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The Colchester Senior Center made one of a few *Wizard of Oz* themed scarecrows with their "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" display at the 15th annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest on the Colchester Town Green. Voting for the contest, which is hosted by the Colchester Business Association and Colchester Parks and Recreation, is going on now at colchesterbusiness.com and various businesses around town.

Scarecrows Call Colchester Green Home

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The green found itself with a few new residents this past weekend with the start of the fifteenth annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest hosted by the Colchester Business Association and Colchester Parks and Recreation.

Twenty-five displays were carefully crafted by local businesses, residents and youth organizations and were installed on the green Oct. 9; they'll call it home until Oct. 26.

A newcomer to the event, the Candy Shoppe of Colchester put together a Candyland themed display complete with lollipops and peppermint sticks. Owned by Kelly and Akram Damaj, the shop opened last year around Christmastime and Kelly Damaj said this seemed like the perfect opportunity to get the shop's name out.

"It was really last minute," Damaj said. "We paid the fee and worked on it that week."

Even though Damaj said going into the scarecrow contest was a bit overwhelming, she ended up being excited about what they made.

The Candy Shoppe's scarecrow depicted a life-sized piece of the Candyland board, with an entry made of corn husks, mats put down like the game's spaces and additional decor like pinwheels, pumpkins and a big teddy bear.

"The giant candy cane represents candy and we striped it Halloween colors," Damaj said. "We also do toys and gifts so we made the teddy bear."

Damaj said they had a plan for the scene going into set up last Thursday, but it wasn't until they arrived that everything came together.

"We had a plan in mind and it wasn't working perfectly until we got there," Damaj said. "We're really excited about how it came out."

We would absolutely do it again."

However, Damaj said next time they'd learn from some of this year's hiccups.

"The entry is a little too wide," Damaj said. "We learned from our mistakes and we'll do things a bit better [next year]."

Damaj's favorite thing about the event has been seeing the community interact with the scarecrow scene.

"I walked the green the other night and a mom was taking a picture of a girl sitting with the big teddy bear," Damaj said. "It was so cute."

As far as the contest goes, Damaj said winning isn't the goal—although it would be nice.

"The goal was to get our name out there and that there is a candy shop in Colchester," Damaj said. "Not a lot of people know we're there yet."

Along with the sweet scene, Colchester salon Shattered Endz built a scary scarecrow spider called "Come into our Web." Last year, salon owner Debi Rushford won second in Most Imaginative with "Edward Scissorhands."

"This year we did a big, huge spider which I made myself and sewed," Rushford said. "We also have a website so we spun it off of that."

Rushford said the event isn't just fun, it's also a nice way to get the public down to the green and helps spread the names of area businesses.

Shattered Endz has participated in the scarecrow contest for the past seven years.

Along with the above, there seemed to be a *Wizard of Oz* theme throughout the displays with Rob Lewis' "I'm Melting" creation and the Colchester Senior Center's "Follow the Yellow Brick Road."

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CL&P Makes Offer on East Hampton Town Hall

by John Tyczkowski

The issue of town office and police station relocation has received another urgent push to move forward. At Tuesday night's East Hampton town council meeting, an offer was considered from Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) to purchase the current town hall property for a sum of \$1 million.

According to the non-binding purchase offer, CL&P would let the town occupy the offices for a period of up to two years rent free, while the town searches for replacement buildings. During that time, the town would be responsible for maintenance, repairs and taxes on the town hall.

Then, for the third and final year the town could lease the property; the town would have to pay \$100,000 divided into monthly payments as rent along with the maintenance, repairs and taxes.

In addition, a clause in the offer specified that CL&P could terminate the rent agreement at any time and give the town a written 90-day notice to move out.

The closing date for this offer was listed as Dec. 1, and CL&P asked for a "yes" or "no"

response from the town on the offer which they sent to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco Oct. 8, within 45 days.

At the meeting, Maniscalco said if the town accepted the offer, they would need to have the town council and Board of Finance provide recommendations in favor of the offer, and then hold a public hearing to get the town's approval.

"That's a lot of work to accomplish in just 45 days," he said.

Councilor Mark Philhower, meanwhile, raised concerns over the amount of money CL&P was prepared to pay for the property.

"As nice an offer as it seems, \$1 million just doesn't go very far when you're trying to purchase property to build a new town hall" he said, adding he estimated the town would need closer to \$10-15 million for a new town hall and police facilities.

Council Vice Chairman Kevin Reich also said he didn't think the amount CL&P offered was enough.

"It doesn't really mean anything, because yes, we really can't replace what we have now for \$1 million," he said.

Philhower also objected to the three-year lease limit, due to concerns over what might happen if the town couldn't find suitable replacement facilities by then.

"What if we end up needing three, four or five years?" Philhower said. "Then we actually end up being in the negative over this."

Also, Councilor Patience Anderson expressed specific concern over the 90-day clause in the offer. She explained, "If we're a year and a half into this, and suddenly CL&P says, 'You've got 90 days to exit,' I think that would put us in a really bad spot. That part really bothers me."

The council also raised concerns that the report from the Facilities Evaluation Committee hadn't been delivered yet. The report, they said, was a crucial component to making an informed decision.

"I am not willing to make any kind of decision until I hear back from them as to whether we have a plan," Philhower said. "We have a home right now; we don't need to get rid of it."

If the town could find a new building for the police station, he also suggested the town of-

fices could expand into the former station, and the town hall building "would work for another 10-15 years."

Councilor George Pfaffenbach said he felt the 45-day period should be extended to 60 days, in order to give the Facilities Evaluation Committee time to make its report to the town council.

"They have a meeting this month, but we're just not going to make it if we decide to move forward with the process under the 45-day timeline," he said.

Councilor Philip Visintainer added he would like to see the two-year rent-free timeframe increased to three or four years.

"[Two years] seems like an awfully tight timeframe to me for what we need to do," he said. "We haven't even got a plan for what we need to accomplish yet, or a property selected."

Council Chairperson Barbara Moore also made it clear she wanted to have a public hearing on the matter.

"This is a huge decision for the town, I would love to hear from the public on this," she said.

See Town Hall Page 2



Scarecrows moved onto the Colchester green this past week, and will reside there for most of the month for the Colchester Business Association's Scarecrow Decorating Contest. Among the 25 scenes set up for viewing and voting were Apple Rehab's "Ye Olde Stocks" (above), the Colchester Parks and Recreation Department's "Creating Community Fun" (top right), The Candy Shoppe's Candyland scene (bottom right) and Colchester Barber Shop's "Mr. Pumpkin Head" (bottom).



Scarecrows cont. from Front Page

There was even a gravity defying scarecrow called "Blown Away" by Harrington Court Genesis Healthcare, with the accompanying phrase "our care will blow you away!" Other scarecrows included Spongebob Squarepants brushing his teeth, a piggy bank, a scarecrow stuck in the stocks, and scarecrows doing martial arts.

A kick-off for the Scarecrow Decorating Contest occurred Saturday, Oct. 11, where kids were welcomed to come in costume, participate in the costume parade and enjoy the scenes.

Anita Pizzutiello, chair with Colchester Parks and Rec., said the kick-off party drew 80 to 100 people who enjoyed pizza and snacks donated by Plum Tomato, Family Pizza, Dunkin Donuts, Noel's Market, Subway and Stop & Shop.

She added Gabby Nadeau from the Colchester Barber Shop led the costume parade.

"The kids loved being in their costumes and really looked great," Pizzutiello said. "Everyone had a chance to look at all the creative scarecrow scenes and take beautiful fall pictures."

Categories this year include Funniest, Scariest and Most Imaginative. Winners of each of the three categories will win a \$150 gift card, while second place will receive a \$75 gift card.

Voting is open now and will continue until Oct. 24. Voting is available online at colchesterbusiness.com and at various locations around town including Anytime Fitness, Apple Rehab, Colchester Dental Group, Colchester Parks and Rec, Escapes Hair Salon and Spa, Family Physical Therapy, Savings Institute Bank and Trust, Shattered Endz Hair Salon, Subway, Tim's Bistro, and the Candy Shoppe.

Winners will be announced Oct. 27. In the meantime, anyone is welcome to walk the green and enjoy the scarecrows while they're up.



Town Hall cont. from Front Page

"In fact, we need to hear from them."

Councilors, minus Ted Hintz who was absent, voted unanimously to direct Maniscalco to ask CL&P for a 60-day response window, a three to four year rent-free timeframe and a removal of the 90-day clause.

The council also said they were planning to schedule a public hearing on the possible sale in November after the facilities committee report is delivered.

The town council also held a discussion on the proposed natural gas line expansion discussed at last week's tri-board meeting.

At that meeting, Maniscalco gave a presentation to the town council, the Board of Education and the Board of Finance on a proposed nine-mile pipeline that would supply major commercial properties in town, as well as nearby residential properties, with natural gas. Several town buildings would also be included as well, Maniscalco had said.

According to a map displayed during the presentation, the gas line would come into town by way of Route 16, and connect to Main Street by way of Skinner Street. It would also branch off to Center School, and onto Edgerton Street to Memorial School.

Moving north, the proposed line would move onto Route 66, and from there would go west into North Maple Street to the high school, as well as east to service Lake Vista Condominiums and Laurel Ridge.

Commercial properties on Route 66 that would be hooked up to the line include Stop & Shop and American Distilling.

