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The Old Home Days celebration in East Hampton provided fun for the whole family from July 10-12. Among the many attractions were a carnival, held on Center School grounds, which included a super slide that proved to be a kid-favorite.

Family Fun Abounds at Old Home Days

by Elizabeth Bowling

The 36th annual Old Home Days was gloriously celebrated earlier this month. The three-day event kicked off Thursday, July 10, with a family-friendly evening of carnival rides, carnival food and carnival fun.

One family from New Jersey has made Belltown's OHD celebration a tradition. Two years ago, Sharon and Steve Fantozzi started coming to East Hampton to visit family during the OHD weekend, bringing their daughter to the annual event, and continued in their tradition this year. Eleven-year-old Victoria said the fair was "great." She showed off her prizes – "a big bear, a little tiger and a Power Ranger" – before running off to the next carnival game to try and win more.

Shawn King also made last Thursday night a family night. He, his wife and their two young sons have, like the Fantozzis, made OHD a family tradition.

"It's fantastic. We come every year, all three nights. It's perfect for a small town like this," the two-year resident of East Hampton said. He added the bicycle give-away is "the best part" and the "great cover bands" are also noteworthy.

And while the carnival is family-friendly, it's

not particularly diet-friendly. With fair-food favorites like cotton candy, fried dough, French fries, popcorn, stuffed baked potatoes and pizza, Thursday evening was pushing the limits of many belts. The list goes on: fried Oreos, Snickers and Twinkies, sno cones, candy apples, Thai food, sausage and steak grinders, and wings from the Tavern on 66, to name some more.

But eating wasn't the only item on the agenda. Carnival-goers, especially the children, enjoyed a plethora of rides, from the "Kiddie Whip" to the "Cobra," to popular crowd pleasers like the Ferris wheel, super slide and carousel.

Booths were set up throughout the carnival area of local organizations, like the East Hampton Fire Department, which is fundraising for its upcoming second annual fireworks to be held Saturday, Aug. 16. Other booths belonged to Friends of Lake Pocotopaug and Epoch Arts, for example.

As if there were some sort of lack of entertainment last Thursday, the main floor hosted a fire magician for kids to "ooh" and "ahh" at and later in the evening, the main stage showcased the musical talents of local bands.

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Parents, Teachers Talk RHAM Parking Improvements

by Geeta Schrayter

Four months after an accident that claimed the life of a popular middle school teacher, parents, teachers and area officials gathered last Thursday, July 17, to share ideas on how to make the parking lot at the RHAM middle and high schools a safer place to be.

Last week's public information meeting was held in the RHAM High School chorus room, to discuss the ongoing traffic study at the two schools.

The RHAM Board of Education hired the engineering, planning, and construction firm BETA Group Inc., to assess the traffic patterns at the schools in response to the March 14 accident that resulted in the death of middle school teacher Dawn Mallory.

Mallory was walking through the parking lot when she was struck by a car driven by Elizabeth Everett of Hebron. According to state police, Everett realized she had driven into the bus lane at the school and was backing up when she struck Mallory. As a result of the accident, Mallory suffered a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain; she was transported to Hartford Hospital where she passed away March 28.

Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski explained last Thursday's meeting was "part of the effort to gather input from various sectors of the community," before introducing BETA Group Senior Associate Jim Ford.

Ford gave those in attendance a brief presentation where he gave an overview of the scope of the project, the progress to date, and the timeline moving forward.

He explained the firm would collect data; conduct observations; hold stakeholder interviews like Thursday's meeting; and make an on- and off-campus analysis before presenting both short- and long-term recommendations.

"I've got to stress this evening, I've no recommendations for you," Ford stated. "This is your opportunity to tell me your concerns."

So far, Ford continued, the firm had reviewed morning and afternoon discharge peaks, collected traffic and accident data, and made some initial observations.

Some of those observations were that the school is a complex site, with a layout Ford said is "not reflective of current access planning."

Bus segregation, he continued, is not easily obtained, and signage isn't consistent with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Furthermore, the morning drop-off period requires manual intervention "to make it work," and in the afternoon there are some offsite issues including the intersection of Wall Street and Route 66.

Ford, however, stressed "that's not just a school problem. ... That intersection does not perform as well as it should."

Other issues at the school had to do with traffic volume.

"Separation is not maintained between parents and buses," he commented. "We're thinking about how we're going to resolve that because it's not a good thing to not have total segregation between bus traffic and vehicles."

Ford said the firm was looking to get some short-term recommendations in place by the start of the school year, while the long-term recommendations may take longer due to construction.

But for middle school teacher George Deliman, implementing changes had already taken too long; Deliman spoke after Ford finished his presentation, and shared he was the first on the scene after Mallory was struck.

"Dawn was a friend of mine, a co-worker. I was the first one on the scene to perform first aid," he said. "I don't ever want to go through that again in my life."

Deliman said he was concerned with the length of time it was taking to make changes, and provided a plan of his own.

"We just passed the four-month anniversary [of the accident]," he stated. "You may not agree with my plan and what I say but something needs to be done by the start of the school year, not three months later, three years ... We're sick and tired of being told there's not enough money, we have to get permission, go through zoning – if this was your child, your husband, your wife or your mother, you'd want something done and you'd want it done a lot sooner than four months after the accident."

Deliman added, "There are traffic problems, pedestrian problems – things we've complained about for years."

After Deliman, other audience members piped up with ideas of their own. Some wondered about decreasing the number of cars on

campus – which Marlborough resident Sarah Kuerbitz admitted "probably would be particularly unpopular."

Kuerbitz said if there were no school buses, or a fee to ride them, driving would be "understandable." However, since that's not the case, she suggested looking at why students aren't taking the school bus and finding ways to encourage them to do so.

Another parent said years ago there used to be requirements to drive to school, such as having an after school job or playing on a team, and wondered about bringing some of those requirements back.

And concerns were voiced over some immediate changes that had been made to traffic patterns before the end of the last school year that didn't work as well as hoped: parents mentioned getting stuck waiting to turn out of the school onto Wall Street, or in the parking lot waiting for a space to pull out between the line of departing buses. One parent called the situation "like NASCAR pit row," and said she was still concerned people were going to hit each other.

Concerns over the students who park at Veterans Park walking to the school were also mentioned, along with students who park by the tennis courts – both had to maneuver the vehicles on campus.

"I didn't always see someone helping them cross," parent Mary Healy said of the students who parked further from the school.

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Old Home Days cont. from Front Page

OHD Association President Pam Joslyn-Greenwald said of the weekend, "It went perfect."

"The weather was beautiful for the whole weekend," she furthered. "The parade was great, everything was great."

One could argue the highlight of every Old Home Days is the parade, held the Saturday of the fair. Organizers bill the parade the largest of its kind in Middlesex County. According to Joslyn-Greenwald, 90 units and more than 1,000 people participated in the two-hour-long parade this year.

Joslyn-Greenwald had only positive things to say about each day of OHD 2014. For example, she said the 5K race Friday night brought in about 400 runners, and the OHD Association was able to give away 20 bikes per night for a total of 60 bikes. She explained people in the community donate money and the OHD Association goes out and buys the bikes from Wal-Mart in Manchester.

With the 36th annual Old Home Days in the books, the OHD Association is already preparing for the 37th. Its next meeting is Monday, Aug. 4.

The 2014 Old Home Days weekend was celebrated July 10-12. Kids Night was Thursday, July 10, and some highlights are pictured here, clockwise from top left: 1.) Live entertainment included a fire magician on the main floor. 2.) Children enjoyed classic carnival games, which gave them opportunities to win toys and stuffed animals. 3.) The super slide was a kid-favorite, calling for big smiles and laughs from its participants, like the one pictured here. 4.) No carnival-outing is complete without a ride on the carousel.

Parking cont. from Front Page

Marlborough selectman Dick Shea was present at the meeting, and asked that priorities be placed in order.

"As you go forward, you're going to have to make compromises," he said, "and I hope those you do make are in order of safety first, bus safety second, and convenience of those who want to be picked up and dropped off a very, very distant third."

Parent and former Hebron Board of Education Chairwoman Kathy Shea added her thoughts as well. She said she liked the addition of barriers in the back parking lot "because that back area is like a road," and asked for clearer signage. She also said she "would frown upon staff being out there directing traffic. I would worry about Worker's [Compensation] and liability issues."

Furthermore, Shea asked that whatever changes are made be consistent morning and afternoon.

"It's confusing for a parent who doesn't do it all the time to know" the protocols if they're different depending on the time of day, she explained. "We could have a collision because they don't know."

Shea concluded it would be "tough" to reduce the number of student drivers or parents driving their kids, and said the latter was an issue she constantly dealt with during her time

on the Board of Education. However, she mentioned student enrollment was declining, which "should result in less cars and less traffic, so that should help."

