

RIVEREAST

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Clear Eyes, Full Hearts, Can't Lose... The East Hampton High School football team, the Bellhawks, dominated against Wolcott Tech Sept. 19, winning 44-0. Evan Salisbury (in white) had a great game, rushing for 117 yards and three touchdowns on 14 carries.

RHAM Coach Has Paralympic Dreams

by Geeta Schrayter

Last week, RHAM coach and teacher Steve Emt had the first stamp put on his passport, when he traveled to South Korea to participate in an international curling competition with the U.S. National Curling Team.

Korea was one of a number of trips Emt will take this year, all with the aim of earning a spot on Team USA and participating in the 2018 Paralympics.

Emt, an Andover resident who has been paralyzed from the waist down since a car accident in 1995, is no stranger to competition. He said this week he's been an athlete his entire life, and "from day one I was brought up to participate in sports and compete."

His accident hasn't changed that.

"Twenty years ago when I had my accident, I could have very easily just stopped, let it get to me, and wallowed," stated Emt, who used to play basketball at the University of Connecticut. "But I said, 'No. Let's bring it on. I'm alive. I've got a lot to offer and I'm a competitor at heart and I can compete.'"

And it's that mentality that led him to accept an offer that came during a trip to Cape Cod with his wife three summers ago. It was then, Emt explained, that the two were making their way to a suggested bakery – which happened to be up a hill.

"I was pushing myself up a hill; I don't usually mind people helping me but when it's a hill like that I take it as a challenge," he stated.

The two reached the bakery, and settled themselves outside to eat and look over the

water as the ferry came in. It was then, he said, that "An older guy comes around the corner who saw me pushing up the hill and asked if we were local."

After replying they were from Connecticut, Emt said, "There were about 15 seconds of silence between the three of us and I said to myself, 'Uh oh, we're in trouble.' I said, 'Do you mind saying why you asked?' and he said, 'I train the Paralympic curling team here on the Cape.' He said he could make me into an elite curler in a year."

In response, Emt asked: A. What's curling? And B. Where do I sign up?

And things took off from there. Emt and the coach, Tony Colacchio, met on the ice a week later and instantly, Emt was drawn to the sport.

"It's lines, it's circles, it's angles, it's math, chemistry, repeating – it's an incredible sport, I love it!" explained Emt, who teaches seventh grade math at RHAM in addition to coaching the high school boys' basketball team.

After that chance encounter, Emt began to train regularly, making trips to Cape Cod every Sunday to hit the ice, and playing any opportunity he could.

"Eventually, I got the opportunity to play with the U.S. National Team," Emt stated – and the team pushed him to work even more at curling.

"I wanted to be with them – to be with their team," he said. "I kept working and working. I'm not officially on the team yet but any time

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A New 'Hope' in East Hampton

by John Tyczkowski

After over two and a half years of construction, East Hampton's Hope Church is finally getting a new, permanent home.

The grand opening of the church's new 12,000-sq. ft. location at 230 East High St. will take place at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, and, according to administrator/pastor Tom Ingala, will include a complete showing of a film series chronicling the history of Hope Church from the 1970s to the present, including interviews with former pastors.

"We'll also be recognizing those who put time, effort and money into this building. It'll look like anything but a typical Sunday church service," Jermaine Keller, the church's senior pastor, said. "It'll reflect the fact that we want it to be much more of a community center than your typical church building is. We want to be a church where non-church people would like to come to."

"Our church is a non-denominational church, we're not connected to anyone else," Ingala said. "We've raised this money ourselves, from the generous giving of the congregation, we feel very blessed and grateful. We just want to celebrate that on that day."

Ingala said that until New Year's Day 2009,

the church had been located on Midwood Farm Road, on the other side of Lake Pocotopaug from where the new location is. For the past five years though, the church has been using East Hampton High School's auditorium for services, he said.

"The high school was very, very gracious, and very generous to us," Jermaine Keller, the church's senior pastor, said. "We were there a little longer than everyone anticipated, but they were gracious enough to allow us to be there until we found the property (on East High Street)."

The church was founded in 1973 as Haddam Neck Church, and was run out of a parishioner's home. In 1974, the church moved to Midwood Farm Road, and changed its name to East Hampton Bible Church.

Ingala said the church moved from the old building because it wasn't able to keep up with the church's people-centered ministry.

"We were outgrowing it. It was very much out of the way, down a hill and down a road in the middle of the woods, and it just wasn't visible and viable for us," he said. "Our church has always had the heart and desire to be connected to the community. After lots of prayer

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Hope Church features a community space with free Wi-Fi, chairs and tables for people to do work, relax and meet with others. Having a "big, open space" for people to congregate was a must for the church, Tom Ingala, the church's administrative pastor, said.



RHAM coach and teacher Steve Emt, left, focuses during an international curling competition with the U.S. National Curling Team last week in South Korea; he is hoping to join Team USA and participate in the 2018 Paralympics. Behind Emt is teammate Jimmy Joseph.

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they train I usually end up going with them, whether it be in [the country] or these two weeks in Korea.”

Speaking on the recent trip, Emt said “we did alright.”

The team took fourth behind Russia and two Korean teams.

“We didn’t come home with any medals – that’s always the ultimate goal. So in that aspect it’s a disappointment but it was a great experience for me, and it just made me hungrier” he stated, adding, “It makes me train harder.”

And all that training will hopefully aid him when he heads to Scotland in two weeks for another tournament.

“My hopes are that we go over to Scotland and be in the top three,” he stated.

Then, Emt said he’s looking to return from Wisconsin and the U.S. National tryouts in November as part of Team USA; Emt earned an invitation to the tryouts after he garnered the number one spot during pre-trials earlier this year. Come November, the top 14 curlers in the country will be in attendance, with the top five earning a spot on the team.

The opportunity, while exciting, isn’t without its challenges.

Last month, the RHAM Board of Education threw its support behind Emt, and voted to allow him to use some of his accrued sick time as personal days for the various trips he’ll be taking.

Emt called the support from the school “phenomenal,” but said while he had a capable substitute for his math class and two “very competent” assistant coaches, the fact that he’d be missing some basketball games and time with his students “weighs on me.”

“I love my job – I love where I work. I know

they’re alright because they have great substitutes but they’re my students,” he stated.

Other challenges Emt mentioned included the stress of being away from his family, and getting enough ice time without moving to a place like Wisconsin or the Cape.

“If I were to move, if my wife and I were to go to Wisconsin, I could be on the ice every day, but we’re not going to do that,” he laughed. “We love it here.”

Still, Emt called the lack of ice time a barrier.

“Curling is a sport with muscle memory – you have to keep doing it and doing it and doing it,” he said.

With the experience also comes financial challenges; as a team, Emt said they’re always looking for sponsors to help out, particularly since they do so much traveling for competitions and training camps.

But sacrifices are necessary he added, if you want to come out on top.

“There are sacrifices you’ve gotta make to be in the top level, and I’ve got incredible support behind me from family, friends, coworkers and the community,” he stated. “I want this to be for all of us. I said from day one RHAM has had a tough couple of years, and I want something we can all participate in and get behind.”

He furthered, “The pride and the honor to be there with all these other curlers and represent my country is what’s making it worth it. And it’s important for students [and others] to see that teachers, and parents – we have goals too, and with hard work we can achieve those goals.”

The Paralympic hopeful concluded, “nothing comes easy – you’ve gotta go out there and work.”

And that’s exactly what he plans on doing.



This welcoming table and display greets churchgoers and visitors as they enter from the back parking lot. Jermaine Keller, the church’s senior pastor, said that Hope Church’s goal is to be a friendly church that “is inviting to our neighbors in the community.”

New ‘Hope’ cont. from Front Page

and thought, we decided to sell our building without having any place to go, because we wanted to be closer to where people were in order to be more active.”

Keller said that the new church building was deliberately created to be much different than the traditional church mold, due to Hope Church’s focus on the family and the community.

“Our purpose is to be a friendly church,” Keller said. “We want our people to get used to the new building, so instead of obsessing about it, they’ll be able to focus on the people coming in, and make sure they feel welcomed and encouraged to return.”

As part of that, he also said that they frequently see people wander in off of Route 66, wanting to find out more about the church because of the new building and its unconventional appearance, for a church.

“It doesn’t look like your typical church on the outside, and they’re totally stunned by what’s on the inside,” Keller said. “It’s good to allow people to come in and see, so hopefully they’ll come and experience a Sunday with us.”

Hope Church, as it was re-named after the 2009 move, sold its building to the Connecticut Korean Central United Methodist Church, which it had shared the Midwood Farm Road building with since 2006.

The money from the sale was put toward construction of the new building and the acquisition of the East High Street site.

Securing the zoning permits and purchasing the lot for the building began back in 2011, and groundbreaking occurred later, in 2012.

Ingala also mentioned how the construction of the new building itself was part of the church’s guiding principle of helping a community. In addition to East Hampton, though, the construction of the new building helped another community: the town of Jido in Ethiopia.

“Five percent of what was donated for construction (of the East High Street location) went to helping them build a high school,” he said. “They had been trying to raise the money for years, and they just finished the school this past April.”

According to the church’s website, cthope.org, the partnership with Jido began in February 2010 when a team from the church visited the town and decided they wanted to aid and partner with the community there.

Ingala said Hope Church continues to sponsor around 60 children from that town for \$33 each month, which includes meals, clean water and education. In addition, members from the church make regular visits to Jido as well, to make sure Hope Church’s efforts are in tune with the needs of the town.

He said this comprehensive partnership is possible through Food for the Hungry, which is a worldwide Christian organization dedicated to short-term emergency hunger relief and long-term projects to end world hunger, according to their website, fh.org.

“We’re about helping the world,” Ingala said. “God calls us to look after our neighbors, and our neighbors are part of the community.”

Both Keller and Ingala said the new building reflects that calling through the inclusion of numerous spaces that showcase the congregation’s community focus.

“Having a big, open space was very important to us, where people could come and could work using Wi-Fi, and grab a coffee at the cafe,” Ingala said. “We wanted to have a gymnasium

for events, for kids’ things. We wanted to build an auditorium that was very flexible and could be used for various kinds of things. We were very intentional about having a community space when choosing land and designing the building itself.

“It wouldn’t be a building that would be used just one time a week, it would be a regular gathering place, a place where people can get connected and enjoy all the good gifts God has given us,” he said.

There is a 270-person auditorium/worship space, as well as a main area with Wi-Fi and a café space, a nursery for younger children, an area for older children, a gymnasium and a kitchen.

Ingala said that the new building “really reflects” the demographics of Hope Church in a very complete way.

