

RIVEREAST

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The Saturday parade is always one of the highlights of East Hampton's Old Home Days festivities. A contingent from Epoch Arts is seen here marching in the 2013 parade.

Old Home Days Return Next Week

by Elizabeth Bowling

It's that time of year again – time for a Glorious Celebration in East Hampton.

The 36th annual Old Home Days three-day event is next week, July 10-12, and, if it's anything like the 35 OHD before it, it's sure to entertain.

"It's our 36th year and we're glad to be able to put this on," said Pam Joslyn-Greenwald, president of the OHD Association, in a phone interview earlier this week. "We want to thank the community, without whose support we wouldn't be able to put this on."

The fun times will kick off Thursday, July 10, also known as "Kids' Night." Ride tickets Thursday will be discounted to \$15, instead of the usual \$20. Plus, the first round of kids' bicycles will be given away.

The musical entertainment Thursday is Beatles Forever, a Fab Four tribute band, which will perform from 7:30-10 p.m.

Friday's entertainment will feature the band Johnny 5 from 6 to 7:45 p.m., and the Coyote River Band, from 8:15 to 11 p.m.

Also on Friday will be the 16th annual Glorious Gallop. The 5K race starts at Seven Hills Crossing, continues down Mott Hill and around Lake Pocotopaug, and finishes at Center School.

The cost for pre-registered runners (runners can register online or via mail) is \$15. For those runners who register the day of the race, the

cost will be \$20. Children 12 and under can participate for \$10.

There will be shuttle bus service from the Center School grounds to the starting line beginning at 6 p.m. and going until 6:43 p.m. The race itself is set to start at 7:15 p.m.

A free shuttle bus also will pick people up from the high school and drop them off near the fairgrounds all three days of the celebration, Joslyn-Greenwald affirmed. The bus, from Nichols Bus Service, will run every 30 minutes from 5-10 p.m. Thursday, 5-11 p.m. Friday, and 3-11 p.m. Saturday. Additionally, shuttle service will be provided to parade participants from 9-11 a.m. Saturday.

Saturday is the annual parade, "which is big," Joslyn-Greenwald said. The theme of this year's 1.5-mile long parade is "POW! Cartoon and Comic Book Characters on Parade." The parade is scheduled to step off at 11 Saturday morning.

Also on Saturday will be the raffle drawing at 8:10 p.m. at the Center School grounds, located at 7 Summit St. Winners need not be present.

One raffle ticket costs \$10. A limit of 1,200 tickets will be sold. The money raised from the raffle will go back to OHD for next year, according to Joslyn-Greenwald.

Raffle prizes are as follows: first prize, a 22hp' 46" Hasqvarna Lawn Tractor; second

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Local Craft Beer, Anyone?

by Melissa Roberto

Rich Visco has lived in Marlborough for 17 years, and has been making beer for 25. This week, his two worlds collided: his locally-inspired brews are being sold at a restaurant in town.

Even better, the beers are something that started out as a hobby and have turned into a business venture that is still brewing – literally. And some of the craft beers Visco creates were inspired while in his backyard on Lake Terramuggus.

"The beers were developed here," Visco said in his backyard, which overlooks the lake. "I can point to spots and say 'I did it here, and there, and there.'"

Visco works at a financial firm in Hartford. But two years ago he took his passion of home brewing one step further; he founded Shebeen Brewing, and is its CEO, co-owner and head brewer.

Shebeen Brewing Company has a brewery in Wolcott. It's home to Visco's famous Cannoli beer and several other craft beers including Cucumber Wasabi, Pineapple Wheat and Bacon Kona Stout. But what's almost as unique as his malt liquors is the story of how Visco got started making them.

A native of Derry, Northern Ireland, who moved with his family to Connecticut, Visco started home brewing in the late 1980s – "when

it wasn't even popular," he quipped.

At the time, Visco was enrolled at the University of Connecticut. He said he would travel home to his mother's house and brew beer there – by simply reading a book that explained how.

