, owned Bob Moreland Remodeling, and was a building inspector.

Most of all he was a family man. Pat, his four kids and four grand kids were always his number one priority. He traveled with Pat for the last several years in his RV across the U.S. and spent winters in Florida. For a few years he would travel up to Connecticut and camp in his son Bob's driveway, and Bob enjoyed having his parents as a neighbor for the summer.

We miss him very much; we loved him with all our heart. Our dad's love lives on in his wise words, and in the ways he shaped who we are, and in the memories of family times that will always be close to our heart.

There were no calling hours. A family service will be in Florida at a later date. The family appreciates all the thoughts and prayers.

Portland

Alice Mary Burbank

Alice Mary Burbank, 79, formerly of Portland, died Monday, Sept. 29 at Lakes Region General Hospital. She was born Oct. 20, 1934 in Laconia, N.H., the daughter of Peter J. and Merilda (Maheux) Drouin.

She loved crafts and knitting and also enjoyed her flower gardening. Alice was an active church member of St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church in Wolfeboro and St. Andre Bessette Parish - St. Josephs Church in Laconia. Alice also was previously employed by Middlesex Memorial Hospital in Middletown for 35 years.

She is survived by her two sons, Michael Burbank and his wife Holly of East Hampton and Wayne Burbank of Columbia; two daughters, Kathryn Sharpley and her husband Tom of Coventry, and Cynthia Christensen and her husband Robert of Pa.; six grandchildren; five great grandchildren; one brother, Antonio Drouin of Laconia, N.H.; two sisters, Theresa Rolfe and her husband Nelson of Belmont and Lucille Morin of Vt.; nieces; nephew; her uncle Antonio "Tony" Maheux and his wife Noel of Laconia, N.H.; her aunt Alice Doucet; and her special cousin, Margie Walker, also of Laconia, N.H.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband of 58 years, Lyndon P. Burbank in 2010 and one brother, Lucien Drouin.

There will be no calling hours. A memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at the discretion of the family at St. Andre Bessette Parish - St. Joseph Church, 30 Church Street, Laconia, N.H. Burial will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Garfield St., Laconia.

Wilkinson-Beane-Simoneau-Paquette Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 164 Pleasant Street, Laconia, N.H. is assisting the family with the arrangements.

For online condolences, visit wilkinsonbeane.com.

Portland

Maria (DeRaffaele) Flanel

Maria (DeRaffaele) Flanel, 89, entered into eternal rest Monday, Sept. 29. Formerly a resident of Portland and Middletown, she passed away after a long battle with mental illness in the Masonicare Hospice Program at Bidwell Health Care Center in Manchester.

She lived a colorful and often tragic life. During the good times Maria was best known as "Mama Carrie," a surrogate mom and caring advisor to many friends and family members.

She is predeceased by her former husband, Robert Flanel; beloved brother, Joseph DeRaffaele; as well as her parents, Domenico and Anjelina; brother, Chester; sister, Lillian Pipperno; and granddaughter, Anjelina-Nicole Flanel.

She is survived by the "love of her life," her only child, David Robert Flanel and his wife, Deborah Ford Flanel; as well as her sister, Nancy Finkleman; sister-in-law, Lucy DeRaffaele; her nieces, Diane Miranda and Joann DeRaffaele and many other extended family members.

Her son David especially wants to thank the staff at Bidwell for their professionalism and genuinely attentive and supportive care of his mother.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 10 a.m. at the family plot in St. Sebastian Cemetery, Middlefield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), PO Box 62596, Baltimore, MD 21264-2596 or nami.org.

The Coughlin-Lastrina Funeral Home in Middletown is in charge of arrangements.

Colchester

Arnold M. Chappell

Arnold M. Chappell Sr., 83, passed away Friday, Oct. 3, at Harrington Court in Colchester.

Arnold was born June 20, 1931, in Waterford, the son of the late Elmer and Elsie (Maynard) Chappell. He married Alice (Buell) Chappell on Sept. 26, 1956, in New London. Alice died on Aug. 8, 2005.

Arnold was a dairy farmer in Salem, then retired after nine years from Pfizer.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, Oct. 8, at Jordan Cemetery in Waterford. There were no visiting hours.

In lieu of flowers, his family requests donations be directed to New England Ox Teamsters Scholarship Fund, c/o Melanie Brundage, Treas., 217 Maple St., Douglas, MA 01516.