“We have a wide variety of ages of people in our church, we have a lot of people in their 20s and 30s. Kids are very important to us. Also, the family is a big focus for us,” he said. “We have nursery every week for kids, we have programs for kids through 6th grade, we have a youth group that meets during the week for grades 6-12 on Thursday nights.”

Keller echoed Ingala’s sentiment.

“The family looks different in the 21st century, and we realize that,” he said. “We have families with both parents, we have single moms, single dads. We continue to be a place where all are welcomed and we hope that we can help them wherever they are in their journey of life.”

Ingala also mentioned how the non-traditional layout of the building matches the non-traditional nature of Hope Church.

“We’re very informal here,” he said. “If you feel like dressing up, that’s great, but most of our people come here in T-shirts. Our music is not typically traditional; it has a much more modern feel. We use video a lot.”

Ingala also said the main worship space was deliberately built to be more like an auditorium than a traditional church space.

“We value the arts and creativity, because they help you tell a story, which helps support the truth of God’s word,” he said. “We want to engage people’s minds and hearts.”

Keller said that Hope Church’s non-traditional design is actually inspired by how community-centric churches used to be set up.

“The building is designed specifically to foster and create interaction between people in here,” Keller said. “Traditionally, centuries ago, old churches met in community centers, and they just happened to have church there. We’re trying to come back to that, having the church within in a community. We call it being a lighthouse to the community.”

Ingala said that the new building helps Hope Church express its “own DNA and personality.”

“Our church has always been a community space, but we’ve not had a building to express that until now, to be in a space where we can live out what we’ve been talking about for years and years,” Ingala said.

* * *

Search “Hope Church East Hampton” on Facebook to find their Facebook page for more information on the October 5 opening and on the congregation in general. The church’s website is cthope.com. Also, new churchgoers are invited to visit the church’s welcome website, cthope.wix.com/welcome.

After 40 Years, Hebron Resident Steps Back from EMT Role

by Geeta Schrayter

Bruce DeGray's wife calls him devoted to the Hebron Fire Department, and it's easy to see why; DeGray moved to town in 1959 and, less than a year later, had joined what was then the Amston Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

He remained with the ALVFD, where he held officer positions such as lieutenant and president, until 1965 when the company merged with the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department. After the merge, he continued his involvement, and went on to hold officer positions including chief and training officer of the HVFD and captain of HVFD Company No. 2.

In addition, in 1974 he added Emergency Medical Technician to his repertoire, a role he filled until just last month when he decided not to renew his certification, which expired in April.

Speaking on the decision, DeGray said this week if he wanted to remain active, he'd have to go for recertification. But since it expired, and DeGray realized he'd been active for an even 40 years, the decision was made to step back from the duty.

"I just said 'I'll pass on the EMT certification,' because we have a lot of new young adults coming in and they're EMTs and everything, so I said, 'It's time for me to probably step back and have them take over,'" DeGray stated.

The 77-year-old added with a laugh, "And also it's my age. ...If at one point I go to a medical call, and if I was the first one there, would they want to see an old dinosaur walking through the front door with a medical bag?"

But just because DeGray is no longer an active EMT doesn't mean he plans to relax at home, with no more involvement in the department; DeGray said he'd continue to respond to calls, although he would no longer treat patients.

"I still go to those calls and assist the EMTs," he stated.

In addition, DeGray, who is a lifetime member of the fire department, is still an active firefighter, and has been involved with many changes and initiatives over the years. For example, he facilitated the formation of the Water Rescue Unit, requested a new Company No. 2 fire station which was completed in 2005, requested new turn-out gear for the firefighters, initiated a request for a dry hydrant in the center of town, and started the Easter Plant Sale and Christmas Wreath and Poinsettia Sale.

Furthermore, DeGray has served on various fire service committees including a committee for the procurement of a 3,000 gallon tanker, 911 reflective numbering signs and the purchase of fire engine 110. He also served as project engineer with the building committee for Company No. 2, and chairman of the committee formed for the restoration of the town's 1937 antique fire truck.

Current Fire Chief Nick Wallick affirmed this week that, despite DeGray's resignation as an active EMT, he "continues to demonstrate his commitment to the Fire Department as he has in the past."

Wallick, who has known DeGray since joining the department 15 years ago added, "He's still active in the fire department on calls and drills – and if I could have 20 more like him, I'd take 'em."

Selectmen Dan Larson, who is also the town's deputy fire marshal and a lifetime member of the fire department, said DeGray's 40 years as an EMT was "an amazing accomplishment."

"It just goes to show the dedication of our volunteers, to put in that kind of time and effort. I personally applaud him not only as a friend but as a fellow firefighter and a fellow officer," he stated.

Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan, who spent some time as the board's

fire department liaison, said DeGray "put a lot of time and effort in the fire department itself and the community, so I really appreciate everything he's done."

Mulligan added DeGray "has the biggest heart and he has really dedicated a good part of his life to fire service."

She concluded, "We're fortunate to have people like that, that's for sure."

Town Manager Andrew Tierney felt similarly.

"Bruce has been a great volunteer over the years" he stated, adding, "Bruce is very meticulous, and a very active member and when he gets his mind set on something he does it 100 percent."

Both Tierney and Mulligan furthered along with Bruce, the town was fortunate to have his wife Roberta – who Tierney said "supports him in his endeavor" and "stands behind him" – and who also volunteers in town.

Speaking about her husband, Roberta said this week, "He's been so devoted to the fire department here with 55 years as of September and being an EMT for 40 years."

She added "his whole devotion has been to [fire service] and to our children as they went through RHAM."

And just as Roberta had kind things to say about DeGray, he had kind things to say about his wife.

"A firefighter's wife, sometimes we call them the unsung heroes, because we're the ones that leave the house any time of day or [night] for whatever reason," he explained. "Dinners get put on hold or whatever – they put up with a lot with what we do, and they understand. But in my case, after a while, it's time to rest."

DeGray said he planned to stay active with the fire department for "maybe a year or two" more – but Roberta didn't quite believe him.

"The only way he's going to quit is if I take



Last month Hebron resident Bruce DeGray resigned from being an active EMT with the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department after 40 years. However, he's by no means planning to sit idle; DeGray, at 77, remains an active firefighter in town.

him out or if we leave Connecticut," she laughed.

But whenever that day does come, it's clear DeGray's tenure with the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department – and the impact he's made – is not something to be soon forgotten or easily surpassed.

Still No Decision on Full-Day Kindergarten in Marlborough

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The Board of Education last Thursday continued to bat around the idea of adding full-day kindergarten for the 2015-16 school year – stressing that it's not a budget issue, but rather what's best for the children.

The board was split during the Sept. 25 meeting, with many of its members completely torn on what they wanted to do; the board said that, for budget planning purposes, it needs to make a decision by the end of October.

Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz presented real expenses to the board, displaying its different options. To continue on with the half-day program, which is four classes of a combined 60 students, would cost \$228,046, including two teachers, two part-time paraprofessionals and transportation. In order to support a full-day program with three classes of 20 students, the district would pay \$297,046 including three teachers and two full-time paraprofessionals. (Extra transportation costs would not be necessary with a full-day program, as kindergarteners would arrive and leave with the rest of the school population.)

If the district wanted to lower class size even more for full-day kindergarten with four classes of 15 students, the district would pay \$350,710; however, the board pointed out that there is currently only one empty classroom at Marlborough Elementary School, not two, and the building would not have the space for four kindergarten classrooms.

The board members proceeded to go around the table sharing their personal ideas on the topic in a very diplomatic fashion. Afterward, the board was commended by multiple citizens on the variety of ideas that were presented.

"It's not an easy decision," board member Theresa Brysgel said. "We want these students to enter school and love going to school. Full-day [kindergarten] is less hurried and less stressful and allows for more social opportunities."

Brysgel also suggested that full-day kindergarten allows for more play especially outside. Currently, kindergarteners do not get much outside play, with the limited time in the day.

"It's been almost 50/50 feedback from parents," board member Carole Shea said. "The teachers are overwhelmingly in favor. What if we did half-day for part of the year and full-day for the rest? There may be staffing issues though."

Sklarz said the idea of a transition is exciting, but he was still struggling with the idea and the complications that would surround it including staffing and day care issues. For instance, Sklarz wondered, if the district were to do a six-week half-day program, of three classes of 20, then change over to full-day every year, also three classes of 20, what would the teachers do the rest of the day? Would they simply have more planning time?

"Children need full-day right now," board secretary Louise Concodello said. "They have so much to learn in that half-day. With the full-day, the teachers wouldn't have to stuff everything into a two-and-a-half-hour period. The students would have time to rest, absorb, have more hands-on classes and play outside."

Board vice chair Betty O'Brien said she was originally for half-day, but in the months that the board has kicked around the idea, she has switched her allegiances and is now a full-day advocate.

"The main reason I switched was Common Core," O'Brien said. "It's too much pressure."

O'Brien also said the more board members discussed a possible transition program, the more she was against it, because she felt it simply made no sense.

"School systems have full-day and do just fine," O'Brien said.

Board member Judith Kaplan said she's always favored full-day kindergarten.

"While I was totally happy to send kids to half-day 10 years ago, the way everything's going, we need full-day," said board member Mimi LaPoint. "It's supposed to be fun and easy. The half-day is packed and kills [the fun of] it. The only thing is if we're willing to go with 20 students [in a classroom], we need the three paraprofessionals so they each have one."

However one strong voice against full-day was board member Wesley Skorski who has a kindergarten student currently.

"I have a son in kindergarten right now and he's not stressed," Skorski said. "He looks forward to school. He comes home and has play dates at home and goes on field trips with Mom and reads books with Mom."

Concodello and Brysgel responded to Skorski stating that not every child has that support at home. Currently 20 out of the 60 kindergarteners attend the afterschool daycare MECCA, the Marlborough Elementary Child Care Association.

Skorski said he has yet to see any evidence saying that full-day kindergarten has a lasting academic benefit.

Brysgel told Skorski that she would send him copies of research she found supporting the psychological benefits of full-day versus half-day kindergarten.

Board chair Ruth Kelly said that anyone who knows her would know she's not in a rush to bring kids into the building for the full day.

"Developmentally, no one has shown me where it benefits the child," Kelly said. "It may benefit the teacher's stress. I've had only one recent grandchild through kindergarten, and he never came home stressed. He came home wanting to do different things."

Kelly went on to ask that if a kindergartener doesn't meet all the Common Core standards at the end of the day, are you saying the child failed?

"Different children develop at different rates," Kelly said. "I'm not sure that giving them a full-day is going to make them develop any faster. I'm not for full-day, but if that's what this board decides then I will honor your decision. I don't know what the big hurry is for making these children grow up."