As discussion continued, Ford prompted the audience for their thoughts on the possibility of staggered release, where the cars wouldn't be allowed to drive on campus until the buses are gone.

One of the teachers present mentioned that was the way things had been when she first started teaching. Another teacher mentioned there were also monitors to make sure the staggered release was followed, and more than one teacher said staggered release didn't tack on too much time to those waiting to leave, maybe 10-15 minutes.

If implemented, Ford said, there would be appropriate signage and it would be considered an infraction if drivers didn't listen. However, staggered release wasn't a definite recommendation, but rather Ford was "just trying to find out what the flexibility of options [is]."

After those present said their share, Ford concluded the meeting, and said the firm was looking to have a report together around Aug. 1.

"I have some additional interviews to do next week, and then we'll come up with some ideas and I'm sure we'll be back here," he said. "Same room, different conversation."

East Hampton Town Council Discusses Private Roads

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Town Council Tuesday continued its discussion of private roads in East Hampton and the possibility of turning them into town-owned roads. One road in particular, Fern Lane, was the main topic of conversation, as many of its residents attended the past two meetings in an effort to convince the council to fill in its potholes for a temporary fix, and eventually resurface the street for the long term.

Michael Piergallini, a resident of Fern Lane, spoke on behalf of his neighbors during public comment, requesting that the town repair the potholes on their street as well as schedule a complete resurfacing of the street.

Pierrgallini did his homework before stepping up to speak to the Town Council. He researched what he called the “unique status of Fern Lane” and found that it is included in the Middle Haddam Historic District. He also said East Hampton technically refers to Fern Lane as a town road by displaying it on its maps.

Town Manager Mike Maniscalco, however, expressed his reservations in filling the Fern Lane potholes at this week’s meeting. He said the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission named Fern Lane a privately-owned street at a meeting in 1983.

Maniscalco also expressed some qualms at the July 8 Town Council meeting regarding the federal Town Aid Road funds. He said the town could lose the funding if it is found to be using it on non-town-owned roads.

Pierrgallini argued Tuesday that to suggest that repairing Fern Lane would jeopardize those funds is “misleading at best.”

Pierrgallini continued that, according to the town of East Hampton’s website, a town road is defined as “any historic road, which the Town

Council determines is a town road” or “a road that is accepted as a town road by Town Council action.”

He said that because the Town Council established Fern Lane to exist in the Middle Haddam Historic District, it has, essentially, determined it a town road.

“Fern Lane’s status is clear. The road has been maintained for over 50 years by the town,” he said. “More importantly, by the town’s own building regulation and town code, the town is responsible for the maintenance, repair and periodic replacement of the road that is Fern Lane.”

Although Maniscalco said for the two years he’s been in office, the road hasn’t been maintained by the town.

Maniscalco agreed the Town Council would simply need to accept the road as a town road, and added that he of course would take the direction the council gives him. However, he said he didn’t want to promote taking action on what he considers to be a private road.

“I can’t direct the town to work on private property understanding the liabilities that go along with that,” Maniscalco said.

Councilman Mark Philhower suggested, if need be, that the town send out “harmless agreements” to residents on private roads to get permission from them to maintain the roads.

But Pierrgallini argued that Fern Lane becoming a private road is a separate issue from whether it should be repaired.

Council member Patience Anderson agreed that the potholes should be filled as soon as possible, regardless of the bigger issue, which is the turning of a private road into a town-owned one.

“We can’t delay an obvious fix,” Anderson said, promoting the filling of the Fern Lane potholes. “And then let’s move forward with a resolution for the whole kit and caboodle,” she furthered, referencing the need to address the standing of all private roads in town.

The council unanimously voted to fill the potholes on Fern Lane.

The next private roads the council will address are Byron Road and Poe Road. All those residents, according to Maniscalco, have signed a letter requesting their road be converted into a public road.

Council Vice Chairman Kevin Reich concluded the discussion by requesting a “plan of action” within the next four weeks regarding the private road issue.

* * *

Earlier this month, East Hampton’s Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas approached the Town Council regarding the need to replace a Memorial Elementary School air handler. Dugas explained at the Town Council’s July 8 meeting the 23-year-old air handler “went completely” at the end of June and needed to be replaced. The replacement, she expected, would cost a total of \$40,400.

The council agreed Tuesday that the project would go out to bid, though there was no official vote at Tuesday’s meeting.

East Hampton schools’ Director of Facilities Don Harwood would review the new bid specs and the council agreed to hold a special meeting to select a bidder once the bidding process is completed.

* * *

Also at Tuesday’s meeting, the council unanimously approved a lease agreement between

the town and Angelico’s Lake House. Angelico’s would pay \$1 per year for overflow parking at Sears Park during special events in an “effort to try and support a local business,” as Maniscalco phrased it.

The restaurant’s owner is still handling insurance matters, but the council exempted the lease agreement from a second reading, allowing the town manager to sign it once the insurance is settled.

* * *

The council also took a few minutes Tuesday to recognize 10-year-old Center Elementary School student Cody Voelker, who participated in this year’s state-level Invention Convention for his invention called “EVEPS.” EVEPS stands for Emergency Vehicle Electrical Protector System. Essentially, it is an electricity detector on the front of a fire truck that detects down power lines. Its purpose is to ensure the safety of fire department personnel.

Cody’s dad, Greg Voelker, explained Cody won three awards in the Connecticut Invention Competition, the Stanley Tool Award, the Connecticut Safety Society Award, and the Connecticut Fire Marshall’s Association Fire Safety Award.

Cody used Legos to create a proof of concept model, which he presented to the council and its audience members at its meeting Tuesday. The council, in turn, presented the young inventor with a proclamation and wished him all the best in his future endeavors.

* * *

The next regularly scheduled East Hampton Town Council meeting is Tuesday, Aug. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

East Hampton School Board Updates Bus Contract

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Board of Education held a special meeting last Thursday, July 17, to discuss and act on its school bus contract, as well as the high school renovation project.

Nichols Bus Service Inc., of East Hampton, announced last month it will sell its business to another Connecticut-based bus company, effective Aug. 1. East Hampton schools were one year deep in a five-year contract with the company when Charles Nichols, owner of Nichols Bus Service, announced last month his intent to sell Nichols Bus Service to DATTCO, of New Britain.

According to the official meeting minutes of the school board’s July 17 meeting, the board ultimately authorized its chairman to “respond in writing to Nichols Bus regarding the intent to sell in accordance with Section 15 of the bus contract.”

The unanimous vote allowed Board of Education Chairman Ken Barber to reassign the school board’s contract with Nichols Bus Service to DATTCO.

Barber said in a phone interview Tuesday, “DATTCO is a fine company with a great safety record and an excellent reputation. We’re happy to start working with them.”

Regarding the \$51.7 million high school renovation project, which was passed by vot-

ers at referendum last year, the school board signed a “Request for Review of Final Plans” to be sent to the state. The board unanimously voted last Thursday to accept the project plans and submit them to the state, Barber explained.

High School Building Committee Chairwoman Sharon Smith explained the state Department of Education must look over all the specs and approve the project. Once it does, the project will go out to bid, though Smith noted it won’t be a quick approval process. She reasoned it may take about 60 days for the approval to go through.

The renovated building will feature a new science wing, a new and relocated gymnasium, site work, and a reconfigured parking lot and bus loop, just to name a few highlights, Smith said.

“There’s so much work that needs to be done. The building is 50 years old,” she said. “There’s a lot of infrastructure that needs to be done.”

But once the project is completed, Smith said, “It’s going to be a wonderful place for kids to learn.”

* * *

The next regularly-scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held Monday, Aug. 25, at 7 p.m., at East Hampton High School.

Marlborough Files Appeal Against FOIC

by Melissa Roberto

The Town of Marlborough and First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski have filed an appeal against a decision the Freedom of Information Commission reached last month, which had found Gaudinski at fault regarding a letter from the town attorney.

The appeal was filed with the Superior Court for the Judicial District of New Britain on July 9 and is expected to be contested in court next Tuesday, July 29. The appeal requests the court overturn the decision made by the FOIC on May 28, which recommended that Gaudinski provide copies of a legal opinion she received last May.

The FOIC’s decision is a result of a FOI complaint Marlborough resident Lauren Cragg filed with the state agency last July. Cragg argued that Gaudinski failed to provide her with copies of documents she had requested from the first selectwoman – one of which was a legal opinion from the town attorney and bond counsel stating the May 13, 2013, budget vote was flawed.

FOIC Commissioner Matthew Streeter concluded on April 23 that Gaudinski should provide Cragg with a copy of the legal opinion because it “is not exempt from disclosure” as the town argued. The FOIC upheld Streeter’s decision on May 28.