Reich said Tuesday he wanted to know how realistic it was that American Distilling and Stop & Shop would both hook up to the line.

"I'm extremely confident in American Distilling," said Terri Eller, Director of Commercial and Industrial Sales at UIL Holding. "I'm very confident in Stop & Shop; they set up their shops for propane—their shops will almost always convert."

She also said hooking up to the condos and

Laurel Ridge looked promising.

In addition, Eller said CNG was in the process of working with the town to figure out the feasibility of hooking up the middle school to the gas line as well, by way of Route 66.

"Easement is very important; we need roads that can accommodate our vehicles and that we can plow," she said. "This is a crucial part of natural gas safety, since we have to review all of our mains continually to make sure there aren't any leaks."

Eller also said that expanding the gas line as wide as possible in its first phase was crucial to assuring future expansion.

"What we're doing is using the revenues from some of these projects to help extend the line to other spots to help it grow," Eller said.

Roddy Diotalevi, Senior Director of Sales and Marketing at UIL Holdings, said that expanding natural gas into small, densely packed residential sections of the town would be key to jumpstarting future expansion off the primary line, but only after that primary line has been completed.

"The trick is to get the infrastructure in place, and then you incrementally grow from there. You have to start with a backbone," he said. "Without the infrastructure to support expansion, the project gets into an interim stage, and most of the time, the projects collapse."

The town council also voted unanimously at the meeting to have Maniscalco start the process of working with Connecticut Natural Gas to begin work on expanding natural gas lines in town.

Before proceeding further, the Board of Education and the Board of Finance would need to discuss and approve the proposed gas line as well, which would be slated to begin construction in the spring of 2015, to service customers by the winter.

The next town council meeting will take place Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the town hall.

Marlborough Resident Opening Glastonbury Comics Store

by Chris Seymour

Marlborough resident Craig Soifer has ventured to nearby Glastonbury to open a new comics and hobbies store. Appropriately called "Comics and Hobbies," the store is slated to open in Glen Lochen Mall, 39 New London Tpk., Glastonbury, this coming Monday, Oct. 20 at 10 a.m.

The new store (located in Suite 126 in Glen Lochen) features sports memorabilia of all kinds, a wide selection of player cards from all sports, hundreds of comic book titles (of course), toys and much more.

"It's a full service hobby shop and a family environment," explained owner Craig Soifer, a Bronx, NY native who has been in the comic and hobbies business for 30 years (he has owned and operated many stores in the tri-state area).

"We would like to invite all the families with their kids to come on down and take a look at the store," said Soifer's wife, Sandy. "It's family-oriented and the kids will have a blast—we are looking forward to seeing them."

Although the Soifers reside in Marlborough they said they chose Glastonbury for their store because they saw a need in the community for this type of retail operation.

"We think it's deprived of this type of store," said Soifer of the town. "There's a big need for it. There used to be a store here many years ago but it's relocated to Wethersfield."

Glen Lochen, which is currently undergoing major renovations, proved to be an attractive location for the new store as well. "We were looking on Main Street and couldn't find a store the size that we thought economically made sense," explained Soifer.

"Glen Lochen we had looked into a year or two ago and it was totally run down, so we weren't interested, but we chose it now because we feel it is up and coming and the people that

own it are putting a lot of money into it," added Soifer. "We are hopeful to have some new restaurants come in and get it buzzing again and we think we are a good fit for here because we are a destination, and it's destination driven, and we have the available parking."

Soifer said he has also spoken with many kids in the area and his shop "will be a good spot for kids to hang out." One of those kids is the Soifers' son, Brandon, a third-grader at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School in Marlborough.

Brandon was in the store with his parents this past Monday (Columbus Day) and his mother noted he has already become actively involved in the family business. "He had the idea for the toys and he will be here every weekend," said Sandy.

In terms of toys being offered, Soifer explained the store would have the "latest toys for the kids, including Teen Titans, all the Walking Dead figures, and all the new super hero and Disney toys that are coming out from the Disney movies and super hero movies."

With respect to comics, the shop will carry Marvel (such as the Avengers and Spiderman) and DC Comics (such as Superman and Aquaman) as well as independents such as Valiant Comics (such as Spawn and The Walking Dead).

"There will be weekly releases of hundreds of different titles," said Soifer, who said that his favorite comic book growing up was Spiderman. "I used to love comics when I was a kid; I used to walk to the candy store on my way to school and my grandmother used to buy me one," he added.

The shop's regular hours will be Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



Comics and Hobbies is a new shop slated to open in Glastonbury this coming Monday, Oct. 20. Owner and Marlborough Resident Craig Soifer is pictured with his wife Sandy and son Brandon.

AHM Receives Federal Drug-Free Communities Grant

by Geeta Schrayter

Last month, the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force with AHM Youth and Family Services was one of 197 nationwide recipients of a federal grant to support the prevention of youth substance abuse.

The five-year grant is for \$125,000 each year, and according to the Office of Drug Control Policy, the philosophy behind the Drug-Free Communities Support Program that funds the grant is that "local drug problems require local solutions."

In a press release sent out by AHM regarding the award, it was explained local community members endorsed AHM applying for the grant several months ago—AHM did so, knowing in advance "how difficult it would be to receive this grant the first time, especially since only 197 were being given out nationwide," the release states.

And yet receive it they did.

AHM Director Joel Rosenberg said this week, "It's something that we have hoped for for years, but this is a highly competitive grant."

But, he added, the time was right.

"We felt that the timing was right to go after this grant based almost exclusively on the strength of our local prevention coalition, the AHM Drug Task Force," Rosenberg stated.

The release furthered those sentiments.

"The history of local partnerships between the AHM Board of Directors and the Municipal Oversight Committee, combined with the past collaborations formed through AHM's Drug Task Force and Juvenile Review Board were all well documented. AHM has especially strong working relationships with the local schools and police. These community partnerships placed the regional community of Andover, Hebron and Marlborough in an excellent position to apply for this grant."

The AHM Drug and Alcohol Task Force formed in 1986 and consists of representatives from the schools, police, parents, residents, clergy and youth.

"There is tremendous excitement about how this funding can positively impact local prevention education and enforcement efforts," Rosenberg stated in the release.

He added this week the grant "is entirely for new initiatives. This is not to replace existing services or existing cost."

Rosenberg explained the grant is meant to target three specific drugs: misuse of prescription medication, marijuana use and underage drinking.

Speaking on the focus areas, Rosenberg said the grant allows for targeting other substance

abuse related issues, however the three target areas were considered gateway drugs, and therefore important to focus on.

"The concern is that any drug that has the potential of serving as a gateway – of leading to other drug use – is highly problematic," he stated.

In order to address these areas, the grant money will go toward ten specific goals.

Rosenberg shared, "One of them is setting up a youth commission whose purpose will be to create special programs considered peer-to-peer and also youth-to-adult; meaning a group of young people that will become speakers and coordinators of speaking presentations on behalf of the drug task force in those areas."

Another goal the grant will help achieve, he continued, involves law enforcement and creating initiatives such as an anonymous party text to tip line.

"And the idea there is to eliminate, throughout the region, underage drinking at parties," Rosenberg explained. "That's pretty clear. It's called the party patrol program, in partnership with state police."

Another initiative the grant will go toward, Rosenberg shared, is the creation of a marketing campaign "aimed at both students and adults, again, targeting those three drug areas."

According to the release, the remaining goals include: the expansion of AHM Task Force membership to involve more local stakeholders in efforts to reduce youth alcohol and marijuana use and prescription drug misuse; to expand support to Project Graduation in order to build community interest in efforts that help young people and adults better understand and respect laws around drinking and driving; the purchase of alcohol sensors for school and community events to deter underage drinking/drug use; and to support resident troopers' enforcement efforts to deter underage drinking and drug use in the region.

Rosenberg added the grant isn't a matching grant, meaning no local taxpayer dollars are needed to match any part of the initiatives.

"This is all being funded through this grant which is very, very exciting," he stated, and concluded in the release, "This grant award is a tribute to all who have served on the task force over the past 28 years and all who plan to support these efforts moving forward the next ten years."

For more information about the AHM Drug Task Force go to ahmyouth.org.

Marlborough Selectmen Forward Public Works Projects

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Multiple public works projects are moving forward after the Oct. 7 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Regarding the water system project, Peter Hughes, director of planning and development, said he met with Trademark, the company the town is working with, and it's confirmed they will not be connecting School Drive up to Route 66 and will instead utilize connections in the well house and to wells four and five.

Work on the water project will begin in November once contracts are signed. Some work will be completed this fall and the rest will be done in the spring.

Related to Phase III of the sewer project, the item will head to town meeting on Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. The edited presentation will highlight the bonds that will be paid off, that the project is debt neutral, that the town has been approved for clean water funds and will also show the comparison of sewer fees from surrounding towns or towns with recent sewer projects.

The board also voted to approve—via a public hearing—making Rhonda Drive a town road contingent on its completion in the middle of November.

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski reported a letter was sent out to all who will be affected by the South Road Culvert Replacement project. Work on that project will begin in November and the road will be closed for 3-5 days.

In planning for the STEAP Fiscal Year 2015, Hughes went on to propose a potential project. He suggested the expansion of the water system, drilling additional wells and constructing a larger storage tank. There is currently one large well and one smaller well in terms of yield. Hughes said that additional wells would secure the flow.