During public comment, however, many parents spoke up regarding full-day kindergarten.

"I have a friend in another district who is a second grade teacher," Kim Disomma of Stony Brook Drive said. "They've had full-day kin-

dergarten for two years and the teacher is noticing the difference. Is there a price tag for children willing and ready to learn? Give children and teachers more time to learn, to teach and to play."

"It's bigger than us," Natalie Cooney of West Road said. "The direction we're going in, we have to help the children and the teachers to have time to do things with more depth. We are expected to do Common Core, despite the amount of time in the classroom."

Cooney went on to say that there doesn't need to be research on the academic gains.

"Some of the benefits aren't quantitative or academic," Cooney said. "Children are more than numbers on paper."

Karen Sawyer of High Meadow Road said there's so much talk of the benefits and surveys, but she's experienced it first-hand.

"I have a son currently in kindergarten with Down syndrome," Sawyer said. "He attends full-day kindergarten as part of his IEP. He also sees outside therapy. After a week of full-day kindergarten, his therapist couldn't believe the leaps and bounds in the progress he's made. He has lots of needs developmentally and he may be behind, but he's been doing fabulous. Future kids will benefit from it."

The board will discuss and decide on full-day kindergarten at its next meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m., at MES.

The board went on to approve their budget guidelines for this year. Within the guidelines included the timeline for the 2015-16 school budget. From now until Nov. 25, the board will host community outreach sessions to get information from the community. On Nov. 25, the budgets will go to the superintendent and the board will receive the budget on Dec. 18.

The public hearing for the budget is scheduled for Feb. 26, followed by the town public hearing on the budget on April 27, and finally the May 12 town meeting vote.

Fire Towers, Adirondacks, CCC Topic of East Hampton Author's Books

by John Tyczkowski

For East Hampton resident Marty Podskoch, becoming an author took a reading teacher career, a lucky experience and years of hard work and passion.

One late October day 27 years ago, Podskoch said he and a friend went out hiking on Hunter Mountain in the Catskills. It started to snow during their hike, with five inches coming down by the time they reached the top of the mountain where there was a fire tower.

"We could just barely see the tower and the observer's cabin. There was smoke coming out of the chimney, and a guy came out on the porch and said, 'Hey, you want to come in and get warmed up?'" he said. "So we went in there and told us about his adventures."

The man Podskoch talked to was from Tannersville, nearby Hunter Mountain. He had been a firefighter in New York City, and then decided to take the job at the fire tower after his daughter moved into the area.

"He told me, 'It was the greatest job I ever had, because you're sitting up there, 60 feet high, looking at the beautiful forest,'" Podskoch said. "Also, thousands of people come to visit each year, a lot of people like to climb the mountain."

"So I thought, somebody should write a book about this," he said.

From there, Podskoch decided he would be that "somebody."

At the time, he was working as a reading teacher in nearby Delhi, N.Y., where he brought in authors and writers each year to help inspire his students, from kindergarten to high school.

"I wanted to get my kids interested in reading and writing by meeting real authors, people who do that for a living," he said. "I also became immersed in writers."

Some of these included children's author Eric Carle, *Casablanca* co-author Howard Koch, as well as Ian Ballantine of Ballantine Books.

Podskoch also contacted a publisher about his idea, and his break came in 1997.

"He told me, 'Marty, they're trying to save the towers, how would you like to write a book about it?'" he said. "So I started writing a book, and I had no idea what to do."

After three years of collecting interviews around the Catskills and writing, Podskoch completed his first book, *Fire Towers of the Catskills: Their History and Lore*, in 2000.

"It was an assortment of stories telling the history of each of the 23 towers, and how people could hike to the towers," he said. "I talked to forest rangers and observers were still alive, but some had passed away, so I talked to their family members, and they had a lot to say."

"It went well, so I said, 'I'm going to try the Adirondacks now,'" he said.

Podskoch said he decided to tackle the region's 57 fire towers, even though he was still working as a teacher at the time.

"It was a two-hour trip just to get to the bottom of the Adirondacks from Delhi," Podskoch said. "I would go up there maybe on a Saturday or Sunday during the summer, and interview people."

Because of the sheer geographic size of the Adirondacks, six million acres, he split the proposed *Adirondack Fire Towers: Their History and Lore* into two volumes, one detailing the southern part of the region, and one detailing the northern part.

"I would give a talk and there might be someone in the audience who was at a tower, or who knew somebody up in the tower, and that's where I gathered my information for these books," he said.

He said it took him another three years of traveling, interviewing and giving talks around the region to finish the first volume on the southern Adirondacks, although he was simultaneously gathering information for the second volume.

"I retired in 2001, that helped to give me more time," Podskoch said.

The first volume was released in 2003, and the second in 2005.

Then, around that time, a phone call from a famous illustrator sparked another writing project.

"As I was writing my first books, a comic book illustrator, Sam Glanzman, called me up and said 'Marty, I'm almost 80 years old, not much time to live, let's do something together,'" Podskoch said. "He had illustrated comics for all the top comic book companies since the early 1950s, and he also illustrated *This Happened to Me* in *Outdoor Life Magazine*."

"So I said, let's do something like *Ripley's Believe It or Not*; I'll send you information and pictures, and you can illustrate it," he said.

The two wrote and illustrated these spots, about local history, stories, battles, sites and historical figures, circulated weekly in local newspapers for five years, until 2008.

Later, he collected and compiled these spots into two published volumes, *Adirondack Stories* (2007) and *Adirondack Stories II* (2009).

"It was a great adventure, just learning about all of these things and interviewing so many people," Podskoch said.

However, he wasn't finished with writing yet.

"I met this lady who had supplied me with pictures that her dad had because he was the head forester of the northern Adirondacks," Podskoch said. "And one day, she brought these pictures that had to do with the Civilian Conservation Corps."

"So I figured, since I had just done three books on the men and women who saved the Catskills and Adirondacks from fires, I should do a book on the men who built up our forests, fought fires and built our state parks," he added.

In 2006, Podskoch started a five-year project to gather over 100 interviews from former New York CCC workers.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt started the Civilian Conservation Corps, which operated around the country from 1933 to 1942, to help develop natural resources in rural areas and provide employment for unemployed, unmarried men.

He said that finding an archive of CCC camp newspapers was "incredibly helpful" in his research efforts.

"Sometimes the state records weren't that great, but these told about what the boys were doing, the funny things," he said. "They provided an invaluable snapshot of their everyday life."

The book came out in 2011, titled *Adirondack Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: History, Memory and Legacy of the CCC*.

"It was a great pleasure that I was able to save the stories of these men," he said. "Also because the kids of members who had passed away told me, 'I really wish I knew, I wish I had asked my father about what he did.'"

None of Podskoch's books went unrecognized. Last October, the Adirondack Mountain Club awarded Podskoch their Arthur E. Newkirk ADK Education Award last October for "achievement in chronicling the social history and lore of the Catskills and Adirondack Fire Towers and of the Adirondack Civilian Conservation Corps Camps."

However, Podskoch still wasn't finished, and soon began work on a new project to help people discover the towns of the Adirondacks.

"People only know Old Forge, Lake George, Lake Placid; they don't know all of the Adirondacks," he said. "I've given over 450 talks over 13 years, in almost every town in the Adirondacks, and people should take the chance to see them all."

He said he was inspired when he read about Arthur Peach, who suggested to Vermonters in



Author Marty Podskoch of East Hampton has turned his love of nature and history into a series of successful books.

1954 that they encourage tourism by encouraging people to visit literally all of the state's 251 towns.

The result, the Vermont 251 Club, helped inspire Podskoch's next book, which aimed to get people to visit all 102 towns of the Adirondacks.

"Sixty years later, it's still going, and they have over 4,000 members," he said. "I read about this in 2008. And I thought, if they could do this, we could do this too in the Adirondacks."

He talked to the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages in late 2013, which met him with an enthusiastic response. However, gathering information was much more difficult.

"I waited a month and only 15 people replied. It was a chore trying to find some people to write in some of these towns," Podskoch said. "The historians said they would do it, and then five months later, it's 'I'm going on vacation, get someone else.'"

The finished product, *Adirondack 102 Club*, just released this past August, is less a conventional book and more of an interactive passport, Podskoch said.

"There's a description of the town for each one, at least one photo and some interesting places to visit," he said. "There's also an area for you to write about your experiences there, a place for you to get it stamped or signed, like a passport, and a check-off list of towns at the end of the book."

"These are such small towns, sometimes only about a hundred people. Someone will just drive through and stop somebody on the street and say, 'Hey, would you sign this book?'" Podskoch laughed. "They've all been there."

He also said that he made sure all the contributors from each of the 102 Adirondack towns had their names printed on the cover page.

"I am just the editor of the book," he said.

In addition, Podskoch said that at his first book talk for *Adirondack 102 Club*, in Cayuga Lake, N.Y., seven of the contributors showed up.

"We had seven people, plus myself, sign each book," he said.

Podskoch said most of his book sales came from his on-foot work, which involves "going around giving talks, signing books, going to book stores, grocery stores, gas stations and

restaurants."

He also said the unique rural character of the Adirondacks has landed him in some interested places to sell his books, because those are the places that serve as community hubs.

"I went into a butcher shop, and I showed the owner's daughter the book. She liked it, and she said, 'How many are in a case?' I said '19,' and she said, 'I'll take two cases,'" Podskoch said. "And all it was in there was the meat case, a little aluminum table and the meat case, and she took two cases of books!"

Podskoch said "You just have to go out there, and you never know where you're going to sell your books."

He said he's also sent in copies of his books to local newspapers around the area, and he's been featured in the *Plattsburgh Press Republican*, the *Adirondack Express* and the *Glens Falls Post Star*.

Podskoch now maintains Podskoch Press, which he started in 2005, and currently prints and distributes all of his own books.

"The previous publisher was trying to get out of the business, and he gave me the rights back to do the books," he said. "So now all of my books are Podskoch Press."

However, Podskoch said he still has yet more planned, which includes a book on the CCC's efforts in Connecticut.

"I'm trying to finish this book; this is my sixth year of gathering stories," he said. "And then I'd be interested in doing one on the CCC in Rhode Island after."

In the meantime, Podskoch will emcee a reunion of CCC alumni, family and friends on Saturday, Oct. 11. The event will be held at 1 p.m. at the Connecticut CCC Museum on Route 190 in Stafford Springs. People will celebrate the 81st anniversary of the founding of the CCC by sharing their stories and pictures of the camps.

Those interested in Podskoch's books can check out his books' web sites at adirondackstories.com, firetowerstories.com and cccstories.com. Further background information on the books is present, as well as ordering information.