Home brewing continued to be a passion of Visco's during his days at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass. There, Visco was in pursuit of his Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree, and, for his master's thesis, he developed a business plan of opening up a brewery. Later on in life he would follow that plan.

Unlike when he started brewing, the Marlborough resident said currently "there's a whole big craft beer revolution that's happening in the state of Connecticut right now."

"What we're seeing now is the younger generation between the 20- and 35-[year-olds] are really taking to craft beer," he said.

After college, Visco said he put his business plan "on the shelf." He moved to Marlborough in 1997, where he has raised a family with his wife Nancy. Two years ago, a co-worker of his with similar passions "coaxed" the Ireland native into putting his old brewing plan to use, Visco said.

With a co-owner from New York and other partners, Visco was able to move into the Wolcott building in December 2012. It officially

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Rich Visco stands outside of his Marlborough home holding two craft beers he concocted himself. Visco is the CEO and co-owner of Shebeen Brewing. Now, Sadler's Restaurant is selling the resident's beer.

Old Home Days cont. from Front Page

prize, a Weber Spirit SP 320 Gas Grill; third prize, a \$500 Gift Card redeemable at Stop & Shop Supermarket; fourth prize, a \$500 gift card redeemable at Stop & Shop Supermarket; fifth prize, a \$400 gift certificate redeemable at Belltown Tire; sixth prize, a \$300 gift card redeemable at amazon.com; seventh prize, a \$300 CITGO gift card; eighth prize, a \$250 gift card to Wireless Zone Verizon; ninth prize, a \$200 gift certificate for a Deluxe Car Detailing service redeemable at Belltown Auto Sales and Rental; 10th prize, a \$100 gift certificate to Angelico's Lakehouse; 11th prize, a \$100 gift certificate to Loco Perro Restaurant; and 12th prize, a \$100 gift certificate to Rossini's Restaurant.

Tickets for the raffle are on sale now at the following Belltown locations: ACE Hardware, Verizon, the Citgo on Route 66, Salon Ferrara,

Savings Institute Bank & Trust and the East Hampton Public Library. Tickets will also be available on Center School grounds during Old Home Days – though organizers stress that, with only 1,200 being sold, tickets usually sell out.

Entertainment Saturday includes Brand New Karma, from 1:30-3 p.m.; Sounds of Frank, 3:30-5 p.m.; Vinyl Revolution, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; and JimmyHat, 8-11 p.m.

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The 36th annual Old Home Days Glorious Celebration will be held Thursday, July 10, from 6-10 p.m.; Friday, July 11, from 6-11 p.m.; and Saturday, July 12, from 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

For more information on OHD, visit ehohd.org or learn about the Glorious Celebration on Facebook at [facebook.com/pages/East-Hampton-Old-Home-Days/137572746314855](https://www.facebook.com/pages/East-Hampton-Old-Home-Days/137572746314855).

Craft Beer cont. from Front Page

opened to the public in May of last year. The brewery's latest achievement occurred in January of this year, when it implemented its "big expansion," which consisted of its original one-barrel system expanding into a 15-30 barrel system, he said.

"The one-barrel system we were on was never intended to be our long term thing," Visco explained, furthering that it was a part of his business plan. "It was just meant to start out with this and eventually be used to create pilot recipes."

With the first year complete – which Visco said mainly consisted of "financing" – in its second year Shebeen's owners will focus on "making sure the product is good and consistent," Visco said.

Shebeen is currently sold in New Haven, Middlesex and Fairfield counties. However, it will expand to Hartford, Windham and Tolland counties in August, and Visco anticipates New London County to follow shortly thereafter.

Shebeen has taken off since January's expansion. "We're in 100 different package stores, 60-70 different bars and restaurants and we've done tap takeovers," including the Tilted Kilt in Wethersfield and Texas Roadhouse in Waterbury.