Andrew Ketchum completed his Eagle Scout ceremony while Scout Jason MacDonald proposed a project to the board. MacDonald said he plans on building a bocce ball court at the senior center along with sanding and restoring picnic benches at the site.

The 315-acre Saner property off Route 66 heading toward Hebron will be purchased by the DEEP after they were awarded \$684,000 from the National Park Water and Service fund to pay for the property.

The Marlborough Rural Roads Enforcement Grant ended successfully, Gaudinski reported, with 104 speeding tickets, 18 moving violation tickets, three cell phone tickets and two misdemeanor summons' for operating under suspension. The grant also allowed for the purchase of two new laser units.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. in the MES cafeteria. This will include the town meeting for Phase III of the sewer project.

Inaugural Energy Expo Coming to East Hampton

by John Tyczkowski

This Saturday afternoon, Sears Park will be a focal point for clean, sustainable energy use and energy conservation in East Hampton.

John Greeno, chair of the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force, said there will be a variety of topics for residents to learn about from 1 - 4 p.m. Oct. 18.

"We'll be encouraging the goals of the task force, which include reducing municipal energy consumption by 20 percent by 2018, as well as reducing residential and commercial energy consumption while promoting clean energy alternatives," he said.

Greeno also shared the expo will feature contractors and representatives from state energy campaigns to help inform homeowners and business owners about financing energy conserving and clean energy renovations at "no or little cost" to themselves.

"They'll be talking about incentives, rebates and financing for clean and renewable energy upgrades," he said. "There's some very attractive zero percent and 2.99 percent loans available for clean energy upgrades for homes and businesses."

In further detail, these upgrades include solar power for residential and commercial prop-

erties, as well as HVAC upgrades, geothermal power and general energy conservation improvements including building insulation.

In order to reach the widest possible audience, scheduled presentations and workshops from clean energy companies on those topics will be staggered throughout the day, Greeno said.

"Every hour, we'll be having a series of presentations," he said. "So if someone wants to attend the solar presentation at 1 p.m., but also a heating presentation, they can catch the second one when the presentations cycle around again at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m."

Greeno also said that this "is a new campaign for us," and that this is the Task Force's first clean energy event since it re-formed last year.

"A number of other communities around the state have held similar events, and we thought we'd adopt some of the same methods that other towns have used, and bring it here and see how it works," he said.

Also, he said, when residents participate in clean energy improvements for their homes or businesses, the town earns points toward clean energy grants from the state for "green" mu-

nicipal building improvements.

In addition, the contractors participating this Saturday will be helping out the town in another way.

"They agreed to donate a portion of their proceeds to East Hampton's food and fuel bank," Greeno said. "It's a nice way they're giving back to the community."

Solar contractors attending the fair are C-Tec for residential buildings and EarthLight for small businesses. A&B Mechanical Services will be presenting on geothermal heating and cooling, as well as ductless mini-split improvements to HVAC systems.

Along with the above, New England Conservation Services and Victory Energy Solutions will be presenting on general energy conservation in the home. Specific programs tailored to that objective include Home Energy Solutions, which is a one-time upgrade service, and Home Performance with EnergyStar.

"[The Home Performance with EnergyStar] program allows homeowners to take advantage of incentives to make more improvements to their homes beyond what they'd do with Home Energy Solutions," Greeno said.

Greeno also mentioned that the Task Force

has only four of its seven member slots filled, and anyone interested in joining can talk to him or any Task Force member on Saturday.

"We'll all be there, just find us and we'll be glad to talk to you about it," he said.

More urgently, Greeno added that in order to implement its next project this fall, a solar energy campaign sponsored by the town as part of the CT Solar Challenge, the Task Force needs those additional members.

Along with the presentations, the expo will also have refreshments for attendees in the form of doughnuts and cider. In addition, The Bus, a local band comprised of Michael Cleary, Eric Kuhn and Paul Bozzi will be on hand to provide entertainment in the form of rock and reggae covers and original music.

"We're really encouraging folks to take part in this," Greeno said. "Our goal is to promote energy conservation and renewable energy use throughout the whole town, so we want the event to attract the community."

* * *

For more information on the event or on joining the Clean Energy Task Force contact Marty Podskoch at 860-267-2442 or at podskoch@comcast.net.

Portland Selectmen to Develop Concrete Plan for Sidewalks

by John Tyczkowski

On Wednesday night, the Board of Selectmen revisited the perennial town issue of sidewalk maintenance.

Selectman Brian Flood started a discussion on public sidewalks and the maintenance and liability involved that was touched upon at the last meeting. He said he wanted to know what the town has done to identify problem areas and if the town has warned people about them where they exist.

Public Works Director Rick Kelsey responded to Flood's questions, saying if he conducted sidewalk inspections, he would be obligated to take action.

"If I inspect a sidewalk, I'm bound to notify the First Selectwoman who would have to follow a town ordinance and write a letter to [the homeowner whose property contains the sidewalk] and say, 'You have so many days to improve your sidewalk, and if you don't, we're going to do that and ask for the money from you,'" he said.

According to a town ordinance, homeowners are responsible for maintaining and repairing the sidewalks in front of their property. This is in addition to the relevant state statute, which specifies that homeowners must take care of snow and ice removal on sidewalks in front of their houses.

Along those lines, he said that sidewalks on state highways, such as Main Street, are in especially bad shape.

"We have not been proactive in making people repair poor sidewalks along those roads," Kelsey said.

To put things in perspective, Kelsey said he estimated there is about 700,000 feet of sidewalks in town, with about 10 percent needing urgent repairs.

On a smaller scale, Kelsey said he had to estimate the cost of a 700-foot length of sidewalk on Main Street from Middlesex to Peterson's when applying for a grant, and he also laid out what that would mean for a homeowner under the town ordinance.

"The cost to replace that sidewalk was about \$46,670" he said. "So if you break that down to Mrs. Smith who lives on whatever street you want and who has to pay for 100 feet of side-

walk, she's looking at ten grand."

Flood said the relevant state statute only passes liability to homeowners in the event of a sidewalk related injury relating to snow and ice problems, not defects to the sidewalk.

However, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and Kelsey said that in the past, property owners have also been held liable for defect-related sidewalk injuries.

The selectmen agreed to research the relevant laws for the next meeting.

Flood suggested that the town actively repair lengths of sidewalk in place of its current role of notifying homeowners to make repairs themselves.

"If the town places a sidewalk through your front yard, the town has an obligation to take care of it," he said. "But with the way we do it now, having a sidewalk seems like an unattractive imposition. The town says 'We'll put a sidewalk in your front yard, but you have to fix it and maintain it.' That seems unfair to me."

Selectman Fred Knous said he had heard of ways towns were involved directly in maintenance duties. He cited Southington, which had the town perform maintenance in the case of sidewalks used heavily by children walking to school. He also brought up the idea that town-owned trees are damaging many sidewalks in town, and Kelsey said in that case, the town assumes responsibility.

Kelsey offered a compromise to the selectmen, which consisted of letting a group of homeowners work through a contractor to keep costs down while simultaneously improving a stretch of sidewalk.

"We'll bear part of the burden, property owners will bear part of the burden," he said. "It may be a good option to get where we want to go."

Kelsey said he had been trying to get that compromise going since 2005.

Ultimately, the board decided to revisit the sidewalk matter at the next meeting after more research into the interplay between the state statute and the town ordinance, and after researching what other towns have done in this situation.

The board also said they would develop a concrete master plan on sidewalk maintenance,

and said they planned to call a public hearing on the issue.

* * *

The board also discussed what to do about aging traffic signals on Main Street, which had been touched upon at the last meeting.

Two traffic signals, at the Middlesex Avenue and Fairview Street intersections, have been suffering chronic malfunctions, Kelsey said.

"They're all in bad shape, they're very old, they're going to cost us a lot of money to maintain," he stated.

However, since Main Street is also Route 17A, a state highway, the option exists for the state to fix the lights, Bransfield said. In that case, the state would then own the lights and maintain them for the town.

Bransfield said in order for that to happen, the state is asking for a commitment from the town to cover 10 percent of the total cost to fix the lights, which is slated to be \$300,000 for both lights.

In addition, Portland would be added to a queue of towns with older traffic lights, and as such the implementation of the design phase traffic light replacement might not occur until 2020, according to a letter from the state to the town.

She also said that the state wants a "yes" or "no" response by Dec. 5 regarding the 10 percent commitment, and if the town commits, the \$30,000 would be part of a long-range capital plan.

Bransfield furthered the state is "asking for a commitment now," but the town, if it committed, wouldn't need to provide any money until later.

Kelsey was enthusiastic about the idea. "\$30,000 is a bargain plain and simple," he said. "Take them up on their offer."

Kelsey said he could keep fixing the lights, but the last time he performed repairs, he recalled it cost around \$4,000.

"I can keep on repairing the lights, but this is the better deal," he said.

The board, minus Deputy First Selectwoman Kathleen Richards who was absent, made a motion to authorize Bransfield to sign the commitment with the state; the motion passed unanimously.

* * *

Bransfield also announced the resignation of 12-year Selectman Mark Finkelstein. Finkelstein had stepped up to the board to fill a vacancy in 2002, and had been re-elected to five terms in the following years.

In a letter from Finkelstein that Bransfield read at the meeting, he said his decision had not been taken lightly, but "after considerable deliberation."

"I've enjoyed my years on the board and most especially the most recent years," he said in the letter. "I believe that the selectmen work in harmony for the best interests of our beloved town, and I have no doubt they will continue to do so."