Prospective buyers can also contact Podskoch at podskoch@comcast.net or at 860-267-2442.

Colchester Man Running Marathon to Honor Bombing Victim

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

After watching the Boston Marathon bombing occur on television in April 2013, Jason Ebbeling knew his life would never be the same.

The Colchester resident laced up his sneakers and took to his street in Colchester, running in memory of all the lives lost and the lives forever changed.

The first time Ebbeling hit the pavement, he couldn't run a block and had to stop. That was when he was 60 pounds heavier and had also had a cardiac stent put in after a 99 percent blockage in his major artery and back surgery. However he became dedicated to getting up before the sun and setting out on the streets to run.

Now he has been running for 18 months and has completed four marathons (26.2 miles) and four half-marathons (13.1 miles). To put that into perspective, Ebbeling said, most people run a marathon a year after at least a year of solid training and building up to it.

"I started from scratch," Ebbeling said. "When I started, I got nagging injuries and was going twice a week to the physical therapist."

Ebbeling – who said "I always run myself with no music; I'm internally motivated" – said he can now run a marathon in 3.5 hours, 15 minutes off the qualifying time for the Boston Marathon for his age and gender group. His first marathon clocked in a little over five hours.

"It's a significant accomplishment [finishing the first marathon]," Ebbeling said. "It's all in your head."

He dreamed of one day running in the Boston Marathon, but set his sights on the New York City Marathon. However the chances of

being accepted are one in 20, Ebbeling said.

That was when he stumbled upon the Martin Richard Charitable Foundation in memory of the youngest victim of the Boston Marathon bombing.

Richard was 8 years old when he was killed on April 15, 2013. He participated in three consecutive BAA Children's Relays on Marathon weekends, was a school peacemaker and recognized that while we are all different, we are all the same, according to the foundation's website.

One particular picture of Richard went viral which stated, "No more hurting people. Peace." The foundation invests money in education, athletics and the community in Richard's honor and the first Team MR8 ran in the Boston marathon this past spring.

"I'm from Williamstown, Mass.," Ebbeling said. "[Boston] felt like home. I used to go as a kid to the Patriot's Day game and the Boston Marathon followed."

Out of 100 applicants to the foundation for the NYC Marathon, Ebbeling was chosen in the team of 12. Only one other person is from Connecticut on the team.

"I was in tears when I heard I was selected," Ebbeling said. "I sent an email to Martin's mom to thank her and tell her how much it meant to me."

Since the selection, Ebbeling is working to raise money and train for the NYC Marathon on Nov. 2.

"I need to raise a minimum of \$3,000 for the charity," Ebbeling said. Currently he is about halfway to his goal.

"I had [a fundraising] event last week at

Sweet Frog in Colchester and am co-hosting a big event in Boston on Oct. 15 called 'Night Out for Good.'"

With the added inspiration of running in Richard's honor, Ebbeling said he's training hard for the marathon which includes running six days a week.

"My longest stretch was 55 miles in one week," Ebbeling said. "I run all around the streets and go through East Haddam and Salem. I have to leave town to get the mileage."

Running in Richard's honor has been a way for Ebbeling to give back, he said, after running gave him so much.

"I have more energy," Ebbeling said. "I feel I'm a better husband and father. It's a huge defining thing."

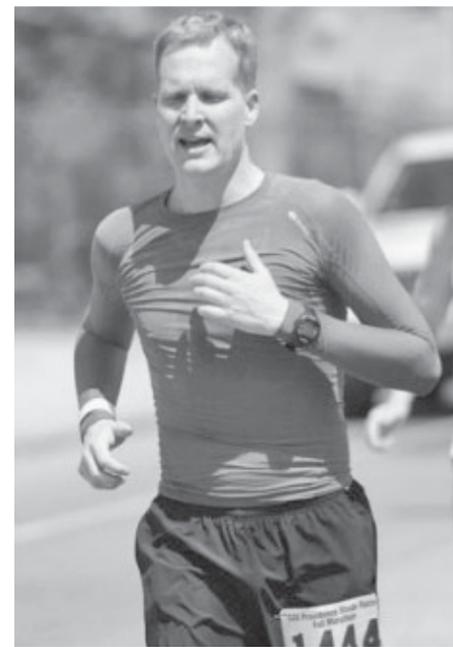
Ebbeling said when he puts his mind to something, he just does it, it's part of his personality. He also said he's been fortunate to avoid injuries especially considering the pace he has set for himself.

Through his own journey, Ebbeling has found himself getting others to run including his wife, Gina, who has now run several half-marathons and friends and co-workers.

"My friend ran his first 5K and another ran their first half-marathon," Ebbeling said. "It's amazingly powerful to know I've helped them overcome and help inspire."

Going into race day, Ebbeling said he still can't imagine what getting to the end will feel like.

"Going into the marathon, I know how emotional it will be to run in memory of Martin," Ebbeling said. "There's a saying, 'you run the first 20 miles with your training and the last



Jason Ebbeling of Colchester will run in the New York City Marathon next month in honor of Martin Richard, the youngest victim of the Boston Marathon bombing.

6.2 with your heart.' It's true."

To learn more about the Martin Richard Charitable Foundation, visit teammr8.org. To donate toward Ebbeling's goal for the NYC Marathon, go to crowdrise.com/TeamMR8NYC2014/fundraiser/jasonebbeling.



The 57 Fest recorded record attendance of 5,000 residents and their families last Saturday. The festival featured a variety of activities and events. At left, kids from Doreen's Dance Center perform, while at right, a fun game of laser tag is played in an area of inflatables.



Colchester 57 Fest Sees Great Weather, Very High Attendance

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The sun shone bright with 80-degree weather over the 57 Fest last Saturday, Sept. 27, as residents and their families celebrated Colchester and all that the town has to offer.

The fest began after Colchester was named the 57th best place to live in the country in a CNN/Money Magazine 2005 survey.

According to Cheryl Hancin, recreation manager for the Parks and Recreation Department, this year's fest had very high attendance, with an estimated 5,000 people attending and raving reviews on the band and fireworks. However, only 750 of those bought bracelets. The total cost of the festival is around \$20,000 and Parks and Rec. found itself short \$7,000 only a few weeks ago. The hope was to sell at least 1,400 bracelets to cover the needed \$7,000.

"We sold about 750 bracelets and a few more sponsorships came in at the last minute so we have covered all but \$300 in costs at this point," Hancin said. "The \$300 will be picked up by the Parks and Recreation program fund."

Residents and their families had fun watching the dancers, playing the kids' games and enjoying the many food choices. Residents and their families were scattered around the com-

plex, watching the band and dancers, lining up for food, sitting on the picnic benches, visiting booths and playing in the kids' activities including laser tag and inflatables among others.

"There were a lot more food choices this year," Chad Waterman of Colchester said as he enjoyed the festival with his children and father. "The kids like the bounce houses and we like the fireworks and the band."

Waterman said he didn't mind the \$5 bracelets for the unlimited kids' activities, since the kids all had a great time.

"They had to pay for it somehow," Waterman said.

Aline Duviel of Colchester who was there with her daughter watching the dancers also said the bracelet was a good idea.

"It's a good cause," Duviel said. "The kids are all here to have fun."

Duviel said she attends the festival every other year and enjoys the chance to catch up.

"You see all your friends and neighbors," Duviel said. "It's a good end-of-the-summer, beginning-of-fall event."

The highlight of the day was the Michael Cleary Band and the fireworks, celebrating the festival's 10th year. The band kicked off at 6 p.m. and was marking its 23rd year of making music. The band's lively groove, funk and rock with a twist delighted festival-goers.

The LifeStar helicopter landed early in the evening, allowing children and family to experience how the helicopter works and saves lives. It flew off around 5:45 p.m. with festival goers pointing it out to their children and waving goodbye.

Colchester Elementary School health and physical education teacher Don Levine hosted an afternoon of free, timed quarter-mile to mile races on the Bacon Academy track during the fest.

Food offered at the event included New England Soft Serve, Colchester Lions Club fried dough, hamburgers and hot dogs, Agave Canteen Mexican cuisine, IGottaQ barbecue brisket, tri tips and pulled pork, along with Uncle D's Blazin' Barbecue chicken, ribs and pulled pork, many of which were new additions to the

festival.

There were performances by the Bacon Academy Dance Team, Bacon Academy Cheer, Alyson's School of Dance and Doreen's Dance Center. Included in the fireworks was a special ground show by Zambelli Fireworks.

Parking across the street from the recreation complex supported Bacon Academy's Project Graduation for \$5 a car.

Anita Pizzutiello, recreation supervisor for Parks and Rec., said that if the committee had not introduced the bracelet, the youth activities would have had to be eliminated, which is something festival organizers did not want to do. This year, many of the families that went to the festival said some of the bounce houses and other activities were actually their favorite part of the event. Without initiating the bracelet cost, none of that would have been able to happen.

"We hope that next year the town budget can once again support this event in some way and that businesses and those attending will sponsor or make a donation to keep this event going," Pizzutiello had said before the event.

Portland Selectmen Discuss STEAP Grant Projects, Water

by John Tyczkowski

As the deadline approaches for Small Town Economic Assistant Program (STEAP) grants, the Board of Selectmen Wednesday discussed what projects in town should be given priority for funding applications.

Ralph Zampano, chair of the town's parks and recreation commission, gave his recommendations for STEAP grant-eligible projects, which included projects at Bransfield Park, Brownstone Park at Nolan Field and Middlesex Avenue Park.

"There's a much greater amount of usage on these fields now, they're getting pretty worn down," he said. "Sports have changed, they run almost the entire year now."

Some of the proposed work at Bransfield Park includes replacing the park's fence, adding irrigation to the Little League field, ADA improvements and paving the parking area.

At Nolan Field, Zampano said irrigation for the outfield was up for consideration, as well as ADA improvements and an extension of the storage shed there.

Middlesex Avenue Park improvements could include field irrigation systems, field extensions, replacing the park's fencing and swapping out the baseball field there for two full soccer fields.

"There would be room on those fields for use with football," Zampano said. "There would certainly be some sharing because they'd also be using them for practice."

Another option was pursuing further development of the recreation complex at the Goodrich property.

"What we'd want to do with that grant would be to try to get a start on some of the work there, such as improving the wetland areas in the front and doing some site preparation as well," he said.

Zampano said Parks and Recreation developed two proposals, one based around improvements at those three parks, and one focusing on the Goodrich property.

Selectman Fred Knous asked Zampano what he saw as the greater STEAP grant priority.

"We're mainly focusing on field rehabilitation because we don't really know what the timing will be with regards to Goodrich, and those fields are being beat on pretty good right now," Zampano said.

Public Works Director Rick Kelsey also detailed plans from his department about how to use STEAP grant money.