The document explaining the FOIC’s final decision states Gaudinski “waived the attorney-client privilege” in regards to disclosing a legal opinion when she read aloud portions of the opinion at a May 16, 2013, meeting of the Board of Finance. Thus, the commission recommended Gaudinski release the legal opinion – but she has yet to do so because of the filing of

the appeal.

In addition to responding with an appeal, the town also filed a stay of order pertaining to the disclosing of the legal opinion. According to definitions.uslegal.com, a stay order is a “court order preventing further action until a future event occurs, or the order is lifted.”

In their appeal, Gaudinski and the Town of Marlborough said they “are aggrieved by the final decision of the FOIC.” It furthers they “request that the court find that they have been prejudiced by the actions of the respondents and sustain their appeal.”

This week, Gaudinski declined to comment on the appeal because she said she would like to see it undergo the court process first. Cragg, who told the *RiverEast* in June she was hopeful the FOIC’s decision would “set a precedent for providing information to taxpayers in the future,” commented this week on the filing of the appeal.

“I cannot imagine that the attorney’s letter is so detrimental to the town that First Selectwoman Gaudinski felt she needed to spend \$20,000 to prevent it from becoming public,” Cragg said.

Cragg added, “In 25 years as a consultant for government, I’ve never seen anything like this.”

Gaudinski, Cragg and the FOIC are due in court July 29.

FOIC Public Education Officer Thomas Hennick this week said the commission receives roughly 800 FOI complaints each year, with the commission issuing between 200-250 final decisions. Hennick continued 15-25 of those decisions are appealed each year.

Marlborough, Water Company in Money Dispute

by Melissa Roberto

The Town of Marlborough and the Connecticut Water Company (CWC) are in a disagreement over money, as representation for the CWC is claiming the town owes the company nearly \$300,000.

Town Attorney Mark Branse received a letter June 17 from attorney Michael Donnelly, who represents the CWC. It states the town owes \$307,854 for work the CWC conducted in advance to the expansion project of Marlborough's Municipal Water System. Of the \$307,000 the company believes the town owes, the letter specifies it is seeking \$293,704 in reimbursement.

The expansion was proposed to bring a water system into the center of town. It was proposed as a 3,400-foot loop that would begin at the intersection of School Drive and South Main Street to continue to the intersection of Route 66 and South Main Street, and 500 feet up North Main Street.

This week Gaudinski recalled the history of the expansion project, which has yet to be completed. She said the CWC approached the town with interest in becoming a partner in the expansion project back when First Selectman Bill Black was in office. However, the process was not started until Gaudinski took office.

In July 2012, Marlborough residents voted 79-66 to contribute \$50,000 toward a water system in the center of town, contingent upon Marlborough receiving a grant from the state for additional money for the project. The *RiverEast* also reported at the time that the CWC committed to at least \$150,000 for test well drilling, construction and engineering.

Later that year, the CWC began drilling wells in the center of town for water testing. This was done prior to both the town and CWC jointly applying for a \$500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant that would contribute to the costs of installing a water system in the center of town. That STEAP grant

was awarded to the town in July 2013.

However, Gaudinski said the town learned in April of this year that CWC decided not to proceed as a partner in the project.

"Basically they felt it doesn't fit their business model at this time," Gaudinski said. "We were in the process of negotiating a well field lease and operating agreement."

As for the money the CWC is seeking from the town, Gaudinski said there were "no agreement [and] no contracts" signed that stated the town would pay for the CWC's work.

Donnelly's letter includes a menu of items the CWC is seeking reimbursement for. It includes costs for labor and overhead, a water main contractor, surveyor, drilling and yield testing, water main materials, electrical consultant, water quality testing and control equipment. The attorney's letter states, "It would be inequitable for the town to retain the benefits of CWC's work without compensating it for that work."

Donnelly's letter also hints that the town may not have been anticipating these costs.

"CWC recognizes that the town likely does not have these funds set aside under its current budget," the letter states. "As a result, CWC would be willing to enter into a payment plan with the town which whereby the town would be permitted to pay these costs over the next 36 months."

On July 17, Branse submitted a response on behalf of the town. He states his "initial reaction" to Donnelly's letter is "one of confusion."

Branse opposes claims Donnelly made in his letter. For example, the town attorney states Donnelly was wrong in his assumption that the town was unable to reach an agreement upon whether CWC would operate the water system.

"No decision has been reached about the operator of the system," Branse informs, "and when that decision is made, CWC may submit

a proposal which will be given the most favorable reception allowed by law and compared to other proposals that may be received."

Branse furthers the agreement the town sought to reach with the CWC was about "which entity, as the exclusive service area provider, would have the obligation to *construct* the system, and then profit from the sale of water produced and distributed by that system."

The town attorney continues the CWC was "already the designated service provider for the town, and was therefore obligated to provide water service to its exclusive service area."

Branse continues that the town participated in the efforts of the project "because it is the owner of land upon which the required wells could be located." He then describes the work CWC conducted as "exploratory."

The town attorney also specified in his response to Donnelly that the next phase of the project "would have been to construct the distribution system, funded almost entirely by the state STEAP grant, municipal funds, and private customer contributions, but it was at this point that CWC indicated a desire not to proceed."

He furthers the STEAP grant application by the town and CWC was "actually predicated on CWC doing the work that it has done, and the state funds were contingent on the distribution system being constructed."

Branse's letter also specifies a letter of commitment from the CWC was attached to the STEAP application. The town attorney also specifies what the terms were when it came to the CWC being compensated for its work.

"The expectation of compensation was from the *customers* to be served within the CWC's exclusive service area," Branse states. "At no time did CWC ever express any expectation that it would be compensated by the town, nor did the town ever make any such commitment or

guarantee."

Branse also refers to written agreements between the town and CWC.

"Note that the written agreements of both Dec. 12, 2012, and Nov. 6, 2013, grant CWC the right to perform work on town property, and the town's only obligation is to file the required permit applications with the [Connecticut] Department of Public Health."

Branse furthers, "The Nov. 6, 2013, agreement expressly says that the work contemplated therein will be performed 'at the Water Company's expense.'"

Branse also stressed his clients were pleased with the CWC's conduct. He states the town is "sincerely gratified" with the CWC, adding it viewed the water company's conduct as "exemplary."

Following CWC's pulling out, Gaudinski said the town is now in the process of completing the design work. Some of the design work had already been conducted by CWC.

"We've had meetings with the Department of Public Health regarding what needs to occur and we've advised the state that Connecticut Water is no longer a part of this project so the state is aware," Gaudinski said, adding the Department of Public Health is "supportive" of the town's actions.

Gaudinski confirmed the town is moving forward to construct the town center water system with the STEAP grant money and \$50,000 approved by voters. In place of Connecticut Water, she said the town is now the Exclusive Service Area provider. The next step of the process is to go out to bid "at the appropriate time" for an operator of the system, Gaudinski said.

Gaudinski concluded, "The bottom line is the town center still needs a water system so we need to bring that infrastructure into the town center otherwise we may not be able to do further development here."

Troy Named Hebron Citizen of the Year

by Geeta Schrayter

Since 1979, the Hebron Women's Club has recognized a resident as Citizen of the Year; the honor typically goes to an individual who gives back to the community, and this year, that honoree has an extensive resume to show he does exactly that.

Matthew Troy – who, at 26, also takes the cake as the youngest citizen to receive the award – has a varied list of volunteer work and service to the community.

"Even though he is young," shared Women's Club president Alice Marien, "Matt has already made a positive contribution to our town for a number of years now through his service and energy. He's contributed to several areas of our community life."

She explained Troy "helps ensure our public safety" as a 10-year member of the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, and "promotes our town's history and in doing so has helped to preserve it."

To do the latter, Troy wrote and directed *Testimonies of a Quiet New England Town*, a film about African-American couple Cesar and Lewis Peters who were living free in town during the 1700s, but were abducted with the intention of being sold into slavery. They were rescued, however, by Hebron residents who fabricated theft charges and claimed they couldn't be sold because they were wanted in town.

Marien furthered Troy has also "encouraged local arts" through the creation of the Hebron Arts Collective Facebook page, where local artists can network; and "his artistic vision also helps get us all into the holiday mood each year by putting the twinkle into the trees in town."

Troy uses some of his skills as a cinematographer – he graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 2009 with a focus on cinematography and film direction – to coordinate holiday decorating in town.

He has also volunteered with the AHM Sum-

mer Youth Theater Program.

When selecting an honoree, Marien shared the club looks for "a consistent pattern of giving back to the community."

"Someone," she said, "who takes the desire to make a difference and turns that desire into actions that result in positive outcomes and benefits for others."