And even before customers take a sip, they'll notice Visco's family crest on the beer labels – and perhaps might question where the name Shebeen came from.

"When we were developing the name of the brewery we wanted to keep something that had an Irish lineage or name to it," the CEO said.

"Shebeen" is Irish Gaelic for "illegal brewhouse," better known in the United States as a speakeasy. Visco said he liked the name for two reasons: it had two syllables, and "it had some cool meaning behind it that was unique enough."

And originality seems to be the foundation of the business. Visco said craft beers are about "fresh, quality, challenging flavors" – which, he stressed, is the only kind of beer he will pour.

"I said, 'If I'm going to come out and make them, they've got to be the different ones I used to make here,'" Visco recalled. "I try to make the ones that I can't find and that I can't get. And so, that's the message behind some of the creative beers we have."

And the Marlborough resident can thank his hometown for some inspiration. Shebeen's claim to fame, its Cannoli brew, came to mind in the summer of 2012 while Visco was standing on his deck.

"Someone just said the word 'cannoli' and I stopped in my tracks," the head brewer remembered. "I said, 'I can make that. Send me an Italian recipe, I will re-emulate it.'"

The brewery's signature libation "uses specialty grains [and] all the spices that go into a cannoli." It also has cream and vanilla. Order it "dolloed up" at the brewery and it will be presented to you in a glass with a powdered sugar rim, sprinkled with chocolate shavings.

Then there was also a near death experience that led to the making of another Shebeen draught – Concord Grape Saison. "The grapes we have in this Concord Grape Saison grew right here on the water," Visco said.

This came about during Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011. Visco had traveled to his shed near the lake and while inside a 50-foot tree fell on it. Visco made it out, but said he was surprised by what was scattered around his yard afterwards.

"These Concord grape leaves were all over," the brewer said. "I picked like 10 pounds of Concord grape...It became a true Connecticut beer."

Craft beers that join those two in the Wolcott brewhouse range from German and Belgium

styles, stouts, red, India and pale ales, session porters and spiced ales – some of which can be enjoyed year-round and others that are seasonal.

Two malts fitting for the summertime are Shebeen's Pineapple Wheat – what Visco said is "a 'fresh and fickle infusion' similar to a shanty – and its German Cerveza, which the brewery describes as a Kolsch-style infused with agave nectar that "pairs great with a lime."

Shebeen is also home to a "breakfast beer" with oats, Kona Coffee from Hawaii and infused with real bacon, known as its Bacon Kona Stout; a Black Hop IPA that is a "cross between an IPA, stout and German Bock"; Cucumber Wasabi, made with a balance of "fresh cucumber puree and Wasabi powder"; Rye Porter, or a session beer "with an emphasis on the rye"; and Visco's favorite, a Double Rye Porter, which is a regular rye porter doubled and "aged in the whiskey barrel," he said. A list of Shebeen's beers can be found on the brewery website at shebeenbrewing.com.

* * *

And while Shebeen isn't expected to hit most businesses in the *Rivereast* area until the end of the summer, it is a self-distributor as well, which is how some Shebeen hops have already made their way to Marlborough. Kevin Haggerty, owner of Sadler's Restaurant, at 61 North Main St. in Marlborough, confirmed he is selling Shebeen's Pineapple Wheat on draft and Black Hop IPA by the can. And so far, the two have customer approval.

"Oh yeah, they're happy with it," Haggerty said. "People love that the owner is local. We see a lot of pints of pineapple wheat going out."

Haggerty personally said he prefers the IPA, which he described as a "dark and stormy beer."

"We want to change them with the season," Haggerty said of Shebeen offerings. "They have lots to choose from and that keeps it interesting for our customers. It should be fun."

Visco said he's happy Shebeen has made its way to a restaurant right in his hometown. "We'd much rather have it where the local business can make money on it," the brewer said. "That's how I am as a business person. If we're all being upfront and fair with each other we can all make money on the whole thing, and that's why I was excited about Sadler's."