Kelsey focused on the water main on Spring Street, which had most recently suffered a break in mid-September.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said that the total estimated cost for the break is \$30,000 in direct costs, and \$12,000 in indirect costs.

The water main at Spring Street has suffered from three breaks in one year.

Kelsey said Spring Street is particularly at risk because only a small section of the pipes under the street have been replaced with new pipes. Many of the sections still have yet to be replaced and are especially susceptible to breaks.

"The net result is that a break could happen again tonight, and that would be another \$50,000," he said. "Also, we've done so much damage to Spring Street that it's misshapen, there's no sidewalk; it's in pretty poor shape."

"It's probably a million dollar project at this point," he said.

Although Kelsey said he was aware that STEAP grants only provide up to \$500,000 in funding, he said that Spring Street repairs would be an important candidate for receiving money.

"This is not going to go away," he said. "It

will happen again, I assure you."

Some other priorities Kelsey listed were the town's sand and salt shed, which needs to be upgraded in accordance with state environmental regulations because it's located in an aquifer area, town sidewalks, water and sewer pipe maintenance on Route 66, drainage improvements on High Street, Rogers Road and Free-stone Avenue, and a new generator at the highway garage.

The board did not make a decision and agreed to discuss grant topics further at the meeting in two weeks. STEAP grant applications are due in November, and towns receive grants on a rolling basis beginning in January.

* * *

Also at Wednesday's meeting, several representatives from Metropolitan District Commission discussed water rates and issues.

Selectmen requested the presentation in the wake of considering proposed water rate increases on recommendations by the town's Water and Sewer Commission. Reviewing the town's contract with the MDC is part of that process, Bransfield said.

"In our discussions, we determined that we needed to do some research, and look at how we're doing in these departments, and one step is to speak with our provider of water," she said.

Bransfield said Portland has budgeted about \$540,000 this year to pay the MDC for approximately 146 million gallons of water for the year, to serve 2,350 customers in town.

Susan Negrelli, MDC's director of engineering, said the MDC has had an agreement with Portland since 1996, and water service began in 2000 after the MDC installed new pipes in Glastonbury, and Portland installed new pipes running to their town line.

According to figures Negrelli presented,

Portland's agreement with the MDC provides the town with a 400,000-gallon water allowance per day, as well as a 30-year length of agreement.

Chief Operating Officer Scott Jellison broke down MDC water charges at the presentation, and said the MDC only charges member and non-member towns for the MDC services they use, so Portland is not charged for sewer costs, only water costs.

Also, Jellison said the MDC does not charge extra for water use by fire departments.

"Some towns pay \$600,000-\$800,000 directly to the water company for fire protection water use, which becomes some form of extra tax in the town," he said. "The MDC only charges \$104 per hydrant in the town."

Jellison also said that he was glad to make the presentation since it "has been a while" since the MDC has broken everything down for the Board of Selectmen.

"I don't know how many opportunities the MDC has had since 1996 present to this body," Jellison said. "But we really appreciate the opportunity tonight."

The General Assembly established the MDC as a non-profit municipal corporation in 1929 to provide clean water and reliable water delivery to towns in the Capitol Region, according to their website, themdc.com. It provides water to around 400,000 people across eight member towns and six associated communities, including Portland and Glastonbury.

Bransfield said at their next meeting, the selectmen will continue to discuss the town's water system, sewer system, water rates and budget. That meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 7:30 p.m., in the public library's Mary Flood Room.

Fifteen Years for Portland Fair

by John Tyczkowski

This year's agricultural fair marks a crystal anniversary between the Town of Portland and the Exchange Club Fairgrounds on Route 17A.

According to the fair's website, portlandfair.com, the fair will feature the crowd-favorite tractor pull on Friday, as well as a vintage tractor pull and a street-legal truck pull on Saturday.

Lastly, there will be mud bogging on Sunday.

"That's an especially big thing this year," Joyce Murphy, the fair secretary, said. "We've never had that before."

The fair will also feature staples such as the annual baking contests for adults and juniors, as well as quilt and photography contests, a scarecrow-decorating contest and a selection of rides courtesy of Coleman Brothers Shows, Inc., of Middletown.

Helicopter rides will make their return this year, which Murphy said was a pleasant surprise.

"We had them last year, and normally we can only get them every six years due to how schedules work," she said. "It's a very big draw, and good to be able to have here again so soon."

The annual Children's Talent Show will also make its regular appearance on Sunday, as will the Canine Halloween Contest.

There will also be horse and oxen drawing contests and dog herding demonstrations. Also, many animals including beef and dairy cattle, goats, sheep, rabbits and poultry will be on display.

At the same time, the fair association has scheduled a few new things for fairgoers as well.

The VFW of Portland will hold a 50/50 raffle with multiple drawings each day. There will also be chainsaw carving demonstrations by Adam Mulholland of Sickline Carving, shows courtesy of Rosie's Racing Pigs and, on Sunday, a visit from Connecticut Greyhound Adoption.

"We try to come up with new things and keep the fair fresh each year," Murphy said. "We don't want it to be the same."

In addition to the agricultural side of the fair, there will also be several music performances at the fair's three stages.

Local group Paragon, which got its start performing as Alcatraz at the 2012 Portland Fair, will be the headlining act on Friday night.

The Green Hill Mountain Band, also from Portland, and Small Town Roots will be returning to the fair on Saturday. The two bands are popular performers from previous years.

There will also be more than 10 other bands playing, spread out over all three fair days, and they will encompass a variety of genres.

However, "Sunday is all bluegrass," Murphy said.

With one exception, the Portland Agricultural Fair has taken place continuously in town since 1999.

That one exception came in 2011, when the fair was canceled due to flooding concerns at the fairgrounds and the lack of a viable replacement venue. The fair association had to eat the cost of the canceled event, which Murphy said has set the group back in the years since.

However, she said, the wide range of new events this year is a good omen.

"2011 really hurt us, but I think we're on the right path now," Murphy said.

Murphy also said this year's fair will be dedicated to Mike Rossitto, owner and operator of Portland's F&W Caterers and a perennial food vendor at the fair, who died in early September.

"He's been with us since day one at the fair, and he was huge in helping us get started," she said. "We're going to put up a sign with his picture at the gate when you walk in."

Murphy also said a moment of silence is also planned in his memory for the fair's opening ceremonies Friday night.

* * *



The Exchange Club Fairgrounds looked a little dreary on Wednesday – thanks to some heavy rain that hit the area earlier in the day – but organizers of the Portland Fair are hoping for sunny skies and dry conditions by this time next week, when the three-day event makes its return.

The fair will take place at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds, where routes 17 and 17A meet, on Friday, Oct. 10, from 5-11 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for seniors. Children under 10 are free.

This week, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield stressed those dates will indeed work, and the fair will go on as planned. The Route 17A bridge, a.k.a. the Carr-Brook bridge, has been the focus of a rehabilitation project the past several months. However, Bransfield

said, the state has assured her the bridge work will be done by 6 a.m. next Wednesday, Oct. 8.

Interested commercial vendors still have time to register, and can visit portlandfair.com for more information.

Potential fairgoers can find more information online, including schedules and contest rules at portlandfair.com, and can also contact info@portlandfair.com.

Visitors can also call Portland Fair Secretary Joyce Murphy at 860-342-0188 for more information.

Portland Middle School Fetches a Blue Ribbon

by John Tyczkowski

Tuesday morning, the U.S. Department of Education released its list of 2014 Blue Ribbon of Excellence Schools, and for just the second time in the town's history, a Portland school made the cut.

Portland Middle School was one of only four Connecticut schools to receive the award this year. The others were Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge, Jefferson Science Magnet School in Norwalk and Wamogo Regional High School in Litchfield.

Portland Middle School Principal Scott Giegerich said that he was "very proud and very pleased" about the award.

"We have families that care and staff that are talented and dedicated," he said. "The award is a recognition of the character of both the school and the town. There aren't too many other schools getting this acknowledgement."

This year, 337 schools received the award, across 47 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as two schools for Department of Defense families stationed in Germany and Japan.

And out of those hundreds of public and private schools honored, only 25 were middle schools.

The only other Portland school to receive this award, which was established in 1982, was Brownstone Intermediate School, which took home the blue in 2011.

Portland Middle School – like Brownstone Intermediate before it – received the award for excellence in the high-performing schools category, which looks at student achievement in English and math.

According to the Department of Education's

website, ed.gov, the award's other excellence category is for "improving schools," or those that are working to close achievement gaps between high-performing and low-performing students.

However, the middle school's achievements are much more than test scores, Giegerich said.

"Even though the rating [for the Blue Ribbon Award] is based upon CMT scores, we are proud to address the whole child at PMS," he said. "We've achieved an important milestone but that doesn't mean our work is done by any means. We'll continue to challenge our students each day."

Rep. John Larson (D-CT-1) released a statement Tuesday morning congratulating "the staff, teachers, parents and especially the students" of Portland Middle School on their achievement.

"This coveted award signifies that the school has not only achieved academic excellence, but has also created a safe and welcoming environment for children to learn and grow," the congressman said in the statement.

With its new commendation, Giegerich said the school decided to have some fun on Wednesday, and gave out blue ribbon lanyards to students.

"I was presenting them like medals to students in the cafeteria," he said. "It was a fun way to bring the recognition to them."

* * *

Look in next week's *Rivereast* for more comprehensive coverage on Portland Middle School's award, including reaction from members of the boards of education and selectmen, as well as teachers at the middle school.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Well, October is here. I'm not altogether thrilled about the cooler weather – and the creeping reminders winter will here before you know it – but at least the last weekend of September was a superb one. A good friend of mine got married Friday, and then I took in the last Mets game of the year on Sunday afternoon, and I couldn't have asked for better weather for either occasion.

In fact, sitting in the sun-soaked seats at Citi Field, I actually felt downright hot. But I didn't complain, for two reasons: 1) Unfortunately, too many of the games I went to this season featured cool, windy weather not exactly ideal for baseball, and 2) I knew this was probably summer's last hurrah.

And, for the moment anyway, it appears it was. Now arrives the perennial harbingers of autumn: the donning jackets and sweaters, the falling of leaves, the new episodes of *Law & Order: SVU* after a summer of repeats – and, as anyone who reads the *Rivereast* knows, opportunities to have delicious meals.

This week I have received several emails detailing various food-related events going on in the *Rivereast* towns, from pig roasts to church suppers to breakfast gatherings and more. Many are open to the public, and many, let's be honest, sound great. And the prices for these events, for the food you receive, seem more than fair. I think everyone would do well to check at least one of these dinners out.