Bransfield said Finkelstein had let her know he was resigning on Friday.

Also, she issued a proclamation at the meeting, honoring Finkelstein for his service on the board.

"The town has greatly benefited and progressed to its present status because of Selectman Finkelstein's generous work, volunteering and leadership," she said.

She thanked Finkelstein on behalf of the town, and declared Oct. 15, 2014 to be Selectman Mark Finkelstein Day in Portland.

"It's very sad, because Mark has been a very, very good selectmen in terms of taking his job seriously," Bransfield said. "He's done an extremely good job."

Other selectmen echoed Bransfield.

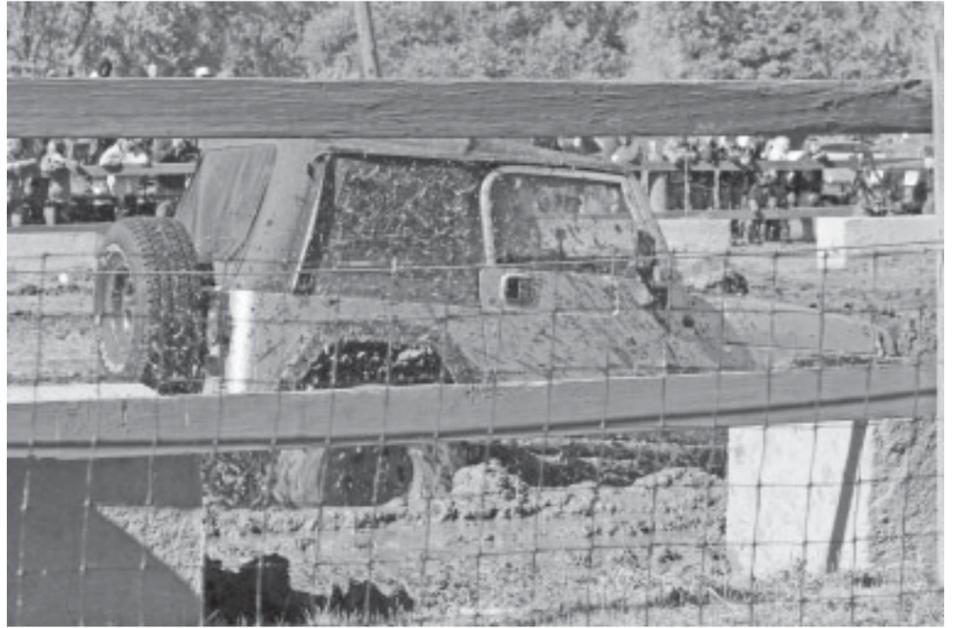
"It's a very big loss for the Board," Selectman Ryan Curley said. "He's brought a lot to the table and whoever replaces him is going to have some very big shoes to fill."

"He was the rock of the board, he was steady, it felt good to have him here with us," Selectman Carl Chudzick said. "He's going to be very well missed."

According to the town charter, the board has 45 days to appoint another selectman from the same political party.

* * *

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will occur Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Flood Room of the Portland Public Library.



To the left, a selection of prizewinning crops adorns a table at the fair Saturday. Fall vegetables such as pumpkins and gourds, as well as summer vegetables such as peppers and tomatoes won awards. To the right, a Jeep Wrangler forces its way through the mud at the fair's first annual Dirty Ditch Mud Run. A collection of street legal and modified vehicles contended at Sunday's mud bogging event.

Portland Fair Bounces Back from Rainy Saturday

by John Tyczkowski

This year's fair enjoyed a strong start and finish, but had some stop-up in the middle. Due to the heavy rain Saturday morning, attendance dipped down on Saturday and never quite picked back up again that day, according to Don Bascom, president of the Portland Fair Association.

"We had a very strong start Friday night, then things dropped off on Saturday because of the rain," he said. "But on Sunday we had a record crowd, so attendance averaged out overall and we had a good fair."

Bascom said that despite the rain, the fair started on time Saturday, though they had to cancel the antique tractor pull scheduled for that morning.

"We had people coming in the middle of the rain that morning," he recalled. "But the majority showed up later in the day when it cleared and warmed up."

Though last year marked the Fair Association's recovery from its financial loss due to the fair's cancellation in 2011, Bascom said the trend of being in the black continued this year.

"It looks like we're good," he said.

(The 2011 cancellation occurred due to flood damage at the fairgrounds from Tropical Storm Irene and the inability to secure a satisfactory replacement venue in time for October.)

New to the fair this year was the Dirty Ditch Mud Run mud bog on Sunday, which Bascom said was an idea of the truck pull organizers.

Essentially, there was a course dug with several pits filled with mud, and vehicles had to negotiate the ups and downs without getting stuck and requiring retrieval by a bulldozer.

"The mud bogging was very popular," Bascom said. "At one point I had to tell my staff not to drive their golf carts around there because there were so many people watching [the mud bogging]."

Sunday also included the fourth annual canine costume contest, the Halloween Contest for Pooches, which included four prize categories.

Yoda, a pug, won best character as Olaf, the snowman from *Frozen*. Kyla Porter also got into the act by dressing up as Elsa, one of the movie's main characters.

Jason and Julie Porter, Kyla's parents, said this was their first year entering Yoda into the costume contest.

"We decided why not," Julie said. "And it was a lot of fun."

Jason said that Yoda was a rescue dog, which made the win even more special.

"His owners were going to dump him, so I picked him up and brought him home," he said. "And now he's won first place. He's come a long way."

Susan Bongiorno's dog Gizmo won Best in Show, while Kristin Gallmon's dog Mackenzie won Best in Fantasy/Sci-Fi. Gallmon also won Best Dog and Owner team with her dog Leah.

There were also plenty of other stand-bys which continued traditions the fair is well known for. These included amusements and rides from Coleman Bros. of Middletown, and a slew of contents including the children's talent show contest, the scarecrow decorating contest and several produce, livestock and baking contests.

The fair increased its musical offerings this year, too, and took advantage of its two stages on opposite ends of the fairgrounds to give fairgoers lots of music choices. For example on Saturday, Addison Station played modern hits at one stage while the Nifty Fifties played oldies at the other.

Despite all of the new features, the agricultural nature of the fair was still readily apparent, with pony rides, dairy and beef cattle showings, an oxen pull and a small livestock tent

where fairgoers could meet up with sheep and goats, as well as a variety of rabbits and chickens.

Also, food and drink were by no means neglected, as a full range of vendors serving up everything from baked potatoes to deep fried Oreos and fried dough were lined up in the center of the fairgrounds. There was also a beer tent for fairgoers over 21.

Plenty of tents representing various businesses around the area could be found as well, offering everything from leaf gutter guards to tarot card readings.

Bascom also said the fair had a record number of vendors this year.

"We've had some decent weather these past years, and attendance has been good," he said. "It seems they noticed that."

Finally, both the Republican and Democratic committees had booths at the fair, inviting fairgoers to stop by and chat with the candidates running for state representative this year.

Contest results and photos from this year's fair can be viewed at portlandfair.com. More photos from the fair can be viewed on the *Riverast News Bulletin's* Facebook page at facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin.

Those interested in becoming involved with planning next year's fair can attend Portland Fair Association meetings at the Grange Hall on Sage Hollow Road, held the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.



Kyla Porter and Yoda, as Elsa and Olaf from *Frozen*, take time from celebrating Yoda's first-place finish for a photo.

Brownie Baker Busted at RHAM

On Oct. 9, State Police arrested Heidi McLean, 50, of 6 Rivendell Rd., Marlborough and charged her with risk of injury, second-degree reckless endangerment, possession of marijuana and operating a drug factory.

Police said McLean was assisting a juvenile in manufacturing marijuana brownies that were later distributed at RHAM High School to other students.

Tri-Board Receives Colchester School Building Update

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The town and its architects, Tecton, are moving forward with reviewing multiple concepts for the new William J. Johnston Middle School.

Revamped as a school-only project after plans for a school combined with a senior center and community center was rejected by voters, the three boards met Wednesday to discuss the current progress of the project.

Tom Tyler, chair of the building committee, said the goal is to develop three options to take to the tri-boards to decide on. In the end, they are aiming for a spring referendum for the project.

Jeff Wyszynski of Tecton presented their plan for going forward with the project to the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and the Board of Education, along with some very rough numbers.

"We developed rough ideas for the configuration on the current site," Wyszynski said.

"We also want to keep on eye on the cost element early on," Tyler added. "These are rough footage costs."

Wyszynski said they started with developing how many square feet they would need for programmable space, which is space that can be used, for example, for classrooms. They then developed a total gross amount of square feet needed for the school.

"We need 113,325 square feet or so," Wyszynski said. "That is only the programmable space and not the corridors, etc."

Wyszynski added they had been working closely with WJJMS' principal and vice principal to get details on what's needed as far as the programmable space.

"It's a work in progress, but we're closer to where we need to be," Wyszynski said.

He furthered the state would also look at an eight-year enrollment by NESDEC, the New

England School Development Council, that would then be used to determine what the state considers a necessary size.

"A new building you can mess around" with the square footage, Wyszynski said. "If you take the older [building] and renovate, you can't as much."

In 2011, WJJMS held 700 students. Currently that number is as 631 and the projection for 2017-18 is 568, Wyszynski said.

But he added, "It may change upward."