Customers can also travel right to the brewery, on 1 Wolcott Rd., in Wolcott, for \$5 tastings, which also includes a tour. Visitors can also buy or bring in a growler to be filled for a flat fee of \$5.

The Wolcott brewery is also home to outdoor games and occasionally invites food trucks for patrons to take advantage of. They also encourage customers to bring food and picnic, and allow for food deliveries right to the brewery's door. It has stayed busy during its opening hours, and Visco said one of the goals in the next year is to expand its visitor center for bigger crowds. The center can be rented for private parties of all kinds, he said.

Shebeen Brewing can be reached at 203-514-2336. Its hours are Thursdays and Fridays 5-9 p.m., Saturdays 12-7 p.m., and Sundays 12-5 p.m. To hold an event or rent the brewery, email shebeenbrewing@live.com. Readers can also visit shebeenbrewing.com or check out the company's Facebook page, at [Facebook.com/ShebeenBrewing](https://www.facebook.com/ShebeenBrewing), for more information.

And although his Wolcott brewery is about a 40-minute commute from home, Visco said it's at his Lake Terramuggus home where he'll continue to get inspiration for crafting cold ones.

"I'm no longer brewing here," he said, "but if I come up with a recipe it's usually sitting on a chair here."

Recount Confirms Colchester Budgets Pass

by Melissa Roberto

A recount of last Tuesday's referendum results confirmed its original outcome: both the town operations and Board of Education budgets for the 2014-15 fiscal year have passed.

The recount came after very close calls for both budget approvals. The town budget squeaked by with just 12 more 'yes' votes than 'no' votes, while the education budget results were even tighter, with the school spending plan passing by a mere four votes. This led resident Charlotte Abbott, of 180 McDonald Rd., to request a recount of the budget, which was allowable per the town charter.

The recount produced similar results, though the number of votes shifted slightly. The original vote for the town budget was 1,403-1,391. The recount produced the same 12-vote margin, but the numbers shifted to 1,402-1,390.

As for the school budget, the recount showed it only passed by three votes and not four. The original outcome of 1,399-1,395 changed to 1,398-1,395 on Friday.

The June 24 referendum was the third to be held on the spending packages for the 2014-15 fiscal year. Both budgets failed at referendums on May 6 and May 29. Last week's vote reeled in the highest percentage of voters out of all three referendums – 28 percent.

Town officials last week admitted the close call meant the budget for next year would be looked at carefully during its development. Discussions of the budgets usually begin in the late fall or early December.

"Certainly we have a lot of work to do between this year's passing of the budget and next year's creation of the budget to determine what

we can do more effectively and what maybe we need to eliminate from the services we provide to the town," Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov said last week.

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein this week commented on the recount results.

"I'm relieved that it's passed and we're looking forward to starting another school year," Goldstein said.

First Selectman Stan Soby said he, too, was happy with the recount results.

"I'm glad that we've got budgets to operate with," Soby said. "We know there are differing opinions about the budget based on the closeness of the vote and certainly that means we're going to be mindful of that as we go through this budget and also plan for next year's budget."

Of the official passing of both budgets, Soby said the town is now "able to move on to additional things that we need to be doing as a town government, going forward addressing people's needs."

The mill rate for the 2014-15 fiscal year is 30.57, which is up .29 mills from the fiscal year prior. According to a document found on the town website, if a person has a home with a market value of \$200,000 that is assessed at \$140,000, their taxes would go up \$40.60 annually, or \$3.38 monthly. A person whose home has a market value of \$230,000, and is assessed at \$161,000, will see a \$46.69 annual increase in their taxes, or \$3.89 monthly.

The 2014-15 fiscal year went into effect July 1, and will run until June 30, 2015.

Hebron Hosting State Baseball Tournament

by Geeta Schrayter

America's pastime will be on the minds of many over the next week – and not just Red Sox, Yankees or Mets fans. From July 5-12, Hebron will play host to a state baseball tournament expected to bring around 250 people to town.