Like I said, a bunch are listed in the *Rivereast* this week. Happy reading – and then, happy eating.

* * *

Now this was a weird one – and also very funny. A man in western Oregon tried to elude police capture early Sunday, and may have gotten away with it too – if he just didn't smell so good.

The Associated Press reported Tuesday officers in Linn County tried to pull over Charles Agosto, 35, shortly before dawn Sunday but Agosto didn't want to stop. Instead, he engaged police in a high-speed chase, and was able to outrun them. Agosto topped 100 m.p.h. – and the hood of his red Honda Prelude literally flew off.

Police later saw the car parked, the AP re-

ported, and launched a search by foot. They weren't having a whole lot of luck – it was still dark out – but soon officers detected what the AP described as a "strong scent of cologne," and they soon found their suspect hiding in shrubbery.

Agosto was jailed on charges including probation violation and trying to elude officers, the AP reported. And – no joke – he also told officers he regretted using the cologne.

I guess there's a lesson there for everyone: next time you make yourself all fragrant for the night, make sure there aren't any police chases in your immediate future.

* * *

Lastly, congratulations are in order to the Kansas City Royals. They won a thrilling extra-inning affair Tuesday night to give them the American League wild card, and are now playing the Los Angeles Angels in as best-of-five division series.

A couple of years ago, you may recall, baseball instituted a one-game playoff for the wild card. The top two non-division-winning teams would play each other in a sudden-death matchup to see who gets to play one of the division winners in a best-of-five series. It's a change I thought was fantastic – for the same reasons a lot of people didn't like it. A one-game playoff can be a total crapshoot; teams would much rather be playing in the five-game division series. Then you know what? Win the division. After the wild card was introduced for the 1995 season (well, technically for 1994, but a strike embarrassingly and shamefully eradicated the playoffs that year), there was suddenly no real impetus for winning the division. My Mets benefited a couple of times from the wild card, but you couldn't argue that it weakened the divisional races.

But now the divisional races mean something again – and because the Royals didn't win theirs, they had to play Oakland Tuesday night.

I was happy to see Kansas City win. Before this week, the team hadn't been in the baseball postseason since 1985 – a whopping 29-year drought (even my Mets haven't had a run of luck that bad). So the Royals are definitely a real feel-good story. Best of luck to them as the playoffs continue.

Police News

9/4: Wojciech Rembiszewski, 22, of 9 Davis St., New Britain, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, East Hampton Police said.

9/8: Andrzej Romanowski, 55, of 19 Curry Ln., was arrested and charged with DUI, following too close and failure to drive right, police said.

9/10: Sarah R. Ford, 27, of 188 West High St., was arrested and charged with failure to drive right, operation of a motor vehicle while under suspension, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, possession of heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said. In the same incident, police said, Ford was arrested pursuant to an active arrest warrant held by State Police Troop K, for second-degree failure to

appear.

9/12: Shelley A. Briere, 32, of 139 Johnson Rd., Tolland, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

9/12: Kimberly Rodrigue, 26, of 56 South Rd., Marlborough, was issued a summons for failure to have motor vehicle insurance, police said.

9/25: David Clifford Yarlott, 37, of 29 Depot Hill Rd., was arrested pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest, police said. Yarlott was charged with violation of a protective order, police said.

Colchester Police News

9/22: State Police said that Michael Charles, 58, of 21 Aspen Place, Willimantic, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear on a warrant.

9/23: State Police said Susan Trama, 53, of 27 Debi Circle, Colchester, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right.

9/24: State Police said Kendall Smith, 27, of 152 School St., Bloomfield, was arrested and charged with DUI, operating while under suspension and speeding.

9/24: State Police said Steven Willard, 28, of 350 Griswold Rd., Wethersfield, was arrested and charged with DUI, speeding and failure to drive in the proper lane.

9/28: Colchester Police said Stephen

Koyama, 20, of 219 Cypress Road, Newington, was arrested and charged with DUI, evading responsibility, making an improper turn, operating without a license and second-degree larceny. Police said that at the time of the arrest, Koyama was found to be operating a stolen vehicle out of Newington and tried to flee the scene on foot.

9/28: State Police said Robert Snow, 51, of 355 Babcock Hill Rd., Lebanon, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear on a warrant.

9/29: State Police said Alisha Padilla, 28, of 133 Vanderbilt Ave., West Hartford, was arrested and charged with fourth-degree larceny and second-degree forgery.

Marlborough Police News

9/23: State Police said Ryan Sleeper, 21, of 68 Granite Rd., Glastonbury, was arrested and charged with DUI, speeding and making an improper turn.

9/23: State Police said Gage Stratton, 21, of 9 West Middle Tpke., Manchester, was arrested and charged with third-degree burglary, sixth-degree larceny, conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to commit larceny.

9/23: State Police said James Deakle, 20, of 32 Olive St., Newington, was arrested and charged with third-degree burglary, three counts of sixth-degree larceny, conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to commit larceny.

9/27: State Police said Joshua Marks, 34, of 6 Sanford Ridge, East Granby, was arrested and charged with DUI and reckless driving.

Hebron Police News

9/24: State Police said Christopher Nixon, 31, of 15 Tavern Ln., Colchester, suffered a possible broken leg and pelvis and was transported after his vehicle went off the road on Route 85, striking a tree. Police said Nixon was issued a summons for making an improper turn and operating while under suspension.

Andover Police News

9/22: State Police said Jolene Rocks, 53, of 145 Boston Hill Road, Andover, was arrested and charged with DUI.

Obituaries

Colchester

Eugene Chmiel

Eugene Chmiel, "Gene," 76, of New Port Richey, Fla., formerly of Colchester and East Hampton, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 10, surrounded by his loving family.

Gene was a NYC firefighter for 20 years, a builder and land developer for 10 years in Colchester and the owner and operator of Blackhall Marina in Old Lyme for 13 years. Gene will be remembered for his love of family, storytelling, food, the water and his big smile.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Chester and Helen Chmiel.

He will always be remembered with love by his devoted wife of 53 years, Florence; his son Gene, daughter-in-law Audra; son Jason; daughter-in-law Julie; grandson Nick; and granddaughters Jesse, Kaitlin and Megan.

He was a good friend to many, a great father, grandfather and husband. He lived in Colchester for 20 years and East Hampton for 20 years. He will be missed by his many cousins and friends from Connecticut and Florida.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 11, at noon, at St. Joseph's Polish Society Cemetery on Amston Road, Colchester. A luncheon will follow at St. Joseph's Polish Club, 395 S. Main St., Colchester, for family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in his name to St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St., Colchester, CT 06415.



East Hampton

Pedro Cardona-Rivera

Pedro Cardona-Rivera, 72, of East Hampton and formerly of Puerto Rico, passed away Saturday, Sept. 27, at Apple Rehab in Colchester, with his beloved family by his side. Born April 29, 1942, in Aguas Buenas, PR, he was a son of the late Domingo and Herminia (Rivera) Cardona.

Pedro retired several years ago after having worked very hard as a migrant worker on farms in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. He was a skilled baseball player in his youth and in later years became an avid New York Yankees fan.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered by his beloved family. Survivors include four children and their spouses, Giovannie and his wife, Glenda Cardona-Lopez of Hartford, Eliezer Cardona-Lopez of Hartford, Natalia Cardona-Lopez of East Hampton and Yaritza Cardona-Lopez; a brother, Filomeno Cardona-Rivera of PR; two sisters, Diosa Cardona-Rivera and Rufina Cardona-Rivera, both of PR; seven grandchildren, Xavier Ward-Cardona, Jeriel Otero-Cardona, Royce McKenna-Cardona, Giovannie Cardona-Santiago, Gionel Cardona-Lopez, Jonathan Cardona-Lopez, Elezer Cardona-Lopez Jr.; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by a grandson, Jexier Otero-Cardona.

Funeral services will be held privately. Care of arrangements has been entrusted to Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Nevin Bryant Alpert

Nevin Bryant Alpert, 51, of Bristol and formerly of Colchester, passed away Sunday, Sept. 28. Born April 2, 1963 in Hartford, he was the beloved son of Alma Carol Alpert of Colchester.

Nevin was a 1981 graduate of Bacon Academy in Colchester. He went on to earn his Bachelor of General Studies degree from Eastern Connecticut State University in 1990.

A dedicated educator, Nevin worked for the ARC of Farmington Valley (FAVARH), the Avon and Windsor school systems and CCMC. During the summers, he also worked at IDS (Independent Day School) in Middlefield.

For the past 25 years, he was involved with the athletic department of ECSU in a wide range of capacities. Nevin was also an active coach with American Legion Senior League Baseball, AAU Baseball and Basketball and Storm Spring Clinics. He loved the outdoors and was an avid sportsman as well.

In addition to his loving mother, he leaves his wife of 12 years, Crystal Marie (Politz) Greenbacker Alpert of Bristol; daughter, Amanda Greenbacker; son, Jared Greenbacker; brother, Merrick, wife, Alexandra and their children, Jaxon, Emilia, Mateo and Harper Luisa Alpert; sister, Amara Alpert Cohn, husband, Steve and their children, Rebecca and Jacob Cohn; uncle, Robert Alpert, wife Ann and their son, Alex, all of Napa, Calif.; aunt, Lola Roy Johnson and her sons, Ricky and Steven Roy, all of Colchester; aunt, Helaine Alpert of Colchester and her son, Haylin (and his wife Joanna) of Stamford; his parents-in-law, Emil and Sharon Politz of Farmington; his brother-in-law, Bruce Politz, his wife, Dawn and their sons, Spencer and Ben of Burlington; and many friends and extended family members. Nevin also leaves his feline friends, Bella, Panda, Marmalade and Blackie.

He was predeceased by his uncle, Harvey Alpert and his aunt, Shirley Surwill.

May his memory be for a blessing. Funeral services were observed Thursday, Oct. 2, at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., Colchester, with Rabbi Kenneth Alter, officiating. Interment followed in Ahavath Achim Memorial Park, Taintor Hill Road, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the animal charity of one's choice, or to the memorial fund to benefit his children at nevinbryantmemorialfund.mydagsite.com.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Andover

Lorraine Mosher Carter

Lorraine Mosher Carter, 83, formerly of Andover, passed away peacefully Thursday, Sept. 25. She left us to be with her late husband, Walter Carter, who departed in 2009, just short of their 59th wedding anniversary. She was born Nov. 30, 1930, in Hartford.

Lorraine traveled the nation with Walter and friends on countless occasions, visiting national parks, monuments, the luckiest casinos in Nevada, and square danced state by state to the best conventions. She was always the life of the party and a generous hostess. Those who were close to her will remember her sharp wit, her humor, her adventures and her character.