Troy has done just that, and Women's Club Education Chairwoman Jackie Landry said recognizing individuals like him is beneficial not only for the recipient, but others in town.

"I think it's nice for the person who is being nominated – just trying to get some recognition for when you help out" she said, adding "but I think it's also nice for the townspeople to read about others, to kind of inspire them to continue to do the good works that they do or have them start up – especially for a young person, it's powerful to see they can make a difference."

Marien felt similarly.

"We [at the Women's Club] feel that by recognizing service efforts and raising awareness about how much of a difference even just one person can make, it encourages others and helps keep the spirit of service alive and well in our town," she stated.

Speaking on his recognition, Troy said, "I am very grateful and humbled by the honor."

"I grew up in Hebron and looking at the plaques [in Town Hall] with the names that come before me, it's clear that I'm in good company," he continued, explaining many of the individuals who helped shape his childhood had also received the honor.

"So it is very nice to join their company on that list," he stated.

Troy attributed his desire to volunteer to his mother Caroline, who "was so involved with organizations growing up" that the rest of the family, including Troy, "just got used to being a part of these community events and service projects year after year."

Troy also added the Hebron community came



Hebron Women's Club Citizen of the Year Matthew Troy, with Women's Club President Alice Marien, left, and Education Chair Jackie Landry, right.

together and helped his family when they went through rough times, "and I've always wanted to give back as a side of that."

Along with being recognized at a ceremony May 20, a donation was made in Troy's name to a charity of his choice.

Troy chose the RHAM memorial fund that will work toward creating a remembrance garden at the school, and explained the fund was selected in part due to the connections he forged at the school.

"The RHAM community has definitely had a tough year this past year," he said, referring to the five deaths – four students and one teacher

– the schools have endured in the last year. "I graduated in 2005 and I think a lot of the connections I have – both relationships with friends but also the community – were started, or fostered really, in that high school."

He added, "I just thought it would be nice to help with the earlier phases" of the memorial garden.

And as for whether or not Troy plans to continue to give back to the community he says "runs too thick in my blood for me to ever fully let go of," he stated, "I don't know if I'll ever feel like I've given back enough."

Podunk Festival Heads to Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

The sounds of Bluegrass are set to soar through the Hebron skies with the arrival of the Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival Aug. 7-9.

The 18-year old festival, which is known across the country, was named “Event of the Year” in 2010 by the International Bluegrass Music Association and, for the next five years at least, will call Hebron “home.”

The festival will take place at the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds after what Executive Director Roger Moss called a “lengthy search of fairgrounds and other facilities” and a year hiatus due to the lack of a location.

The Podunk Festival got its start in East Hartford, and was held there for 16 years, Moss explained. But after changes in town leadership and increased fees, he said the festival couldn’t afford to stay and moved to Dodd Stadium in Norwich in 2012.

However, Moss explained games – Dodd Stadium is home to the Connecticut Tigers minor league baseball team – were scheduled during the festival weekend last year, “so after trying to relocate on short notice the Podunk Bluegrass Committee canceled the 2013 festival and started searching for a new permanent home.”

It was during that search that Moss approached Lions General Manager Bob Carter last fall about the possibility of holding it at the fairgrounds.

Carter explained, “They liked our fairgrounds, so over the course of about four to five months we spoke back and forth and finally negotiated a five-year agreement with them.”

He added, “Hopefully this is a permanent move for Podunk and another event that the Lions can host on their fairgrounds on an annual basis.”

Carter furthered since the Podunk Committee pays to use the fairgrounds, “It helps the Lions,” who, he said, “are invested in the community and a third [of what they earn] goes back in the form of Hebron charities.”

Carter added he didn’t foresee any concerns with the festival being held on the fairgrounds, and considered it “very positive.”

Moss “is a professional guy who’s done this for a number of years,” Carter said. “This one time I can sit back a little bit and kind of watch as opposed to being involved and I think they’ll do a good job. They provide basically their own security and they bring in vendors, so they control the process.”

Among the vendors that will be brought in are food vendors such as Aurora’s Gypsy Café

and Chili Brothers with offerings for breakfast, lunch and dinner; specialty artisans, musical craftsmen, and a trading post with Podunk memorabilia and raffles.

There will also be children’s activities such as a moon bounce, crafts, playground, skate park and more; as well as free workshops and harmony classes for both kids and adults.

And then, of course, there will be bluegrass music. According to a fact sheet on the festival, the event begins Wednesday Aug. 6 when early campers arrive in the afternoon to set-up their sites. The music starts up the next day with a band competition, where bands from Connecticut, Indiana, Maine and Vermont will compete.

Almost two dozen entertainers will then perform throughout the festival on two stages, including national entertainers such as The SteelDrivers, whose music Moss explained was heard on the NBC show *The Voice*; and Blue Highway, who he said was “indisputably one of the most esteemed and influential groups in contemporary bluegrass.”

And in the past, Moss shared “the nation’s top bluegrass artists” including Del McCoury Band, Ricky Skaggs, Emmylou Harris, John Hartford, Rhonda Vincent & the Rage, and the Sam Bush Band have made an appearance at Podunk.

But it won’t just be the scheduled performers who’ll be making music during the festival; attendees are encouraged to bring their own instruments and participate in “field picking” throughout the camp grounds and under the family tent.

There will be plenty of chances, according to the Podunk website, “to play into the wee hours!”

According to the Podunk Bluegrass Committee, Podunk provides attendees the opportunity to: appreciate America’s original Bluegrass music in a comfortable setting; participate in educational and fun-filled activities; enjoy local, regional and national entertainment; and attend seminars and workshops.

Furthermore, the committee is dedicated to presenting a family friendly atmosphere and fostering a cultural gathering with regional pride, as well as “promoting an economic increase through tourism.”

And Moss shared the festival has drawn attendees from as far away as Hong Kong, Australia, England and Catalonia.

“We have folks from throughout the USA from Florida to California – one year a couple rode their motorcycle from Iowa,” he explained.



The SteelDrivers are just one of many bands that will play at the Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival – which has found a new home at the Lions Fairgrounds.

Like Carter, Lions President Robert Lee said he didn’t have any concerns about Podunk being on the fairgrounds, but plenty of hopes – including a raised awareness about the Hebron Harvest Fair.

“We hope that it’s something that people will come to. We feel like it will give us some exposure as far as the fairgrounds is concerned – our fair is about one month later,” Lee said, adding “we like to see the grounds get used.”

Lee concluded, “Our hope is that it is successful and that people get to be familiar with the fairgrounds and then hopefully come to the fair.”

In a release sent by festival treasurer Myrna Riquier, she called Podunk a “destination getaway” where reunions of all sorts take place.

“Planning any kind of a reunion or company outing can be a daunting task; the search for adequate space, arranging food, a place for out-of-towners to sleep and so on,” she wrote. “The Podunk Festival eliminates all that work.”

She added there are facilities at the fair-

grounds with indoor plumbing and showers, special amenities for groups, parking nearby to hop in the car and go to an area restaurant – and, if attendees have no desire to camp, a nearby host hotel (The Hilton in Glastonbury) to stay in.

“Bluegrass musicians and fans alike think of a bluegrass festival as a reunion and look forward to seeing their friends and acquaintances annually at festivals all over the country,” Riquier continued, adding Podunk was no different.

“So whether you are planning a reunion, a company outing or just want to find a new music adventure with your friends, Podunk offers it all,” she concluded.

General admission tickets to Podunk cost \$20 on Friday and \$30 on Saturday and Sunday; a general admission ticket for all three days costs \$75.

For more information on the festival, on-site camping, or group rates, visit podunkbluegrass.com or call 860-828-9818.

Hebron School Board Extends Newton’s Contract

by Geeta Schrayter

Following an executive session July 10, the Board of Education voted unanimously to extend the contract of Superintendent of Schools Jeff Newton through 2017.

Newton was appointed to the position last April after a nationwide search for a new head of schools, and officially began his work July 1 of last year.

On Thursday, Board of Education Chairwoman Maryanne Leichter said the board was happy with Newton’s work.

“We’re very thrilled with his work ethic and having him as a superintendent has been wonderful,” she said, adding one of the areas he’s done particularly well in is with transparency.

“He’s been really good for Hebron in terms of his approach to being transparent,” Leichter explained. “He’s very transparent with budget issues, worked with a lot of the community members – selectmen, Board of Finance – he’s worked well with everybody. That’s just who he is.”

Leichter called Newton’s transparency “one of the best things about him” while adding, “And of course, he still continues to promote excellence, and rigor, and the learning of all students.”

This week, Newton spoke about the extension and said he was “very excited.”

“I’m very excited about the opportunity to continue to work in Hebron with a wonderful board and a wonderful staff,” he said, sharing what he enjoyed about the Hebron school system was the sense of family.