The Cal Ripken Connecticut U-10 Baseball State Championship will take place at Burnt Hill Park. The tournament is for the 10-year-old baseball division and will include teams from around the state whose participation was determined through district play. Along with Hebron, the towns represented include nearby Salem/Bozrah (playing as one team) and Marlborough, as well as Danbury, Newtown, Stratford, West Hartford, and another town that was to be determined after press time, via a playoff game.

In a recent release sent by Bob Fraleigh, director of corporate communications for Hebron Baseball, he shared one to four games will be played each day "and will feature some of Connecticut's best young baseball players."

Hebron Baseball President Steve Turco said in his most recent "President's Message" on hebronyouthbaseball.org that "one of the goals in our strategic plan is to make Hebron a tournament destination of choice for Cal Ripken Baseball or any other interested group looking to give their teams and players a great baseball experience."

And, he added, "We plan to do just that." Turco shared this week a bid was submitted last year to have the tournament held in town.

"We bid against a bunch of other towns and were awarded the bid," he stated, explaining one of the reasons they put in for the role was to showcase the town's fields.

"We probably have two of the nicest fields anywhere in the state," Turco said of Burnt Hill Park. "And because our fields are so nice and well-maintained and on such beautiful property, we thought it would be the perfect opportunity to host this tournament and have towns from

all over the state come in and see what kinds of fields we have to offer."

Town Manager Andrew Tierney felt similarly, saying it was "a great thing to bring in the tournament to Hebron because [Parks and Recreation Director] Rich Calarco does such a great job with the ball fields."

Tierney went on to call hosting the tournament "an honor."

"I think it's just a great thing – I hope everybody has a good time," he concluded.

But it's more than just showing off the fields. Turco said he also wanted the town to host a tournament "that keeps up to the standards of what other towns do," and along with hosting "the best Cal Ripken Connecticut U-10 Baseball State Championship we can," Turco shared having the tournament in Hebron would be good for the entire town.

The crowd that comes with the event, he explained, will mean money for local businesses and an increased awareness of Hebron and its offerings.

"They'll be able to see what we have to offer not only from a game and field perspective, but our town: what kind of restaurants we have to offer, what kinds of shops we have," Turco explained. "To me it's a great way to get people who don't normally come here to see what we have."

Turco added that most of the participating teams come from the southwestern portion of the state, and the tournaments are usually held in the same area – which means "they don't get up our way very often."

But now that the tournament is here, Turco said he hoped visitors will see all there is to offer in the Hebron area – including Gay City State Park, nearby malls and shops and the relative close proximity of the University of Connecticut – and will "enjoy that, spend some money here, and hopefully enjoy it enough to where we can host more tournaments in the future; so I'm looking at it in part as kind of economic development."



Pictured are members of the Hebron U-10 tournament baseball team, which recently captured the Cal Ripken District 3 and 6 championships in Marlborough. Hebron moves on to the Cal Ripken U-10 State Championship Tournament which will be held July 5-12 at Burnt Hill Park in Hebron.

At the end of the day, though, it's still about baseball, and while Turco wants the experience to be enjoyable for everyone involved, he said he wouldn't mind if Hebron came out on top.

"It would be absolutely great if Hebron won," he said. "That would be the absolute prize if we won as well."

And that will remain to be seen.

The tournament kicks off today, July 5 at 10 a.m., with pre-game ceremonies beginning at 9:45 a.m. The opening game will feature

Hebron pitted against Danbury. Members of the Hebron U-10 team include Ben Carso, Brendan Foley, Dylan Hossain, Jimmy Hullah, Derek Johnson, Drew Kron, Chase Melzen, Matt Milone, Michael Poncini, Ryan Schultz, Dylan Stone and Tim Wilson; the team is managed by Ken Kron, along with assistant coaches Frank Milone and Dan Foley.