(However, there was some discussion at the meeting over what the actual enrollment would be—and whether it was going to increase or decrease.)

Wyszynski went on to show the boards some potential layout options and a combination of plans that would involve renovating the current building, demolishing part of the current building and the new building.

The cost of the project seemed to stay around approximately \$20 million for the town; the state's current new school building reimbursement rate is 51.43 percent, so the project would be around \$40 million total.

"The existing building is 142,000 square feet," Wyszynski said. "It's much larger than needed for the population."

The architects went on to assure the boards they are carefully considering what to do with the students during construction no matter which plan is decided upon, so that the students are not displaced.

They also discussed the second gym.

Wyszynski said the current problem faced by the school is that if attempts are made to try and keep the second gym, the state could take the 16,500 square feet of the gym from the total amount of space the school needs. This would take away square feet from other parts of the school. However there may be an option



Jeff Wyszynski of Tecton Architects presented plans for moving forward with the WJJMS building project to the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and the Board of Education Wednesday night.

for the school to take ownership of the second gym and have it not count toward the total square feet of the building project.

"It has good bones and we understand it's an important feature," Wyszynski said of the second gym. "There's no reason to demolish it. However the square feet of the gym takes away from the educational space you're allowed. We need to discuss the options."

The anticipated schedule for the project, according to Tecton, includes a lot of work this fall into December and finalizing the design in

January for a referendum in the spring.

"Our next steps are to decide the student population, verify programs based on population, refine the concepts to three options, discuss the target budget, prepare the refined options with pros and cons and present the options to the building committee and the tri-board," Wyszynski said.

The next tri-board meeting regarding the school building will be Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at town hall.

P&Z Commission Continues Colchester POCD Review

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The Planning and Zoning Commission met again Wednesday to complete their review of the Plan of Conservation and Development.

The Plan of Conservation and Development is meant to help guide the future of the town by looking at where the town is today and how things are going, evaluating what could happen in the future, selecting outcomes, and recommending policies and programs to help accomplish the vision of the plan. The plan is also used to establish the language needed for some grant programs and other community initiatives.

The first half of the plan, reviewed by the commission in September, focused on conservation, while the second half focuses on development.

A big part of the discussion, led by Glen Chalder of Planimetrics, the company hired to put together the plan, related to how to get businesses into the town center and which kinds of businesses they would want at that location versus Westchester.

"We need to find appropriate roles for each area," Chalder said. "You may have larger box stores in one part of town and more niche walking and dining somewhere else."

Ultimately the commission decided Westchester would be better for the larger stores and the town center is better for the walking and dining areas.

A bump in the road regarding businesses that the commission discussed was the difference between encouraging not only new buildings for businesses but also filling the vacant properties that currently exist.

"How do we get parcels that are ready to be developed occupied?" Town Planner Adam Turner asked. "There's plenty of spaces ready to go."

Turner specifically mentioned the Galaxy Shops being half empty and asked if the town could be doing more to get those spaces occupied.

Selectman Bill Curran said filling the vacant spaces has not been as important because those monies are in the form of state sales tax and don't go to the town. Curran said they want things such as the proposed sports center that raises the top line and adds taxes to the town.

"Economic development is not just taxes it's jobs," Turner said. "People worry driving through town and seeing vacant spots. There's even boarded up buildings in front of town hall."

Curran mentioned there may be the potential for a future economic development staff person—which was added to the plan—who could help in that area.

Chalder told the commission they should consider shifting the Colchester Business Association to a possible Chamber of Commerce

that would be more focused on adding new businesses rather than just covering the businesses currently in town.

Turner went on to point out that the town does have a bus stop on the town green, but the stop isn't really promoted.

"People use those things," Turner said. "They wait and they use commerce and grab coffee."

Turner also pointed out they would need to take another look at parking at the town center.

Chalder added the commission should look into the ownership of the town green. Currently the ownership is split between the town and the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees. He explained, "My understanding is that the two do not always agree on the use of the green. The town green should belong to the town."

The commission said they had one of those conflicts recently with the classic car show and the farmers market, however it was stated the issue was more management than ownership, because the green gets double booked by Colchester Parks and Recreation.

Another reason mentioned for possibly consolidating the town green's ownership was parking. Currently, board members said the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees has been known to veto shrinking the green a bit to add more parking. If the green was entirely town owned, the town could make that decision for itself.

On the topic of town greens and Westchester, Chalder said the plan currently says the concept of a green in Westchester is needed, but the plan doesn't necessarily state a location. Turner said he remembered speaking with the Westchester Market awhile ago about making a section of green near the market into a town green, but nothing had come to fruition.

The last topic covered by the commission was housing. The commission agreed that blight is one of the town's biggest issues and a lot depends on the blight ordinances being passed in legislature since that ordinance was put on hold at the state level.

"Who knows what they'll do next year" after elections, Turner said.

They agreed there is a need for more multi-family homes and encouraging more recreation in town such as equestrian use of the Airline Trail.

Chalder said he will now go back and make the edits the commission discussed, and said the draft may go before the commission again in December before it will go to the community for comments in the New Year.

The next regularly scheduled Colchester Planning & Zoning meeting is Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. in town hall.

Colchester Education Board Discusses Enrollment

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Enrollment in Colchester schools is going to keep looking up, according to predictions by the New England School Development Council or NESDEC.

Superintendent Jeff Mathieu said after the surprise addition of 60 students this school year, including 17 kindergarteners, he put in a request for information regarding expected enrollment. With the addition of so many kindergarteners, the district had to hire an eighth kindergarten teacher to keep class sizes around 20 children.

During the Board of Education meeting Tuesday, Mathieu reported NESDEC claims enrollment will continue to increase in 2015 and 2016 (however there have been conflicting numbers regarding enrollment from the building committee, the architects and the Board of Education. At Wednesday's tri-board meeting, data was presented that seems to show the school population will decrease).

Mathieu explained at the meeting NESDEC works on an algorithm based off the local housing market. From 1999 to 2005, the district averaged 202 single family homes sold per year in the town. However in 2009, that number dropped significantly to 122 homes sold. It continued to drop until 2012 when it rose from 102 homes to 111 homes. Last year in 2013, NESDEC reported that 122 homes were sold.

However, along with the helpful information regarding enrollment, Mathieu said the data plays a large part in the WJMS building project regarding how big the school would

need to be.

"The other part of it is that [First Selectman] Stan Soby quoted from the U.S. Census that says Connecticut's population should remain stable in 2030," Mathieu said. "People are not leaving the state. It's remaining stable so we shouldn't expect enrollment to continue to decline."

* * *

Also during the meeting, Mathieu proposed a slightly different process for interviewing new potential principals for Bacon Academy. Currently, Don Gates is the interim principal.

"The only difference is the first part," Mathieu said. "The steering committee will hold 20 minute interviews so we can reach more people. When the committee hands over the six candidates, they will have met the first round of screening."

Mathieu said the purpose of this is to be able to reach a larger audience when traditionally, the larger group may see only eight to 10 candidates.

"The big group will now get the A+ candidates," Mathieu said. "We wanted to see more potential candidates and if I limit it to 20 minutes, we can see a greater volume before handing it over."

The position will begin being advertised for in December and the final round of interviews will take place in March 2015.

* * *

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. at town hall.

Andover Police News

10/6: State Police said Kevin Connors, 60, of 274 Skinner Ln., Hebron, and Barbara Mclean-Pelletier, 66, of 135 East St., Windsor, were transported to the hospital with injuries after Mclean-Pelletier rear ended Connors on Route 6.

Hebron Police News

10/11: State Police said they are investigating after a crash on Main Street. Police said two vehicles collided mirrors and one vehicle fled the scene. Glass from the window injured a juvenile in the other car. The vehicle that fled is described as a smaller white Toyota pick-up. Anyone with information can call Hebron Resident State Trooper Greenwood at 860-465-5455 x 4022.

10/12: State Police said Richard Jensen, 34,

of 162 Wall St., was arrested and charged with interfering with an emergency call and disorderly conduct.

10/14: State Police said Andrew Hart, 21, of 28 Ruby Rd., Willington; William Meek, 33, of 261 Elm St., Holyoke, Mass.; and Roseanne Oleary, 57, of 75 Yorkshire Dr., Hebron, sustained possible injuries after a collision at a crosswalk on the Airline Trail. Oleary was charged with following too closely.

Colchester Police News

10/8: Colchester Police said they are investigating after a home was broken into on West Road and someone stole several vacuum cleaners. It is believed this incident occurred sometime between Oct. 4 and Oct. 5.

10/8: Colchester Police said Charles James Venti, 74, of 156 Wall Street was transported with minor injuries to the Marlborough Clinic after two cars collided on Broadway by Cragin Court.

10/8: Colchester Police said they are investigating a burglary/larceny into a residence on Old Hebron Road. Entry was forced into the residence and several items were taken.

10/8: State Police said Clifton Cooke, 32, of 19 Woodland Ave., Bloomfield, was arrested and charged with operating under suspension and disobeying the signal of an officer on a warrant. He was also charged with fourth-degree larceny and second-degree forgery on a separate warrant.

10/8: State Police said Joseph Gamache, 41, of 191 Stanauge Rd., was arrested and charged with failure to appear on a warrant.

10/9: Colchester Police said they are investigating a residential burglary on Scott Hill Road. Sometime between 3:30-4 p.m., an unknown person forced entry and took items from the home. Anyone with information is asked to call the Colchester police at 860-537-7270.