She married "the boy next door," and they are survived by their three children, Linda Carter of Niantic, Susan Bell and her husband, William, of Hebron, and Brian Carter of Vernon; 13 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

After raising their children in Andover, Lorraine and Walt moved to Manchester and later retired to their summers in the home they built together in Niantic, and their winters in Fort Pierce, Fla., at Golden Ponds.

Nothing is more precious than the gift of time. A special thank you to Carolyn Carter, Sharon Tuttle, Allan Tuttle and the Florida friends who made the time to make a difference.

We would also like to thank the Bride Brook "family" for care "above and beyond," from the moment we entered until the last moments of her life.

There will be private services when Lorraine is reunited with her husband in Arlington, Va., in the spring.

Thomas L. Neilan & Sons East Lyme Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. For online condolences, visit neilanfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Judith Glassenberg

Judith Glassenberg passed away Monday, Sept. 29, after a heroic 13-year battle with ovarian cancer. She was 68 years old.

Judi was born Nov. 8, 1945, to the late George and Ruth Zupnik of Colchester. She earned a bachelor of arts degree from Old Dominion University and a master's degree in education from the University of Connecticut. Judi taught elementary school at Halls Hill School in Colchester for four years.

In 1971, she married Albert Glassenberg of New London and resided there for the next 43 years. Judi was active with a number of community organizations and served as president of the LAMBS (associated with Lawrence + Memorial Hospital), a board member and co-chair of the gift shop at Lyman Allyn Museum, and a member of the Women's and Girl's Fund Committee at the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut.

Judi was well-known as a gracious hostess and a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She enjoyed decades of travel, entertaining and art collecting with her husband. Together they were an extraordinary team. Judi left this world satisfied with the beautiful and fulfilling life she led, and with a sense of accomplishment in all the things she did, especially in raising two kind, good and self-sufficient children.

In addition to her husband Albert, Judi is survived by her children, Charles S. Glassenberg of Wellesley, Mass., and his wife, Abigail, and Jacqueline D. Hemmerdinger of Forest Hills, N.Y., and her husband, Damon. She is also survived by her granddaughters, Roxanne, Stella, and Josephine Glassenberg and Ellis and Jordan Hemmerdinger; her twin brother, James and his wife and Judi's beloved sister-in-law, Karen; and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Oct. 1, at Congregation Beth El, 660 Ocean Ave., New London. Burial was private and a memorial observance was omitted. Please omit flowers.

Donations in her honor should be made to the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, 14 Pennsylvania Plaza, Suite 1710, New York, NY 10122 or the Judith Glassenberg Classroom Enrichment Fund, Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, 68 Federal St., New London, CT 06320.

The Byles Memorial Home, 99 Huntington St., New London, is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Colchester

Daniel F. Hepp

Daniel F. Hepp, 84, residing at Emeritus Senior Living, South Windsor, formerly of Colchester, passed away peacefully at Hartford Hospital Friday, Sept. 26. The youngest of three children, he was born May 3, 1930, to the late Bridget and Frederick Hepp.

Dan attended Hartford schools. When he was old enough, he spent summer vacations picking tobacco to assist with the family's income. He graduated Weaver High School in 1948. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War. Upon returning home, Dan resumed his studies at the University of Hartford, where he attained his master's degree in teaching.

For a time after graduation, he toured Europe; especially Ireland reconnecting with many of his extended family there. Upon his return to the U.S., Dan taught for a time at the state penitentiary in Old Wethersfield. Dan went on from that position to become truant officer for the south end of Hartford for 10 years. He finished his working career at the Hartford Postal Service, a very physical job but a job that he held in high regard.

He loved swimming and working out at the Hartford YMCA. He also enjoyed gardening and working around the home that he purchased in Colchester just prior to his retirement, as well as other various hobbies. Dan truly loved his extended family, especially his sister, Josephine Hartnett.

Dan was predeceased by his sister Josephine, her husband William S. Hartnett Jr. and his brother Fred Hepp.

He is survived by his two nephews, William S. Hartnett and James F. Hartnett.

Dan will always be remembered as a thoughtful easy-going sort, with a great sense of humor. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Graveside services were held Thursday, Oct. 2, at noon, in Riverside Cemetery, Barkhamsted.

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

Colchester

Ernest L. Miclette Sr.

Ernest L. Miclette Sr. died peacefully Saturday, Sept. 27, at Harrington Court Healthcare & Rehab in Colchester, with his family by his side. Ernie was born in Norwich on May 4, 1927, to the late Leon and Georgianna (Houle) Miclette.

He worked for the former Herman's Inc of Massachusetts as sales and serviceman, then Kitchens by Armstrong as a cabinet maker, and finally as a clerk at Bozrah Home and Hardware with his wife Alma.

On Feb. 11, 1950, he married his beloved wife, Alma (Sabra) who survives him. Together they raised their family, worshipped at Sts. Peter & Paul Church and The Cathedral of St. Patrick and worked together.

Ernie enjoyed being a cabinet maker, working with wood, gardening and was active in church as a C.C.D. teacher at Sts. Peter & Paul, then a C.Y.O. onstructor, lector and Eucharistic minister at the cathedral. He was also a 40-year member of the Holy Family Retreat League in Farmington.

He is survived by his wife, Alma; sons, Ernest Miclette Jr. and his wife Rebecca of Baltic, Charlie Miclette and his wife Nancy of Taftville; daughter, Nancy Blackburn-Grohocki and her husband Michael Grohocki of Norwich; sisters, Pauline Bonkowski of Jewett City and Maryann Chinigo of Norwich; four granddaughters; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brother, Henry Miclette, and five sisters, Lucille Guilbeault, Irene Beaulieu, Aurore Adams, Bertha Roberts and Estelle LaChance.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Patrick, 213 Broadway, Norwich, Wednesday, Oct. 1. Burial immediately followed at St. Joseph Cemetery, 815 Boswell Ave., Norwich. Visitation was Tuesday, Sept. 30, at the Labenski Funeral Home, 107 Boswell Ave., Norwich.

Donations may be made in Ernie's memory to either the Arthritis Foundation, 35 Cold Spring Rd., Suite 411, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, or American Cancer Society, 1075 Chase Pkwy., Waterbury, CT 06708.

To leave an online condolence, visit labenski funeralhome.com.

Colchester

Carolyn Perkett

Carolyn Perkett, on Sept. 27, our "Sweet Carolyn," passed away after a battle with lung cancer, surrounded by her family. She was the daughter of Ruth (Williams) Lenti and stepfather, Louis Lenti, former owners of Ruth's Restaurant in Hartford, where she also worked during her teenage years.

She was born in 1942 to Ruth and her father, Carl Getz. In her youth, Carolyn was known for her grace, beauty and fashion sense. She attended Hartford High School and married Reed D. Perkett, her former husband and they had three children, Lisa, Michele, and Reed. Carolyn was a devoted mother and homemaker. She had a profound love of the seashore like her mother Ruth, and brought the children frequently during the summer to Misquamicut Beach. Though she couldn't swim, she insisted her children take swimming lessons, including diving and synchronized swimming plus their joining the swim team.

Carolyn loved music and was a big fan of Neil Diamond. She loved animals, especially dogs, and her children always had a dog growing up. Carolyn passed along her beauty-sense to Michele, who is the owner of Studio 44 Salon, East Windsor. Carolyn also graciously took in her children's friends who needed a place to stay.

She was predeceased by her mother, Ruth Lenti; her beloved Great Aunt Clarice Bouley; her father, Carl Getz; her paternal Aunt Dorothy Tabler, her Uncle James Williams; and a distant half-sister. She leaves those to mourn her death, her devoted stepfather, Louis Lenti; children, Lisa and Peter Madsen of Broad Brook, Michele Landry of South Windsor and Reed and Tricia Perkett of Ellington; grandchildren, Erik, Shayna and Meagan Landry, and Connor Reed Madsen. She also leaves cousins Wendy Williams-Trout, Michael and Kenneth Williams and their mother, Lynnette Williams.

Carolyn's family would like to thank the superb doctors, nurses, and social service staff who attended to her care including: Crestwood Manor staff, especially Margie and Lisa; Regency Heights nurses and aides, Beacon Hospice, Dr. Benton and staff, Dr. Bulgaru and her ECHO Oncology staff, and Backus Hospital.

Calling hours were held Wednesday, Oct. 1, at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral service followed that evening, also at the funeral home. Burial will be private.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



More Obituaries on Following Page

Obituaries

Colchester

Thomas W. Migliaccio Sr.

Thomas W. Migliaccio Sr., 97, of Colchester, formerly of Chicago Avenue, Groton, passed away Thursday morning, Sept. 25, at his residence. He was born in Groton Jan. 16, 1917, the son of Albert A. and Josephine (Papa) Migliaccio.

Tom was married to Marian Yering Oct. 7, 1949.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Following the war, he worked as a cabinet maker for Modern Woodcraft in Groton. Tom was a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his son, Thomas W. Migliaccio Jr. of Colchester; his grandchildren, Thomas W. Migliaccio III and Teresa Beardsley; and four great-grandchildren.

A graveside service with military honors was held Tuesday, Sept. 30, at Starr Burying Ground, Lestertown Road, Groton. Visiting hours were Monday evening, Sept. 29, at Byles-Groton Memorial Home, 310 Thames St., Groton.

Visit byles.com to sign the guestbook or share a memory.

Colchester

Marie Mancini

Marie (Ratti) Mancini, 90, of Colchester, formerly of East Hartford, loving wife of 38 years of John J. Mancini, went to be with Our Lord Wednesday, Oct. 1, with her caring family by her side. Born in Hartford April 3, 1924, a daughter of the late James and Maria (Piro) Ratti, she had been a resident of East Hartford for most of her life prior to moving to Colchester in 1988.

Marie was a graduate of East Hartford High School, Class of 1941. Prior to her retirement, she was employed by Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, East Hartford for 32 years as a Secretary. A devout Catholic, she was a faithful communicant of St. John Fisher Church, Marlborough. Marie was a proud and devoted wife, mother and grandmother who loved cooking and spending time with her entire family. She was also an avid fan of the New York Yankees.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by five brothers, Rafael "Mim" Ratti of East Hartford, Joseph Ratti and his wife, Lucy, of Wethersfield, Eramano "Sonny" Ratti of South Windsor, Ugo Ratti of East Windsor, Romano Ratti and his wife, Arline, of East Hartford; and three sisters, Virginia Sprockett of East Haven, Rose Kostek of South Windsor, Felicia Marie Esposito of East Hartford.