For more information, game updates and a tournament schedule, visit hebronyouthbaseball.org.

Farmers Market to Bring Harvest to Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

It's a year later than originally planned, but it's finally happening: a farmers market is coming to Andover, promising to provide all kinds of goods to those who venture to the corner of Long Hill and Riverside Drive Friday evenings beginning July 11.

From 4-7 p.m., around 30 booths will be set up in town with all kinds of offerings including, of course, fresh, local produce like peaches and plums, sweet corn and cabbage, summer squash and tomatoes, peppers and potatoes, cucumbers and kale, watermelon, radishes, turnips and more.

There will also be fish and eggs, meats like chicken, beef, bison, lamb, turkey and pork for purchase, as well as a variety of jams and jellies, pickles, relishes and hot sauces, maple syrup and honey.

But the options extend beyond the plate too: also available will be handmade wooden spoons and objects, decorative baskets, pottery, plants, soaps, jewelry, travel mugs, and more; informational booths and some town groups will also be on site, including Think Energy Connecticut, PS Travel Agency, Wellness By Design

organic gardening, and the Republican and Democratic Town Committees.

In addition, there will be plenty to munch on while perusing the various offerings, like pizza, kettle corn and cupcakes, with soda, lemonade and coffee to wash it all down.

Andover Farmers Market (AMF) committee member and selectwoman Elaine Buchardt said she was "very excited" the market was happening.

"We tried to put it together too quickly last year and the vendors and farmers just couldn't commit," she explained. "So we had to wait until this year to get a good number of farmers and as far as I know we got about three doing vegetables, herbs – things like that. Then the rest of the vendors are going to be selling things like meat, fish, chicken and then some crafts. So it'll be a good mix."

Market Master Cathy Palazzi was similarly excited – both that the market was happening, and that there were so many participants.

"We thought if we get 10-11 farmers and vendors we would be thrilled and say 'we did good for the first year,' but we have 29!" she stated, adding she received another call Wednes-

day morning from a woman who can't start the first week, but wants to participate soon after.

"I think this will work out really good because the farmers are really rallying all of a sudden," Palazzi furthered, adding she was "really happy" so many were participating.

To get things started July 11, an opening ceremony will take place at 3:45 p.m. State Sen. Steve Cassano and First Selectman Bob Burbank will cut the ribbon to officially open the market, while others expected to be present include Hebron Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan and Marlborough resident Joe La Bella, who are running against each other to be Andover's state representative; Glastonbury Town Council Vice Chairman Whit Osgood, who is running against Cassano for state senate; Judge of Probate Mike Darby; and Lori Hopkins Cavanaugh, who is running for Congress.

The Andover Historical Society will also be present during the inaugural market, featuring a society member dressed in period clothing; and, at 5:30 p.m., "Mr. Magic" will perform tricks for children of all ages.

"We plan to have entertainment each week and are now working on hiring people," Palazzi explained.

Along with Palazzi and her husband Mike, the AFM committee consists of Buchardt, Karen Hunter, Jeanne Person and Bob Russell – and it's a group that forms what Palazzi called "the best committee I have been on."

"We're having a ball," she said, adding the members were always willing to help.

"It's like, 'I'll do it! I'll do it!'" Palazzi shared. "That's the attitude of this committee and why I think we're successful."

And the fruits of their labor can be seen next week, when the farmers market makes its debut.

"I'm hoping everyone comes and has a wonderful time and enjoys it," Palazzi concluded.

Parking for the market will be available at the First Congregational Church, the town garage or on Riverside drive; there is no parking on Long Hill Road. For more information, check out andoverct.org or the market's Facebook page at [facebook.com/AndoverCTFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/AndoverCTFarmersMarket).

Portland Author Raising Funds for Food Banks

by Elizabeth Bowling

A Portland resident is taking a page out of his own book; the author of a new children's story called *Young Phantom* – in which the main character learns the importance of responsibility and giving to those less fortunate – will donate all proceeds from his book to local food banks.