10/9: State Police said Denise Karle, 48, of 32 Mill St., was arrested and charged with theft of a motor vehicle plate, improper markers and failure to meet insurance coverage on a warrant.

10/10: State Police said Douglas Richard Morello, 49, of 21 Rose Garden Ln., Norwich, was arrested and charged with reckless driving

and impersonation of an officer on a warrant.

10/10: Colchester Police said they are investigating a burglary on Dutton Road. Forced entry was made through a back door and multiple pieces of jewelry were stolen. Anyone with information can call Officer Goss at 860-537-7270.

10/10: Colchester Police said Allison Byrd, 25, of 658 Tower Ave., Hartford, was transported with possible injuries to the Marlborough Clinic after a two-car crash on Old Hartford Road. The other driver, Michaela Feliciano, 30, of 29 Haddam Neck Rd., East Hampton, also reported possible injuries.

10/10: State Police said a juvenile was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana, paraphernalia and possession of tobacco by a minor.

10/11: State Police said Geoffrey Assselin, 25, of 280 Parum Rd., was arrested and charged with reckless driving and reckless endangerment.

10/12: State Police said Joshua Metivier, 27, of 216 Prospect Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane.

10/13: State Police said Dillon Haines, 25, of 766 Tobacco St., Lebanon, was arrested and charged with failure to appear on a warrant.

10/14: Colchester Police said Roberta Kenyon, 62, of 215 Joshuatown Rd., Lyme, was arrested and charged with operating under the influence and operating under suspension.

10/14: Diane Brosseau, 48, of 55 Bear Swamp Rd., Andover, was arrested and charged with two counts of second-degree assault, DUI and failure to drive right.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Geeta Schrayter

For me, the things to like best about October in New England include warm days and crisp nights, the retirement of iced beverages in favor of toasty sips, brightly colored leaves that crunch beneath my feet, pumpkin picking, apple fritters, and simply enjoying the outdoors – especially when my niece pays a visit.

I definitely agree with playwright George Bernard Shaw, who once said "we don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing." And for the most part, I have no problem enjoying—and owning up to enjoying—activities some might scoff at as being for children. I'll never stop loving Disney for example, or my obsession with Cinderella. I own my love of chocolate milk (especially when enjoyed through a straw) and there's never a wrong time for board games.

But despite the above, it can be all too easy to get caught up in the boring side of adulthood at times. Between work schedules and other obligations that make 24-hours seem not nearly enough, play can easily get pushed aside.

That's where my niece comes in. A visit from her serves as reminder that the simplest things are often the best, and play is important no matter the age. This time her stay included running around the green, blowing bubbles, going for a walk on a gorgeous autumn day, sipping chocolate milk (of course) and coloring. Her shrieks of laughter because of those simple activities were infectious, and there's no other way I'd have rather spent the day.

* * *

In addition to the above, October is also good for Halloween fun.

Prior to All Hallows Eve, I like to enjoy a few scary events like the Trail of Terror in Wallingford and the Dark Walk in Andover, which I'll be attending tomorrow (the event runs this weekend and next, and proceeds benefit the Channel 3 Kids Camp). If I'm feeling particularly brave, I'll also sit through a scary movie or two and listen to everything that's happening while I stare at my palms, pressed to my face, or look through the slits between my fingers. I don't do well with fear. But then again, who does?

If we're going by the number of tickets sold to see horror films in America this year, that would be 22,217,245 people give or take a few, according to the-numbers.com. Horror isn't the highest grossing category by any means; in fact, it's one of the lowest, accounting for just 2.26 percent of this year's movie revenue, or \$181.3 million. The highest grossing genre, by comparison, is adventure, which makes up 27.83 percent and has grossed \$2.2 billion so far this year.

Even so, I don't think it's unfair to say horror films have quite the following. Twenty-two million. That's a good amount of people who like having the wits scared out of them. ...Or do they?

Here's where I get to toss out some proof I actually paid attention in college (some of the time anyway). One of the more interesting theories I learned was Excitation Transfer Theory by Dolf Zillmann. The theory contends that the emotion caused by one activity can heighten the emotions felt as the result of another activity (if three conditions are present). In short, the emotions—which don't have to be the same—build on each other, so that the final emotion felt is greater than the initial feeling.

This, I think anyway, explains why I keep

watching horror movies despite being easily scared; first I feel fear, but then, once the movie's over, I'm excited I made it through the whole thing (never mind that my eyes were closed the majority of the time). The excitement stacks on top of the fear, and since it's more intense, it's enough to make me forget how scared I was and sit through another film in the future.

The theory can apply to other activities, like watching movies, riding roller coasters or running a marathon. At mile 20 there's aches, there's pains, there's complete exhaustion. But at 26.2 there's elation, which piles on top of the former feelings. Combine that with some pretty great endorphins, and it's enough to make you want to sign up for another race before you can even walk up the stairs like a normal person again.

* * *

Speaking of endorphins, many people don't know they can be released by simply smiling. And according to research, even faking a smile can lead to feeling happier.

In a 1988 study published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, the authors tested the facial feedback phenomenon—that is, that people's facial activity can influence their reactions. To do this, they had one group of people hold a pen between their teeth (which forced them to smile) and rate the degree of humor in cartoons. Another group was told to do the same task while holding the pen between their lips without touching their teeth (which creates a frown). The authors hypothesized that those who were led to smile would rate the cartoons as funnier than those who were frowning—and they were right!

* * *

For me at least, one of the keys to happiness is good food. As such, I'm always interested in food-related news and working to ensure I enjoy, and feed my loved ones, nothing but the best. Recently, I read an article about a number of international foods that are banned in the United States. Most of the items included were banned for health and safety reasons, like the Japanese puffer fish Fugu, which contains potentially lethal amounts of tetrodotoxin if not prepared properly; and Casu Marzu, an Italian cheese that contains live insect larvae.

I don't have any qualms with the list (I've no real desire to eat anything that's listed, including shark fins and beluga caviar) but it does make me shake my head when I think about most of these bans purportedly being for my health, especially considering the number of ingredients allowed in a lot of common American foods that are banned in other countries.

Among *that* list are certain coloring agents, synthetic hormones, brominated vegetable oil, potassium bromate, Azodicarbonamide, and other ingredients various international studies have found to be carcinogenic or pose health problems. Even arsenic—yes, arsenic—which the Federal Drug Administration permits in chicken feed is on the list.

It's enough to make me steer clear of most center aisles in the grocery store (where the more processed foods tend to be) and want to try out my great aunt's mentality: "I don't eat anything I can't pronounce."

* * *

I'm sort of known for my love of corny jokes. In light of that fact, and the arrival of fall: what do you use to mend a jack-o-lantern? Why, a pumpkin patch of course!

Marlborough Police News

10/8: State Police said Evan Bromley, 21, of 16 Glenwood Dr., was arrested and charged with possession of narcotics and DUI.

10/9: State Police said they are investigating a burglary on Planeta Road into a locked equipment shed. The lock was cut off and numerous power equipment items were taken including three Echo trimmers, two tree shapers, three 22" push lawn mowers, two brush hog type

mowers and an ATV county line sprayer. Anyone with information can contact Officer Ransom at Troop K.

10/9: State Police said Ladisomar Lugo, 26, of 18 Hazel St., Hartford, was arrested and charged with DWI and reckless driving.

10/13: State Police said Deane Burkhart, 43, of 203 South Main St., Marlborough, was arrested and charged with second-degree forgery.

Obituaries

Colchester

Richard H. Olson

Richard Harold Olson, "Dick", 84, of Colchester, beloved husband of Dorothy "Dot" (Tittmore) Olson, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 8 at the Chestelm HCC in Moodus.

Born Dec. 31, 1929 in Braintree, Mass., he was a son of the late Albert C. and Elsie (Bohlin) Olson. Dick had served proudly with the Army Reserves during the 1950s.

Mr. Olson had worked as a photo engraver his entire working life and was a proud member of the Printers Union, he had served as a Union Steward for a time.

He enjoyed traveling, both for work and pleasure, and his most memorable times were those had while vacationing and camping with his family. An avid gardener, he enjoyed teaching others his skills. Dick was an enthusiastic fan of the Boston Red Sox and UConn Huskies. He was also a Deacon and Sunday School teacher at Westchester Congregational Church as well as a founding member of Boy Scout Troop 109 there in 1967.

In addition to his loving wife of 61 years, he is survived by five children, Sandra and Bernard Coulombe of East Hampton, Jean Nowak of Colchester and Kurt Nowak of Manchester, Mark and Barbara Olson Bosse of Colchester, Eric and Melissa Olson of Snohomish, Wash., and Carol and Robert Bengtson of Monroe, Wash.; nine grandchildren, Beth, Sarah, Kathryn, Megan, Dorothy, Robin, Rosemary, Heidi and Zachary; eight great grandchildren; three brothers, Robert, Roger and John Olson; and numerous extended family members and friends, especially his beloved neighbors in the Comstock Bridge area.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday Nov. 1 at 1 p.m. at the Colchester Federated Church, located at 60 Main St (on the Green). There are no calling hours and burial will be private.

Dot will be traveling to Washington State in late October to spend time with Dick's family, as well as her own, and a private service will be held there.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to The Carter Center, 453 Freedom Pkwy., Atlanta, GA 30307; the Salvation Army, 440 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY 10994-1739; or The Jimmy Fund, 10 Brookline Place West, 6th Fl., Brookline, MA 02445-7226.