Along with her beloved husband, Marie is survived by four daughters, Deanna Tressler and her husband, Bill, of Manchester, Maureen Mortensen and Norman Albert of Colchester, Michelle "Shelly" Myers and her husband, Bruce, of East Hartford, Marie Brewer of Fort Smith, Ark.; another "daughter" Dina Karvelis and her husband, Shawn, of Marlborough; a brother, Gregory Ratti and his wife, Sandy, of East Hampton; two sisters-in-law, Mary "Mame" Ratti of East Windsor, Lillian Ratti of East Hartford; a dear friend, Debbie Apel of Middletown; 10 endeared grandchildren; seven adored great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and friends.

The funeral service will be Saturday, Oct. 4, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 9:30 a.m. at St. John Fisher Church, Marlborough. (Everyone is asked to please go directly to the church on Saturday morning.) Burial will follow at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, (Section X), Bloomfield. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Marie's name may be made to St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447.

The D'ESOPPO-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford has been entrusted with the care of the funeral arrangements. For online expressions of sympathy to the family, visit desopo.com.

East Hampton

Gertrude Lavigne Gantick

Gertrude "Trudy" Lavigne Gantick, 77, of East Hampton, formerly of Willimantic, passed away following an extended illness Wednesday, Sept. 24, surrounded by her family. Trudy was born Oct. 26, 1936, in Willimantic, to the late Leon and Fabiola Lavigne.

Trudy graduated from Windham High School in 1954. Following her marriage to Normand W. Gantick in 1955, they traveled the world with the Air Force while raising their four children. After retirement in 1977, they built a home in Lebanon. Trudy went on to a career in the assessing field. She began as one of the first women to be hired by United Appraisal Company as a data collector in 1979. She spent many years working on city and town revaluations throughout Connecticut. After receiving her Connecticut Certification she became assessor for the Town of Marlborough in 1990, retiring in April of 1998.

Her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren. She was a frequent visitor at the East Hampton Library, for the love of reading.

Trudy is survived by her brother, Donald Lavigne and his wife Gail, of Lebanon; her two daughters, Gail Gantick and her husband Gary Maguire of Union, Linda May and her husband Dwayne of Oxford, Ga.; her son, Christopher Gantick and his wife Sue of Jasper, Ga.; and her son-in-law, Chris Barrett of Lebanon. She was Meme to six grandsons, Eric May and his wife Claire of Walnut Grove, Ga., Kevin May and his wife, Whitney of Fort Myers, Fla., Brian Gantick of Jasper, GA, and Chad, Kyle, and Nick Barrett of Lebanon. She had six great-grandchildren: Stacy, Kaden, Ty, Amelia, Colton and Savannah.

She was predeceased by her parents, her husband, and their youngest daughter, Heidi.

Calling hours for Trudy were held at Potter Funeral Home in Willimantic Tuesday, Sept. 30. A Mass was held the following morning, Oct. 1, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 67 West Town St., Lebanon.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Trudy's memory to the American Lung Association of Connecticut.

Sign the online guestbook at potterfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Edith H. Peterson

Edith H. (Anderson) Peterson, 100, of East Hampton, widow of Irving L. Peterson, passed away peacefully Monday, Sept. 22. Born Feb. 13, 1914, in Unionville, daughter of the late Pearl and Ida (Lorenson) Anderson, she resided in Unionville and Farmington for 90 years before moving to East Hampton to live with her daughter.

Prior to retiring, Edith worked for Dr. Lynch at the Avon Medical Group for 18-plus years. She was a charter member of the Frances Richards Club at First Church of Christ, Congregational in Unionville, where she was a longtime member.

Edith is survived by her two daughters and their husbands, Phyllis and Don J. Martin of East Hampton and Karen and Kalevi Kotkas of North Yarmouth, Maine; her brother, Richard Anderson of Avon; six grandchildren, Jon P. Martin and his wife Maritza, Jeffrey A. Martin and his wife Laura, David C. Martin and his wife Jacqueline, Erik K. Kotkas, Peter K. Kotkas and his wife Cassandra, Kristin P. Kotkas and her husband Eric Hinds; seven great-grandchildren, Nicolas Javier Martin, Tomas Felipe Martin, Zoe Barela Martin, Henry Tully Martin, Sofia Elizabeth Martin, Sawyer Don Martin and Ellis Isabel Hinds; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her beloved daughter, Jean C. Peterson; her three sisters, Ruth Reynolds, Jeanette Anderson and Ethel Cross; and her brother, Robert Anderson.

Memorial Services will be held Monday, Oct. 13, at 10:30 a.m., 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.

Arrangements are being handled by The Ahern Funeral Homes, Inc. For online condolences, visit ahernfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Conrad Quinlan

Conrad Quinlan, 85, of Glastonbury and Hebron, beloved husband for 62 years of Marie-Anne (Melanson) Quinlan, died Monday, Sept. 29.

Son of the late Matthew and Helen (Lutynski) Quinlan, Conrad was raised in Hartford and graduated from Hartford Public High School where he lettered in track. He earned his bachelor's degree at UConn, master's degrees from both Brown University and the University of Hartford, and also completed a fellowship at Indiana University.

Conrad served in Korea as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army and achieved the rank of major in the U.S. Army National Guard. Prior to his retirement, he was a professor of chemistry at Manchester Community College. He was a Eucharistic minister and lector at St. Dunstan Church. In his spare time, Conrad enjoyed family gatherings, building stone walls and traveling.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Jacqueline Q. Sonidis, Richard M. Quinlan and his wife, Audrey, Mark S. Quinlan, and Thomas J. Quinlan, all of Glastonbury, Timothy J. Quinlan (LTC, Ret.), and his wife Ann of Fayetteville, NC, and James P. Quinlan and Betsy Pitt of Manchester, and his eight grandchildren, Krystal, Anthony, Jack, Michael, Jameson, Hudson, Helen and T.J. He is also survived by his sister, Rosalie Spillane, of Newington, and cousin, John Quagliano, of Wethersfield.

Besides his parents, Conrad was predeceased by, his son John, brother, John and sister, Martha Hippe.

Funeral services will be held today, Oct. 3, at 10:15 a.m., from Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. in St. Dunstan Church, 1345 Manchester Rd., Glastonbury. Burial with military honors will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury. Friends called at the funeral home Thursday, Oct. 2.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to either The Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, 303 Tunxis Rd., West Hartford, CT 06107, or to the American Legion.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

Portland

Conrad John Brede III

Conrad John Brede III, "Junior," 87, of Portland and formerly from Wethersfield, husband of the late Donna Ann (Cleaves) Brede, passed away Saturday, Sept. 27. He was born April 12, 1927, in Waterbury, the son of the late Conrad John Brede Jr. and Elizabeth (Pautz) Brede.

Conrad's pride and joy was the family business, Paramount Garage in West Hartford, which he started with his father in 1944. He was especially proud of the fact that it is a third generation business, now owned and operated by his son, Kip. Conrad also owned a Reo truck sales and service dealership, which closed in the 1970s.

Conrad was a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, Hospitality Lodge, #128, Wethersfield and a member of the Newington Shriners Arab Patrol.

He is survived by his son, Conrad John Brede IV, "Kip," and his wife Deborah of Amston and his daughter Conrada Wache "Connie" and her husband Michael of Portland. He also leaves his cherished granddaughters, Paige Catherine Wache and her twin sister Megan Rae Wache, who affectionately knew him as "Papa," and Madison Grace Brede and her twin sister Leah Hope Brede and Nicole Katherine Whitfeldt, who all lovingly called him "Poppy."

Calling hours are today, Oct. 3, from 4-7 p.m., with a remembrance service at 7 p.m., at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield. Donations in Conrad's memory may be made to the Shriners Burn Hospital, 51 Blossom Street, Boston, MA 02114.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit desopo.com.

East Hampton

Helen Wason

Helen Fisher (Downs) Wason died peacefully Tuesday, Sept. 23, the first day of fall, in St. Albans, Vt. She was born in Evansville, Ind., on April 26, 1921, the oldest of three children.

In her adult life, she lived in many places, including Greenwich, Peacham, Vt., Sandwich, Mass., and most recently St. Albans, Vt.

Helen was predeceased by her parents, William G. and Elizabeth H. Downs; her high school sweetheart and husband, Robert Comstock Wason; her brother, William Gershom Downs III; and her great granddaughter, Emma Bartell.

She is survived by her sister, Anne Harrison (Downs) Seymour of Silver City, N.M. She also leaves behind her children, David Wason of East Hampton, Tod Wason of Hartford, Elizabeth Robear and husband John Robear of South Burlington, Vt., Nancy Shaw and husband Tyrone Shaw of Bakersfield, Vt., and Peter Wason and wife Linda Wason of Sutton, Mass.; as well as nine grandchildren, three great-grandsons, and 17 nieces and nephews.

Helen was a lifelong aficionado of British history, early American antiques, and New England autumn. She was a wry observer of humanity, never hesitating to comment on life's comic unpredictability. She could think of a hundred excuses for a party, especially family picnics on Sunday afternoons. She loved cats, Scrabble games and planting perennials. She loved words, and delighted in discovering their origins and arcane meanings, but particularly she loved to talk about ideas.

Her many interests included reading, making jam, knitting, writing letters, taking walks in the woods, and making new friends. She kept us all together with her careful, detailed attention to the family's genealogy.

Helen was a faithful Christian believer who was an active participant in the life of the Episcopal Church. She believed fervently in a real and eternal afterlife. We will miss her fierce and loving heart in this one.

"Death lies on her, like an untimely frost Upon the sweetest flower of all the field."

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Helen's memory may be made to The Christian Appalachian Project, P.O. Box 55911, Lexington, KY 40555-5911.

Portland

David Allen Denette

David Allen Denette, 75, of Haddam, formerly of Portland, passed away Friday, Sept. 26. He was the husband for 43 years to the late Georgina A. Denette. David and his wife had retired to Florida but returned to Connecticut to be with their family.

He was born on October 19, 1938 in Middletown, to the late

Roland and Eleanore (Berggren) Denette, and was raised in Portland.

David is survived by his brother Donald Denette; children, Barbara Barr (husband

Jerry), Ruth Ziobron (husband Dan) and Phillip Zak; as well as eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He is predeceased by his brother, Craig Denette, and son, Thomas Denette.

He worked at his family's business at the Deep River Lace Mill and was a self-employed carpenter. David's favorite childhood memories were of the large Berggren family Christmas parties. He was an active member at the Deep River Congregational Church, where he volunteered his carpenter skills to help with many projects. He had a wonderful sense of humor.

A memorial service will be held at the Deep River Congregational Church Saturday, Oct. 11, at 10 a.m. Internment will be private.

Donations may be made to the Deep River Congregational Church in his honor, in lieu of flowers.