“It’s a family, and I got a sense of that on day one and even before when I interviewed; there’s a sense of family and a sense of home for me now and I’m just looking forward to the continued partnership with the community at large” he stated, adding, “There are wonderful parents and students here who really value education and are committed to the work that the kids are doing – and we’ve got great opportunities to continue to work together and do our

best for our most precious commodity, and that’s our children.”

Like Leichter, Newton shared one of the areas he thought he’d been doing well in was transparency.

“We’ve worked very hard out of our office to be as transparent as possible with our budget and the fiscal dollars,” he explained. “I think we had a very positive year in that sense, and making sure our community has a clear understanding of what we’re spending their dollars on.”

Moving forward, Newtown said he planned to continue to reach out to the community “to continue to foster a positive working relationship.”

He explained there would be some tough decisions to make in the years ahead due to changes in education, and said “we need to continue to work together on this.”

Some of those changes include the new teacher and administration evaluation plans, the

Common Core curriculum and the Smarter Balanced Assessments - changes Newton called “huge.”

“Those are three huge changes which have really kind of uprooted education, and it’s something we collaboratively need to continue to work on moving forward, and make decisions that are going to best support our kids,” Newton stated.

And he’ll be at the head of that work until at least June 30, 2017.

Although the board approved Newton’s contract extension, there is still work to be done on details such as his salary.

Leichter explained, “We have not worked out the details of the contract pieces yet, but will probably do that at the next meeting in executive session.”

The next Hebron Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 14.

Hebron Ends Fiscal Year in the Black

by Geeta Schrayter

At its July 17 meeting, the Board of Selectmen got some good news on the recently-wrapped 2013-14 fiscal year: despite some over-expenditures, when a final audit is completed, and all is said and done, the town is expected to end the year in the black.

In a letter from Finance Director Elaine Griffin that was presented at the meeting, she wrote “several departments did completely over-expend their budgets.”

These departments included the police department, which ended with a \$29,493.40 deficit due mostly to the Resident State Trooper program, which saw an increase in the fringe obligation from 72.95 percent to 83.85 percent; as well as the police presence at RHAM during the morning drop-off period at a special duty rate.

While Griffin mentioned the town received reimbursement from RHAM for the police presence, it was still “an unbudgeted expense.” The extra police during the morning drop-off was added after RHAM teacher Dawn Mallory was fatally struck by a car in the school parking lot in March.

The EMS department was also over-expended by \$24,475.85 (\$22,000 of which was anticipated), due to contractual services.

Griffin explained, “This has been a recurring overdraft for years, and we have slowly been increasing the budget to properly accom-

modate this expense.”

She added the expense is offset by ambulance billing revenue.

The Public Works Department was also over-expended by \$46,691.47 “due to severe winter weather and all associated costs,” Griffin stated.

The computer services account was over-expended by \$1,858.18 due to additional unbudgeted IT expenses; and the fire department was over-expended by \$1,000 due to propane expenses and building repairs as well as “some extreme health issues with full-time staff necessitating Per Diem coverage for this and anticipated vacation time usage in May and June,” Griffin explained.

In addition, Griffin wrote most of the heating fuel lines were “in an overdraft situation” also due to “colder than normal winter temperatures” and a rise in propane costs.

But “on a positive note,” Griffin said, as a result of debt refinancing, \$72,427.77 in savings was realized along with another \$110,444.02 in savings as a result of attrition and some unfilled positions.

Also assisting with the over-expenditures, Griffin shared revenue collections through mid-June had surpassed the budgeted dollar amount of \$34,953,289 with a total collection rate of 101.69 percent or \$35,545,374.86.

“Total tax revenue collection also exceeded 100 percent, or \$365,254.59 more than our bud-

geted amount,” she stated.

And, “while the overdraft disclosures appear severe,” Griffin wrote, “an additional supplemental appropriation is unnecessary as we end the year in the black with a surplus of approximately \$211,713 of the original budget.”

Town Manager Andrew Tierney added at the meeting, “Overall we’re in good financial shape – which is a good thing.”

Selectman Dan Larson furthered, “I think kudos belong to many of the entities of the town – staff, department heads – for their continued diligence and trying to look out for the pocket-books of the people in the community.”

He continued, “A lot of tough choices and decisions have been made and it shows, and these people have worked to keep these costs as low as possible.”

After their discussion, the board unanimously approved the intradepartmental transfers for fiscal year 2013-14 in the amount of \$53,745.87 as well as the interdepartmental transfers for fiscal year 2013-14 in the amount of \$129,104.74.

On Wednesday, Griffin concluded, “In summary, we came in under budget for our entire general government budget, and transfers are just because we cannot present an unbalanced appropriation summary to the auditors – transfers are to balance out the accounts.”

Also at Thursday’s meeting, a bid was awarded for the replacement of the boiler at the Douglas Library. Tierney said the recommendation was to go with the low bidder, All State Construction of Farmington.

Tierney explained he and Building Official Joe Summers “contacted the low bidder and checked his references – he’s done a lot of work for the state, the government, Army bases etc.”

He added, “He’s got quite a list of accomplishments under his belt. I would hope this gets awarded tonight, so we could sign it and get it faxed in.”

Tierney explained, “I want to make sure we have it done prior to the heating season.”

The board voted unanimously to award the bid to All State Construction, in an amount not to exceed \$163,258 that will include a 10 percent contingency, for a total project budget of \$180,000.

Regarding the award, Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan exclaimed to Library Board of Trustees Chair Gail Richmond, “Gail, you’re getting your new boiler!” to which Richmond replied, “Gail is very happy.”

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 14, at 7:30 p.m., in the Douglas Library meeting room.

Two Hebron Residents to Help in Vietnam

by Geeta Schrayter

Early next month, two Hebron residents will leave the comforts of their home and a leisurely New England summer to spend four days working from sunrise to sundown in a small Vietnamese community.

Current Board of Assessment Appeals member (and former Board of Finance member) Phil LoBianco and his son Christopher, 17, will leave Aug. 7 on an aid expedition to Ninh Thuan Province. There, they’ll work in partnership with The Catalyst Foundation on the community development of the Raglai, an ethnic Vietnamese minority.

The Catalyst Foundation is a nonprofit founded in 1999 that helps fight trafficking in Vietnam through education and community development. In addition, the foundation offers cultural opportunities for families with children adopted from Vietnam – which is how the LoBiancos first became involved.

“We got involved when we [LoBianco and his wife Janet] adopted two children from Vietnam,” LoBianco explained. He added he and his wife had always wanted Christopher and his daughter, Catie, 14, “involved in the culture of the country they came from.” Their involvement began with the culture camps offered by the foundation.

“We really enjoyed it,” LoBianco said of the

camp which, according to the foundation’s website, offers “adult workshops emphasizing history, identity, cultural differences and similarities, and adoption issues,” as well as activities for children that “provide a unique opportunity to learn about the Vietnamese language, customs, art, and music of the cultures that are inherently part of their family’s life.”

The family participated in a number of the culture camps over the years, but now that the kids are older, they became interested in some of the other work by the foundation, including their efforts in Vietnam.

The Catalyst Foundation has worked with various communities since its inception, but LoBianco explained working with the Raglai “is a new project.”

“I assume this will be the start of something that will go on for a while,” he said.

Among the challenges faced by the Raglai, LoBianco shared 99 percent haven’t had any medical care for their family; 96 percent of adults have never gone to school; 90 percent don’t have a safe home; 90 percent earn less than \$1 a week picking up, drying and selling water buffalo dung; 78 percent of the community don’t have access to water for cooking, drinking or bathing; and because they don’t speak Vietnamese, “they are essentially isolated

from the surrounding society.”

During their trip, LoBianco said the 50 volunteers would, among other things, install water storage containers for 100 plus families, distribute a month’s worth of food, provide medical and dental checkups and vaccinations for over 300 children, and build a new house for use as a domestic abuse shelter for women.

“We will not live in the village, we’ll be bussed in from an outside area but we will be there from sunrise to sunset working,” LoBianco explained.

Among the challenges he expected they’ll face, LoBianco mentioned the weather. He said the temperature and humidity is always high, “and this year it’s in the 90s and the humidity is much worse.”

He added “the hottest day here during the day is like it is at night there – it doesn’t cool down much.”

This means, he said, they’ll be drinking plenty of water.

But overall, LoBianco said he was looking forward to the trip and “helping out and giving back.” He explained while the family has always donated to The Catalyst Foundation, this will be their first time participating in one of their aid expeditions.

Christopher was similarly looking forward

to the trip.

“I’m excited,” he said. “I’m going to a foreign country so you’ve got to have a little bit of worry, but as a whole I’m looking forward to the trip, the experience, and helping people.”