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

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Josephine M. Norton

Josephine M. Norton, 94 of Pompano Beach, Fla., formerly of Portland, passed away Monday, Oct. 6. She was the wife of the late Chief David J. Norton.

Born on Sept. 18, 1920 in Portland, she was the daughter of the late James and Angelina (Lastrina) Ruitto. She lived in Portland for



most of her life before moving to Florida a few years ago. She worked for Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown for many years until her retirement.

She leaves her son, Joseph "J.J." Bials of Portland and his former wife, Olive Bials of Portland; a daughter, Patricia Collins and her husband, James of Pompano Beach, Fla.; brothers, Joseph Ruitto and his wife, Donna of Englewood, Fla., Angelo Ruitto of Port Orange Fla., Salvatore Ruitto and his wife, Joan of New London, Conn., and Dominic Ruitto and his wife, Barbara of Portland; grandchildren, Diane Law and her husband Roger, JoAnn Dixon and her husband Denis; great-grandchildren, Brianna Ayers, Thomas Law, Shannon Law, Joseph Lawrence Law, Erin Bials, Katie Bials and Benjamin Bials; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brothers, James, John, Michael and grandchildren, Joseph and Larry Bials.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Oct. 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. Relatives and friends may call on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Portland Fire Dept. P.O. Box 71 Portland, CT. 06480 or to FSH Society Inc., 450 Bedford St. Lexington, MA. 02420.

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

Portland

Edward J. Romanek

Edward J. Romanek, 87, of Portland, husband of the late Helen (Armstrong) Romanek passed away Tuesday, Oct. 14 at Hartford Hospital. He was the son of the late Alexander and Jedwiga (Zeniska) Romanek.

Born Feb. 18, 1927 in Bristol, he lived in Portland for most of his adult life. He worked at Standard Knapp for many years as an electrician before his retirement, and was also a U. S Navy veteran having served during World War II. He was a member of the Church of St. Mary in Portland, was an avid Boston Red Sox fan and enjoyed bowling.

He leaves his sons, Bruce Romanek and wife Louanne of Windsor Locks, and David Romanek and his wife Eileen of East Hampton; daughters, Carol Reneson and her husband Tony of East Hampton, and Susan Squires and her husband Barry of Enfield; eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by several brothers and a sister.

Funeral services were scheduled for today, Oct. 17, with a Mass at 10 a.m. at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial was to follow in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland, and relatives and friends were to call on the family from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK. 73123-1718.

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

Colchester

Robert Paul Genesi

Robert "Bob" Paul Genesi of Colchester and formerly North Adams, Mass., passed away suddenly at home Tuesday, Oct. 14. Born in North Adams on June 30, 1952, Bob was the firstborn son of Paul and Theresa (Boudreau) Genesi.

In addition to his parents, he leaves his loving and devoted wife of 29 years, Susan Lillian Genesi; his brother, Rick and sister-in-law Caroline Genesi of Orlando, Fla; three nephews, Brandon, Bryce and Brett; and many family members and friends. He leaves his beloved cats, Atticus and Scout, and joins Hepburn.

Prior to his retirement, Bob worked in retail sales. He was known for his sense of humor, and was well liked by his co-workers and customers. In his leisure time, Bob loved to be with his wife and cats, and enjoyed the outdoors, gardening, cooking, and reading. He was an animal lover and an avid Boston Red Sox fan.

True to his generous nature, Bob was able to give the gift of sight and life through organ donation. Bob would want you to remember him for his love of life, and to embrace every day.

There will be a private memorial service for the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Protectors of Animals, 144 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06118 (poainc.org/HowToHelp).

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Diane J. Carragher

Diane J. Carragher passed away Wednesday, Oct. 8 at home in Portland, Ore. She was born Feb. 21, 1950 and raised in Colchester.

She attended St. Bernard's High School and Briarwood College, and then later moved west to be closer to her grandchildren. Diane loved playing with her grandchildren and volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House in Portland. She was an avid reader and loved to spend time at the coast or in the garden. She will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her daughter, Sharon Freeland and her two grandchildren, Jake and Ryan, of Oregon; her brother and sisters, William Johnston, Dorothy O'Meara, and Donna Johnston of Connecticut; and many cousins and friends.

Funeral services were scheduled for today, Oct. 17 at 11 a.m. at St. Cecilia Church in Beaverton, Ore.

In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to the Ronald McDonald House Charities, rmhc.oregon.org.

East Hampton

Edith H. Peterson

Edith H. (Anderson) Peterson, 100, of East Hampton, widow of Irving L. Peterson, passed away peacefully Monday, Sept. 22.

Memorial Services were held Monday, Oct. 13 in the First Church of Christ, Congregational, 61 Main St., Unionville with Rev. Cynthia Carr officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492 or to the First Church of Christ, Congregational, 61 Main St., Unionville, CT 06085.

To leave online condolences visit ahernfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Ann Delores Estby

Ann D. (Behme Osborne) Estby of Hebron passed away Monday, Oct. 13.

Born Aug. 14, 1961, Ann made the dash from 1961 to 2014 count for all it was worth.

She attended Holy Trinity School ('75) and Lyman Hall High School ('79). Everywhere Ann lived, with every job she held, and every school and community organization she was involved in, she touched people with her gregarious personality and generous spirit. Ann tackled over two years of cancer treatments with the same determination that she lived her life. Her positive attitude helped her continue to do what she loved... spending time with her family, traveling, camping, motorcycle trips with her husband, karaoke nights, and even throwing herself one last big "Girl's Night In."

Her attitude always reflected the fact that someone was always worse off than she was, and she would do whatever she could to help anyone in need. Ann's presence and great sense of humor always lit up a room. Her parting words to the scores of friends and family who visited Ann in her last weeks were to live a full life, to take risks, and to let go of regrets. She will be dearly missed by so many.

Ann leaves her legacy behind in her loving family, devoted husband Jim Estby, daughter Melissa Osborne of Massachusetts; step-sons, Jeremy Osborne and Michael Osborne of Florida and Ryan Estby and Greg Estby of Hebron; her precious granddaughter, River and a second grandchild on the way; step-granddaughters, Lilly, Megan, and Julie; Ann's father, Bill Behme and step-mother, Marilyn Perkowski, of Wallingford; siblings Bill (Veronica) Behme of Wisconsin, Jill (Robert) Conaway of Wisconsin, and Jim (Michelle) Behme of Cheshire; nieces and nephews, Maggie, Juliana, Liam, Kristina, Adelaide, Jacy, Grant, and Alaina; as well as many close aunts, uncles; cousins and a multitude of friends who adored her. Ann is preceded in death by her mother, Judith Behme, and her maternal and paternal grandparents.

Ann's family will receive relatives and friends in The Wallingford Funeral Home, 809 N. Main St. Ext., Wallingford Saturday, Oct. 18, from 1-3 p.m. At 3 p.m. family and friends will have an opportunity to share memories of Ann. Interment will be private.

Ann wishes that any donations in her name be made to North Country Ministry, PO Box 111, North Creek, NY 12853 or the charity of your choosing.

Andover

Florence H. McCarthy

Florence H. McCarthy, 99, of Wallingford, died Thursday, Oct. 9 at Skyview Center. Born in Lawrence, she was the daughter of the late John McCarthy and Margaret (Hart) McCarthy of Andover. Raised and educated in Andover, she was a 1936 graduate of Lowell Teachers' College (UMass/Lowell) and was an elementary school teacher in the Andover school system.

In the early 1950s, Florence spent several years abroad, teaching the dependent children of American military personnel stationed in Japan and Germany. She returned to her position at Shawsheen School, retiring in 1977. She was a resident of Mary Immaculate Health Center in Lawrence prior to moving to Connecticut to reside with family.

She leaves her nephew, Paul Thomas, and his wife Patricia, with whom she resided; and two nieces, Mary-Margaret Keaney of Topsfield, and Carole Thomas of Wallingford; as well as numerous grand nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Reverend Daniel McCarthy and her sister, Marguerite Thomas.

There are no calling hours and interment is private. The Wallingford Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Those who remember Florence may leave a memorial message for her family at wallingfordfh.com.

Marlborough

Carol B. Maragnano

Carol B. Maragnano, 94, of Marlborough, formerly of East Hartford, loving wife of the late George C. Maragnano, died Friday, Oct. 10, at home after a brief illness with her family by her side.

Born July 20, 1920 in Davenport, Iowa, she was the third of nine children. She grew up in Rye, NY and moved to Hartford in 1940 in search of employment. There she met and married her one true love, George. Their family was raised in East Hartford for 50 years, during which time she wrote a column for the East Hartford Gazette, worked until she retired at CBT, was an active member of the Tekawitha Guild of St. Isaac Jogues parish, and was an active participant in East Hartford PTA's. She finally settled in Marlborough, where she enjoyed retirement and time spent with her large family but still saved time to volunteer at the Middletown Soup Kitchen. She was loved by all that knew her. She was a treasure to her extended family and will be sorely missed.

She leaves seven children, John G. Maragnano and his wife Claire of Norton, Mass., Carol Sanderson and her husband Guy of Naples, Fla., Barbara Ronski and her husband Stephen of Tolland, Marianne Blake and her husband Lawrence of Groveland, Fla., Thomas J. Maragnano and his wife Laura of Bristol, Susan Miller and her husband Wallace of Windham, N.H., William P. Maragnano and his wife Sandra of Windsor; twenty-eight grandchildren; thirty-nine great grandchildren; two brothers, James Black of Batesville, Ark., John Black of St. Cloud, Fla., and a sister Barbara McConville of Manchester.