Christopher elaborated on his desire to participate, saying, “I think it’s just the whole giving back to the country I was born in and just seeing the real poverty that’s in the world.”

He added, “I also think it’s a good experience to see a different part of the world that has a totally different culture, a totally different lifestyle.”

As far as his hopes for the experience, Christopher concluded he hoped to “just do something productive for other people – maybe learn a little bit about myself and try to get a different perspective of the world.”

The LoBiancos, as well of the rest of the volunteers, pay their own way on the trip. However, they’re actively involved in fundraising for the expedition: donations can be made to the trip in the family’s name by visiting catalystfoundation.org/ae_fundraising and selecting “LoBianco” from the dropdown list next to “Team Member Name.”

To learn more about The Catalyst Foundation go to catalystfoundation.org.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Leo Christmas

On Thursday, July 17, Leo Christmas passed onto eternal rest. He was the most loving, loyal and supportive husband, father, grandfather and friend. He was born July 14, 1944, in Bar Harbor, Maine, spending his childhood years in Enfield.

He was proud to be a Seabee in the US Navy as a Veteran during the Vietnam conflict. He raised a beautiful family of four in Marlborough for 40 years, in a home he built and filled with love and joy with his soul mate, Joan. He worked hard to support his family, successfully building Electrical Contractors Inc. in Hartford. He retired from ECI after 35 years in 2005.

He was very active for many years as a member of the Hartford Sunrise Rotary, Marlborough Building Committee, Zoning Board and Board of Education. One of Leo's most memorable moments was being on the Board of Education and being able to present his son Nick with his high school diploma.

His true love came alive in his passion for painting and he leaves behind an extended painting family who will never be forgotten. Leo and Joan were avid travelers, most recently hitting the open road in the family motor home traveling from Florida to Alaska and back to Connecticut. Their three and a half-month, 10,000-mile trip was one of their most memorable vacations.

Leo leaves behind the love of his life, his very best friend, patient and loving caregiver, his wife of 46 and a half years, Joan Christmas. He will also be dearly missed by his children Nick, Steven, Wendy & Shawn Dietz, Kelly and Ryan Wolfe. Leo and Joan were also blessed with nine grandchildren; Zachary, Nicole, Lucas, Aidan, Jacob, Kady, Thomas, Avery, and his namesake, baby Leo.

Leo loved and cared for his mother-in-law, Gabrielle Messenger; he also leaves his beloved brother, Donald Christmas and his wife Theresa, his sister Doreen & her husband Bob Grenus and his little sister Phyllis Barstis and her husband Bob. Leo leaves many nieces and nephews behind, especially Clint and Ray MacKeen, who spent many summers in training under Leo's tutelage, helping building our home.

Leo will always be remembered for his generosity and huge heart.

Calling hours were Wednesday, July 23, at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic Church, 1345 Manchester Rd., Glastonbury, on Thursday, July 24. Burial with military honors followed in Marlboro Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Joan's Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk at the3-day.org.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

Andover

Carolyn R. Lebel

Carolyn R. (Forand) Lebel, 73, of Andover, and formerly of Rockville, beloved wife of the late Herbert J. Lebel, died peacefully Friday, July 18, at Windham Hospital.

Carolyn was born Oct. 26, 1940, in Vernon, daughter of the late Oscar and Mary (Zashut) Forand, and had been a resident of Andover for over 40 years. She had worked for most of her life as a Sample Girl with the former Manchester MODES and then at the J.C. Penny Warehouse. She was a very organized and particular person. She knew what she wanted, when she wanted it, and how she was going to get it. She always worried about others and was the world's best cook.

She was a loving and caring mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother and is survived by her daughters and their husbands, Denise and Thomas Preuss of Willington, Sharon and Richard Danforth of Andover; two brothers, Oscar Forand and his wife, Beverly, of Hebron, Henry Forand of Vernon; three sisters, Mary Abbruzzese and her husband, Jerry; Irene Kebert; and April and Jack Krieski, all of Vernon. She also leaves six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Carolyn was predeceased by her son, Jon H. Lebel.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 21, at Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, Andover. Burial was in the Townsend Cemetery in Andover. Calling hours were held Sunday, July 20, at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester.

Memorial donations may be made to Windham Hospital, 112 Mansfield Ave., Willimantic, CT. 06226.

To sign the online register book, go to homes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.



Colchester

Helen O. Dostal

Helen O. (Pontbriand) Dostal, 93, formerly a resident of 400 Westhampton Rd., Northampton, Mass., died Sunday, July 20, at the Apple Rehabilitation Center, Colchester, following a period of declining health.

A native of Northampton, Mass., she was born April 5, 1921, to Olivine (Boucher) and Romeo Pontbriand. Helen was educated in Sacred Heart Parochial School until the age of 16, when she set aside her formal education to assist her father in raising her four siblings, following the death of her mother. She worked as a personal cook for a professor at Smith College and also at the Northampton Clarke School in the housekeeping department.

Helen grew up on Prospect Street in Northampton and lived with her family until she was married to Robert J. Dostal Sr. on June 23, 1941. Following their marriage, they resided in Florence, Mass., and South Carolina while her husband was serving in the military. Upon his discharge from the service, they moved back to Massachusetts, in particular to their beloved "Pine Hill Farm" on Route 66 to start a family. It was there that they raised Black Angus cattle, later raising show ponies and horses. Helen was often found helping on the farm by driving a hay truck during the haying season and canning vegetables from the family garden.

Helen and Bob celebrated 65 years of marriage together prior to his passing in September of 2006.

Helen was a devout communicant of the former St. Mary's of the Assumption Church in Northampton, Mass., and was active in parish life. Her leisure time activities and hobbies included: crocheting, word search puzzles and bird-watching.

Survivors include her loving children: Robert J. "Bud" Dostal Jr., of Ocala, Fla.; Carol Elizabeth Perkins and her husband Raymond of Conway, Mass., and Mary Rose Dostal and her partner Marianne Murawski of Marlborough. Helen was predeceased by her daughter, Barbara Tacy, in September of 2002 and is survived by her son-in-law, Louis Tacy of Westfield, Mass. She leaves her loving brother, Ernest Pontbriand of Waterville, Maine, and was predeceased by her brothers, Romeo, Albert, Henry and Edmund Pontbriand.

Helen leaves four grandchildren who love and adore her: E.J. Perkins and his wife Tori, of Little Ferry, N.J.; Patricia Rutkowski and her husband "Skip" of Northampton, Mass.; Robert Tacy of Northampton, Mass., and Theresa Murawski of Marlborough.

Funeral services will be conducted today, July 25, from the McCarthy Funeral Homes, 36 Bank Row, Greenfield, Mass., with a Catholic Rite of Burial service at 11 a.m., with Msgr. Ronald G. Yargeau, pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Greenfield, Mass., to officiate. Rites of committal and burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Northampton, Mass. Helen's family will receive guests this morning from 10 a.m. until the time of the services.

Memorial contributions are suggested to either the American Cancer Society online at cancer.org or by telephone at 800-227-2345, or to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104.

The McCarthy Funeral Homes of Greenfield and Turners Falls, Massachusetts have been entrusted with the arrangements. For further information, for directions, to sign a guestbook or to forward an e-condolence message to the Dostal family, visit mccarthyfuneralhomes.com.

East Hampton

Shawn Gustav Vecchitto

Shawn Gustav Vecchitto, 44, passed away peacefully Monday, July 21, at Hartford Hospital. Born Jan. 6, 1970, he was the son of the late Thomas D. Vecchitto and Rozz Vecchitto.

A longtime resident of Meriden, he attended local schools and received an associates degree in culinary arts. Shawn was a carefree, active person who enjoyed taking care of his dogs, gardening, fixing anything needing repair, a real handyman. He was a soft spoken, caring individual with a big heart, who was well loved and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Shawn is survived by his son, Shawn M. Jobbagy; his daughter, Vanessa Rosa, of Meriden; a granddaughter, Alantra Rosa, of Meriden; and three faithful companions his dogs, "Paddington," "Annabell" and "Humphrey."

Family and friends paid their respects Thursday, July 24, at the Smith-Ruzzo Funeral Home, 450 Broad St., Meriden. His funeral service will be held today, July 25, at 10 a.m., at the Smith-Ruzzo Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Lakeview Cemetery, Lakeview Road, (Route 66), East Hampton.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit smithruzzofuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Helen E. Kasanowski

Helen E. Kasanowski, 85, of Colchester, beloved wife of the late Stanley Kasanowski Sr., passed away peacefully Monday, July 21, at her home. Born in Norwood, Mass., to the late Michael and Marcella (Buja) Karpicus, she was raised in Worcester, Mass., and lived most of her life in Suffield before moving to Colchester to be closer to her grandchildren.

Helen spent her career as a banker, including successfully managing a mortgage department for many years. Upon retirement, she had been the registrar for the Suffield Academy. Helen was an active member of Sacred Heart Church in Suffield where she served as a Eucharistic minister and past president of the Women's Guild. She was an avid Boston Red Sox fan and enjoyed reading, but her true passion was her family, especially her grandchildren.

She is survived by her sons Stanley Kasanowski Jr. of Glastonbury and David Kasanowski and Eileen Flannery of Windsor; her daughters Susan Schroeder and her husband Mark of Colchester and Alane Kasanowski of St. Petersburg, Fla.; her grandchildren, Terence, Marcella and Ellen Schroeder, and Sawyer Kasanowski. Besides her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her brothers, Michael, John and Vincent Karpicus, and her sisters Edwina Ginkus and Nellie Nosek.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to the Home Care staff who provided compassionate care to Helen.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 12:30 p.m. today, July 25, at the Sacred Heart Church, 446 Mountain Rd., Suffield. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Her family will receive friends prior to the service on Friday, from 11 a.m.-noon at the Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home, 443 East St, Suffield.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations in Helen's name to the Arthritis Foundation, P.O. Box 96280, Washington, DC 20077 or the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

For online condolences, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Ellen Lee Schools

Ellen Lee Schools, 60, wife of Donald Schools, passed away Friday, July 18.

Funeral and burial will be private, there are no calling hours.

Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester are in care of arrangements.

Colchester

Rosemary A. Hobert Moriarty

Rosemary "Snooky" A. (Sullivan) Hobert Moriarty of Holyoke, Mass., daughter of the late William F. and Lillian A. (Stewart) Sullivan, died on Saturday, July 19, 2014, after a long illness.

She was the wife of Thomas J. Moriarty and the late John M. Hobert.

She leaves, besides her husband Tom, her two daughters, Kathleen (John) Hewes of Mumford Cove, Mass., and Marikate (David) Lynch of Noank, Mass.; six sons, William (Nancy) Hobert of Stonington, John (Debbie) Hobert of Ledyard, Daniel (Karen) Hobert of Chicopee, Mass., Michael Hobert of West Springfield, Mass., Gary (Amy) Hobert of Noank, Mass., and Thomas (Sarah) Moriarty of West Springfield. She also leaves a daughter-in-law, Tori Hobert of Folsom, Calif. Rosemary leaves 21 grandchildren and a nephew, Brian Sullivan of Holyoke, Mass.

She was predeceased by two sons, Richard and Joseph Hobert.

Rosemary graduated from Holyoke High School in 1954.

She was married to John M. Hobert in 1956 until his death in 1968. She married Thomas J. Moriarty in 1971.

The funeral will be held at 9 a.m. today, July 25, from the Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home, 2049 Northampton St., Holyoke, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of the Cross Church in Holyoke. Burial will follow in St. Jerome Cemetery. Visiting hours were held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, at the funeral home.

The family wishes to extend its sincerest thanks to the staff of Apple Rehab Colchester, where Rosemary resided for the last two years. The family also wishes to thank Rosemary's dearest friends, Patricia Dinn, Jeanne Cavanaugh, and Joan Bessette, who were her best friends for over 60 years, along with the late Nancy O'Conner and Marie Senecal.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 34 Lower Westfield Road, Holyoke, MA 01040.

Portland

Daniel H. Lord

Daniel H. Lord, 83, of Portland, passed away peacefully at the home he built in 1956, surrounded by his loving family and cat Snowball. He was born in Middletown on Nov. 19, 1930, son of Mabel E. (Stocking) and Daniel B. Lord. He was a 13th-generation descendant of the founders of Hartford. Dan married his sweetheart Marilyn (Erickson) Lord 62 years ago.

Dan was a well-known local builder for over 50 years, admired for his skilled craftsmanship. His buildings included the Lord Cromwell Motor Inn in Cromwell, Nassau Carriage House in Canton, the T J Palmer solar house, and hundreds of houses, renovations and additions including the rear addition to the First Congregational Church in Portland. Dan served 13 years in the Naval Reserves and was an active member of his church serving as a deacon.

In his spare time, Dan enjoyed gardening, restoring old cars, fishing, camping, traveling and spending time with his family. He was a humble man who would do anything for anybody and worked hard so his children could have the best opportunities. His family and friends have fond memories of times spent with him and he will be dearly missed.

Dan is survived by his best friend and loving wife, Marilyn and their six children, Susan and husband, Patrick Perry of Niantic, Cynthia and husband, Ronald Miller of Lewisburg, W. Va., Diane and husband Mark McBride of Derby, Vt., Linda and husband David Rooney of Monroe, Daniel Jr. and wife Elizabeth Lord of Madison, Robert and wife, Amy Lord of North Reading, Mass. He also leaves 16 grandchildren, Erin Perry Segall, Jeff Perry, Creighton Miller, Dr. Hillary Handley, Berkeley Miller, Jenny, Tyler, Ben, and Sarah McBride, Kierston, Danielle, Emily, and Trevor Rooney, Alison Lord Kiera and Jason Lord and sisters, Marion Giroux of Bethlehem and Olive Bials of Portland.

Along with his parents, Dan was predeceased by his sister, Evelyn Latimer.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 24, at Cromwell Funeral Home, 506 Main St., Cromwell. Interment followed in the Swedish Cemetery in Portland. Family and friends called Wednesday, July 23, at Cromwell Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dan's memory to Salvation Army, 515 Main St., Middletown, CT 06457 or First Congregational Church of Portland, 554 Main Street, Portland, CT 06480.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Portland

Donald P. Stevens

Donald P. Stevens, 68, of Cromwell, beloved husband of Barbara (Andrews) Stevens, died Thursday, July 17, at Middlesex Hospital. He was born Dec. 19, 1945, in Middletown, son of the late Frederick and Millicent (Potter) Stevens.

Donald grew up and graduated from Portland High in 1965 and then went on to serve with the Naval Reserve from 1965 to 1971. He was employed by UARCO Business Forms Company in Deep River as a Pressman for 27 years until the plant closed. He then worked at Personal Auto Care as a driver, retiring in 2005.

In addition to his wife Barbara, Donald is survived by his son Matthew Stevens of Cromwell, brothers, Eugene Stevens of Deep River, Edward Stevens and his wife Doris of Fla., sisters, Betsy Kensel and her husband Raymond of Middletown, Janet Gallagher and her husband Dale of Meriden and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brothers, John, William and Richard Stevens.

Funeral services with military honors were held Wednesday, July 23, at the State Veterans' Cemetery Chapel, Bow Lane, Middletown. There were no calling hours.

Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at biegafuneralhome.com.



East Hampton

Phillip Wallace Parsons

Phillip Wallace Parsons, 77, of East Hampton, passed away Monday, July 21, at his home surrounded by his loving family. Born March 5, 1937, in Springfield, Mass., he was the son of the late Robert and June Parsons of Massena, N.Y.

He was predeceased by his loving wife, Kathleen.

He is survived by his four sons, Roy Parsons and wife Wendy of Windsor, Paul Parsons of East Hampton, Steven Parsons of East Hampton, David Parsons and wife Diane of Coventry; three daughters, Barbara Parsons of Middletown, Beverly Cook and husband Scott of Maryland, Peggy Parsons of East Hampton; his brothers, Robert Parsons and wife Esther of Colorado, Jack Parsons of California; his sisters, Marjorie McNeil and husband Harry of North Carolina, Carol Shoemaker of New York; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Phillip served in the United States Army. A retired truck driver of over 38 years, he was a Teamster member of Local 671 and 677.

Phillip had a love for trains, and built his own model railroads in his home. He had a lifelong love for nature.

Phillip, Kathleen and loyal dog Noel will be laid to rest in the Pine Grove Cemetery in Massena, N.Y., on Monday, July 28, at 9 a.m. Flowers may be sent to Donaldson Funeral Home, 100 North Main Street, Massena, NY 13662 until 8:00a.m. Monday.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Adirondack Council at adirondackcouncil.org or P.O. Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932, The Middlesex Hospice Services at middlesexhospital.org or Middlesex Hospital, Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

East Hampton Police News

7/4: Eric Valad, 24, of 73 Hunt Rd., Columbia was arrested and charged with DUI and operating a motor vehicle without headlamps, East Hampton Police said.

7/9: Dwight C. Lander, 49, of 125 Cheney Rd., Marlborough, was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

7/10: Amanda K. Norton, 23, of 66A New Haven Rd., Durham, was issued a summons for failure to display a front marker plate, misuse of a marker plate and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

7/11: Robert Damon Saltus, 32, of 18 Middletown Ave., was arrested pursuant to an active arrest warrant and charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

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Police News

7/15: State Police said Gregory D. Cates, 26, of 92 Palmer Rd., Chaplin, turned himself in on an active PRAWN warrant for first-degree failure to appear.