Funeral services were Wednesday, Oct. 15 at the Mulryan Funeral Home in Glastonbury. A Mass of Christian Burial followed at St. Isaac Jogues Church in East Hartford, followed by burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, East Hartford.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Defy Gravity, memo line "Scholarship," 7432 E. Highway 50, Groveland, Fla 34736 or to the Marianist Mission, 4435 East Patterson Rd., Dayton, OH 45841-0001.

For online condolences visit mulryanfh.com.

Colchester

Paul Andrew Simonelli

Paul Andrew Simonelli, 49, of Cromwell, formerly of Colchester, died unexpectedly Oct. 7. He was predeceased by his father John Simonelli.

Paul's career spanned over thirty years in the elevator industry that included working for Westinghouse, Montgomery and eventually Kone. He was very active in IEUC local 91. Paul was long regarded as an industry expert and was occasionally sent to other states to fix those "impossible problems." Paul graduated from A.I.Prince Technical School and attended the Connecticut State Technical College to further hone his skills. Paul was an avid golfer and he truly enjoyed many hilarious rounds with his friends and his brother Steve plus his annual pilgrimage to Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Along with his former wife Debbie they opened JS Toy and Hobby Store in Salem, which sparked his passion for RC cars and airplanes. Paul was also a New York Giants Football fan and never missed an opportunity to cheer them on even during those many losing years. He especially enjoyed hosting his special Super Bowl party. Later in life Paul also developed a passion for NASCAR. Along with the rest of his family he shared a deep passion for cooking. He also spent many hours of his free time tinkering on his house. Paul was one of those special individuals you could always count on to be there for you in your time of need. He could never say no to family or friends.

He is survived by his mother Patricia (Shumski) Simonelli of Rocky Hill; his former wife Debbie of Colchester; his son John of Seattle, Wash.; and his daughter Abbey of Colchester. Paul also leaves his brother John and his wife Cathy and nieces Emily and Marissa of Broad Brook; niece Bryana and her husband Daniel of Franklin, Mass. and their new twin boys; his other beloved brother Steve of Cromwell; his aunt and uncle Peggy and Paul Patry of Saint Albans, Vt.; his very special uncle and aunt Jack and Emily DeRosa and their children Julie, Jackieann, John and Jenny of South Windsor; an uncle John Shumski of Colchester; his former in-laws Frank and Diane Gilchrist of Old Saybrook; as well as a former brother-in-law, Michael Gilchrist and his wife Erin, nieces Hayley and Cassidy, and nephew Luke; and former sister-in-law Leigh Siobodzian and her husband Mark; along with many other loving cousins, nieces and nephews.

Visiting hours were held Saturday, Oct. 11 at the Dillon-Baxter Funeral Home in Wethersfield, followed by a memorial service with Sister Joanne Fahey, C.P. officiating. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Paul's memory may be made for the benefit of his children to: Dutch Point Credit Union, P.O. Box 290788, Wethersfield, CT 06109 - make checks payable to John Simonelli.

To share a memory with the family visit dillonbaxter.com.

Portland

Elizabeth Palmer

Elizabeth Palmer of Claremont, Calif., who was General Secretary of the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) from 1955 to 1978, passed away Saturday, Oct. 4, at her retirement home at Pilgrim Place in Claremont. Ms. Palmer was born in Manhattan on April 17, 1913 to Elizabeth and Embury Palmer of New York City, and lived for many years in Portland.

As a girl, she attended New York schools. Her higher education included Columbia University, Barnard Teachers' College and Union Theological Seminary, where she earned a degree in education with a religious education major. A native New Yorker, Ms. Palmer's lifelong dedication to the YWCA causes and her multiracial vision were significant factors in propelling the organization into the modern world. Her work bringing together the various contingents of the YWCA around the globe led to her being named one of three women on the list of 100 people who helped build the United Nations.

She started at the YWCA in 1935 at the Central Branch in New York City, working with industrial workers and a large program for unemployed girls. From 1941 to 1942 she worked with the YWCA USO program, setting up facilities for young workers in the expanding war industries in southern Connecticut. In 1942, Ms. Palmer was loaned by the YWCA USA to the YWCA of Great Britain. She traveled across the Atlantic in a troop ship. Once there, she became General Secretary of the YWCA of Manchester. She joined the staff of the World YWCA in 1945, working mainly with the YWCAs of Belgium and France as they were emerging from the intense difficulties of war and occupation. In one instance, two days after the German surrender, Ms. Palmer commandeered a troop carrier from the Army and drove it from Brussels to Utrecht, gathering delegates for a meeting at The Hague.

A year later, in 1946, Ms. Palmer organized the first post war conference of young leaders and members of the YWCAs of Europe. After attending the World Council in Hangchow, China, in 1947 Ms. Palmer was appointed World YWCA Secretary for South East Asia, bringing the associations of South and East Asia closer to each other and into the world movement. Ms. Palmer returned to the World Office in Geneva in 1952 as Secretary for Interpretation and Finance, where she set up the financial structure for the organization. In 1955, Ms. Palmer was appointed General Secretary of the YWCA, a position that she held until retirement in 1978. In 1980 Ms. Palmer chaired the NGO Forum at the Second UN World Women's Conference in Copenhagen. She worked very closely with the World Council of Churches, and succeeded in shaping the YWCA as a worldwide ecumenical movement respecting diverse cultures, religions, and national contexts.

Ms. Palmer moved to Pilgrim Place in 1988. She immediately immersed herself in the Pilgrim Place community, becoming active in the Beta Center and other committees. She was also the recipient of the Ecumenical Social Justice Award from the Human Relations Council of Pomona Valley. She had a voracious appetite for newspapers and histories. Her other interests included listening to music, and a lifelong interest in skiing, fly-fishing and golf. In addition to her native English, she also spoke French and Italian. At Pilgrim Place, Ms. Palmer was also known for her small dinner parties, believing that conversation over a well-prepared meal brought out the best in friendships.

She is survived by her cousin and goddaughter, Lucy G. Shepard, of Longmeadow and Dennis, Mass.; cousins Thomas E. Gardner, of Providence, R.I., and Dennis, Theodore M. Shepard, of Duxbury, Mass., Frances E. Shepard, of Denver, Colo., Geoffrey H. Gardner, of Wayland, Mass., and Justin C. Gardner, of Bechtelsville, Penn.

She was predeceased by a brother, Theodore J. Palmer, of Cobalt.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the World YWCA Elizabeth Palmer Fund, c/o World YWCA, 16 Ancienne Route, Ch-1218, Crand Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland. For more information about the fund contact worldoffice@worldywca.org.

East Hampton

Ruth Ellen Neudecker

Ruth Ellen Neudecker, 83, of East Haddam, widow of the late John Neudecker, died Monday, Oct. 13 at her home surrounded by her loving family.

Born Aug. 26, 1931 in East Hampton she was the daughter of the late Lionel and Naomi (Anderson) Robinson. She is survived by her three sons Lloyd Neudecker of East Haddam, Larry Neudecker of East Haddam, and Lee Neudecker and his wife Misti of Alaska; two daughters Laurie D'Aquila and husband Nick of Norwich and Lynn Woodward and husband Charles of East Haddam; sisters-in-law Patricia Neudecker and Frances Robinson; five grandchildren Christopher, Patrick, Jeremy, Debra and Phillip; nine great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Ruth was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was known for her compassion for people and animals and as a lady of hard work and many talents. Ruth was a nurse for more than fifty years and spent her life taking care of people. She worked at Chestelm Convalescent Home, Connecticut Valley Hospital and Cromwell Crest. Ruth was one of the first East Haddam Ambulance Association nurses. She became an EMT through the first course offered at Middlesex Hospital. Ruth was a 4-H Leader and taught many young women how to cook, sew and grow up to be leaders. She loved animals and fostered dogs from rescue organizations, finding homes for so many.

She was a member of the Friends of the Rathburn Library and organized the weekly farmers market. Ruth was selected as the East Haddam Volunteer of the Month. She was famous for beautiful knitted and crocheted gifts. Ruth made and donated sweaters to the church to give to the poor. She volunteered for the East Haddam Food Bank. Ruth played the organ, had a wonderful voice, and was a member of the Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords. She served as a Tour Guide for the East Haddam Historical Society. An exceptional bowler, she competed nationally and was the past president of the NLWBA. Ruth was a member of the Porsche Club of America and competed in gymkhanas. She was an avid gardener, growing and sharing the flowers and vegetables with friends and family. Ruth was a member of the Christ Church and attended the 8 a.m. service every Sunday before her illness. Her smile and laughter warmed the hearts and brought comfort to all those she met.

The family would like to thank the Middlesex Hospice and Ruth's caregivers Pat, Florence, Nicole, Emily and Sabrina.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St., East Hampton today, Oct. 17, from 6-8 p.m. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Oct. 18 at 10 a.m. in Christ Episcopal Church in Middle Haddam. Burial will follow in Rock Landing Cemetery in Haddam Neck.

Memorial contributions in Ruth's memory may be made to East Haddam Ambulance Assoc., P.O. Box 17 Moodus, CT 06469.

To leave online condolences visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.