7/16: Colchester Police responded to a two-car crash that occurred on Old Hartford Road at approximately 4 p.m. Police said Kidd Collins, 42, of 259 Windham Ave., was traveling eastbound on Old Hartford Road behind a vehicle driven by Deborah Bossie, 62, of 44 Maclyn Dr. Police said Bossie stopped to make a left turn into a commercial driveway when Collins struck Bossie's vehicle from behind. Police said Collins was found to be at fault for the crash, and was cited for traveling an unreasonable distance apart. Police said the Colchester Hayward Fire Department transported Collins to Marlborough Clinic for possible injuries.

7/17: Colchester Police said Joshua Kozee, 19, of 45 Prospect St., Bristol, turned himself into the Bristol Police Department, who in turn handed him over to Colchester Police due to an active warrant for his arrest, which stemmed from a May 5 report of a dirt bike stolen from Pinebrook Road. Kozee was charged with third-

Portland Police News

7/16: Sue Ann Mitscherlich, 52, of 208 Main St., Apt. 19, was charged with third-degree criminal mischief, Portland Police said.

7/18: Christopher Overton, 39, of 172 Grand St., Middletown, was charged with insufficient insurance, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and failure to obey a traffic signal, police said.

7/20: Jeremiah Marselli, 37, of 194 Hickory Cir., Middletown, was charged with third-degree burglary and sixth-degree larceny, police said.

Marlborough Police News

7/18: State Police said Francisco J. Marrero, 45, of 61 Clermont St., Hartford, was arrested and charged with DUI, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, reckless driving, disobeying the signal of a police officer, engaging in police pursuit, failure to drive in the proper lane, interfering with an officer and second-degree reckless endangerment.

7/11: Kyle Rutkauski, 20, of 107 Main St., was arrested pursuant to two active PRAWN warrants for his arrest. Rutkauski was charged with two counts of second-degree failure to appear, stemming from two separate incidents, police said.

7/12: Alfred Paradis, 33, of 14 Barbara Ave., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, police said.

7/14: William Choma Jr., 60, of 20 Namonee Tr., was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle with insufficient insurance, police said.

7/17: Alexis Sypek, 19, of 225 West High St., was arrested pursuant to two active PRAWN warrants for her arrest, and charged with two counts of second-degree failure to appear and one count of interfering with police, police said.

degree criminal mischief and fifth-degree larceny, police said.

7/17: State Police said Samuel M. Lee, 25, of 245 Ramblewood Dr., Springfield, Mass., turned himself into Troop K on a PRAWN warrant on the charge of second-degree failure to appear.

7/18: Colchester Police said Andrew Lineberry, 22, of 429 Parum Rd., was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny.

7/18: State Police said Ryan J. Risley, 27, of 23 Rentschler St., East Hartford, was arrested and charged with DUI and making an improper turn.

7/18: Colchester Police said Joseph Gamache, 41, of 191 Stanavage Rd., was arrested and charged with threatening and disorderly conduct.

7/20: Colchester Police said David Joseph Taylor, 39, of 100 Lebanon Ave., was arrested and charged with kindling a fire in the open without authority.

7/20: State Police said Moira Moreno, 32, of 32 Bruce Circle, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

Portland Rollover Crash Requires Lifestar

by Elizabeth Bowling

Police responded to a single-car crash just before 6 p.m. Tuesday, when a 2013 Toyota Prius lost control and rolled over onto its roof.

Jennifer Peacock of East Haddam was the sole occupant of the vehicle. She was traveling westbound on Route 66 through what is known by locals as “the ledges.”

According to Sgt. James Kelly, Peacock drove “off the right side of the road, or west-bound shoulder, for an unknown reason.” He said the crash occurred at the western part of the ledges.

“The car subsequently spun and rolled over onto its roof,” Kelly furthered. “It came to a rest after striking some guardrail.”

Kelly explained other motorists witnessed the crash and reported it. Police responded

by 5:58 p.m.

According to Kelly, Peacock had to be “extricated from the vehicle” by Portland Fire Department personnel. Officials determined her injuries were “serious enough” to transport her to Hartford Hospital via Lifestar, Kelly said.

Kelly said in a phone interview Wednesday that Peacock had been “subsequently released” from the hospital.

The Tuesday evening accident caused the road to be shut down for just over an hour. It called for response from 35 fire department personnel and two police personnel.

A police investigation regarding the cause of the accident is active and ongoing.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

This past May marked 13 years since I graduated college; nearly a decade and a half since I last walked the hallowed halls of Marist in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Not every class from that time sticks out in my mind, but one of my favorites was a Shakespeare class I took my sophomore year. We each had a copy of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, and tore through a bunch of plays that semester.

I've always been drawn to plays; perhaps it's got something to do with me being a TV geek my whole life. After all, a play reads an awful lot like a TV script. And then when you toss the Bard into the mix....well, it was easy to see why I enjoyed that class. Plus, I had a terrific professor, by the name of Gregory Machacek. Obviously, if you're going to teach a Shakespeare class, it helps to have an affinity for Shakespeare – and he definitely did. His passion and interest in the subject made the class a lot of fun.

Like I said, we read a lot of plays in that class. And one of my favorites – which also wound up being performed as the spring play at Marist either my junior or senior year – was *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Now, as far as Shakespeare works were concerned, a comedy wasn't necessarily a comedy as in funny ha-ha. It could very well mean it's just not a play where everyone wound up dead at the end. But *Midsummer Night's Dream* was genuinely laugh-out-loud funny. Like I said, it's one of my favorites. Maybe not my very favorite (*Taming of the Shrew* is perhaps the owner of that title), but it's certainly up there.

So I was intrigued when a notice floated across my inbox Monday about a neat-sounding joint venture between the Colchester and East Haddam parks and recreation departments. Next Tuesday, July 29, at 6 p.m., the departments are putting on a free performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on the Colchester Town Green. The cast and crew include residents of both towns.

The parks and recreation departments are calling this a “zero-budget production,” with all costumes and props loaned from, or made by, the cast, crew and various community members. All participants are volunteers. The script is a modern-language version of the play from Shakespeare Out Loud, which gave the parks and recreation departments permission to use the script for free.

It should be a very interesting and entertaining evening out. Folks attending should bring a blanket to sit on or a folding chair. Also, before the play, from 5-6 p.m., there will be a free concert of mountain dulcimer music by the Connecticut Mountain Dulcimer Gathering & Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra – which meets monthly in Colchester at Cragin Library.

In case of inclement weather, the rain date for this show is Friday, Aug. 1, at 6 p.m.

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It's only a slight exaggeration to say *The Simpsons* has been around forever. The show debuted Dec. 17, 1989, bowed in its normal Sunday night timeslot Jan. 14, 1990 – and hasn't left the air since. The show has run an amazing 25 seasons, by far the record for a scripted television show. During that time, 522 episodes have been produced – and one big-screen movie, in 2007.

While the show is still a money-maker for Fox, its ratings have dropped over the years. I don't know a whole lot of people who still watch new episodes of the show. I can't say as I blame them, really. I still watch the new episodes, here and there, and while each one usually provides a handful of laughs, and there's a gem sprinkled in every now and then, the show has definitely peaked. In fact, it did so a long time ago.

But, at its peak, *The Simpsons* was brilliant. It may seem odd to think that now, if you're only familiar with what the show has been the past 10 years or so. But for most of the 1990s, the makers of *The Simpsons* were, on a weekly basis, turning out intelligent, subversive, satirical, touching and, above all, hilarious television.

After a decent first season, when the show was still finding its way, *The Simpsons* started to hit its stride in season two, starting a golden age that would last right through the end of season eight. Six seasons of sustained excellence – and really, it's to overstate how high the *Simpsons'* highs were – is a very rare feat. The show was still good, just not *as* good, in season nine, and then the decline really started in season 10.

While the show is still in daily reruns, it's tough these days to come across an episode from the first decade or so of the series. But, if you have my doubts about how good the show used to be, the new cable channel FXX is here to help – announcing this week an upcoming marathon that's very much one of a kind.

Starting at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, the channel will air every single episode of *The Simpsons*, in order. They'll even drop the movie in too (in proper sequence, after episode 400). The marathon will last until midnight Monday, Sept. 1.

So, for nearly a week and a half, there will be nothing but *The Simpsons* on FXX. That's 48 episodes a day. Doing some quick math, that means those golden-era *Simpsons* should last until probably early Monday, Aug. 25.

That'll be one long – but very, very enjoyable – weekend of television.

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See you next week.