Author James Tedeschi recently wrote and self-published *Young Phantom*, the story of a young cat named Phantom and his kind-hearted friends and family. Over the course of the book, Phantom learns to be responsible for himself by allotting time for both work and play. He also learns to be a good person – well, cat – by, for example, asking that his friends donate to the food pantry rather than give him birthday presents. In the end, Phantom is rewarded for his good behavior with a family trip to the beach.

"It is entertaining and there are adventures, but I kind of sneak in lessons underneath," Tedeschi said of the story, which he said is intended for readers ages 6 through about 10.

He also said his story "teaches responsibility," and one important lesson is that if you are responsible "you get rewarded in the end."

According to Tedeschi, *Young Phantom* features "feel-good, good-natured characters." He furthered, they're "not your traditional, cookie-cutter characters."

Young Phantom covers important topics, like diversity, responsibility and charity.

"There's no mean streak in any of these characters," Tedeschi said. "Every parent can be assured that their child will learn something from this story about how to help others."

The East Hartford native has lived in Portland for the past four years and said he decided to write a children's book because "I figured this will be really good for the kids."

"I think that with everything that's being thrown at children, like adults, some of it is...degrading, humiliating," Tedeschi explained, saying that, for example, music lyrics are "violent," and video games are "disruptive." He added that kids are "almost addicted to these games that are kind of counterproductive."

That's why he decided to write what he calls a "feel-good book," which, he hopes to turn into a series. That's also why he decided to make his book "interactive," by allowing readers to color in the pictures themselves.

Tedeschi said it took him only about five or six hours to write the nine-chapter story, which officially came out in mid-May.

"I just wrote down a lot of notes, kicked around some thoughts," he said. "It brought me some happiness. It was almost like therapy. The words just flowed out."

The writing process, he added, "was fun and went very smooth."

Asked how he came up with his idea for *Young Phantom*, Tedeschi said the main character's life is similar to his own childhood. In that way, the story is based on reality.

He explained it's "kind of the way I grew up: I had a roof over my head, I had clothes, I was fortunate."

Another way the story is based on reality is the casting of Phantom.

"Phantom is a real cat that I got for my mother because she has Parkinson's," Tedeschi said. But the rest of the story came from Tedeschi's own "imagination," he said.

Alexandra Schoell also had to use her imagination when coming up with the book's illustrations. Tedeschi described the artist as "diligent."

He explained he put an ad on Craigslist.org, which got numerous responses. But one of the first to respond was Schoell, a Portland resi-

dent.

Regarding the illustrations of his characters, Tedeschi said, "I wanted them to look serious but also with a whimsical side to them."

He furthered his story could stand on its own, but Schoell's illustrations are "frosting on the cake."

Tedeschi also wished to acknowledge and thank Charlie Lazich, owner of Minuteman Press, Cari Klick, graphic layout designer, and Marion Smoska, editor.

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Tedeschi is now semi-retired but still writes. The 54-year-old said his five-plus decades of life have provided him with "a little wisdom." He laughed, "hopefully it comes through" in *Young Phantom*.

Parents and children can find out just how much wisdom seeped into the book by attending an upcoming reading.

The author said he plans to do readings at the Portland and Colchester public libraries sometime in early September. He affirmed the local librarians would do the readings to the children, and he would be there to sign books after.

To find out when Tedeschi will be reading in the *Rivereast* area, check with the local libraries toward the end of summer.

In addition to being a nice event for families, Tedeschi said the purpose of the local readings is to promote book sales because all proceeds – at least the portion that is left after covering the costs of the publisher and the shipping – will go to local food banks.

Asked if he has a fundraising goal, Tedeschi said, "I'd like to sell 1,000 books right away."

"I think it's a good thing to do at my age," Tedeschi said of his efforts to support local food banks. "There's a really great need."

Funds raised from selling books at local li-



Resident James Tedeschi recently wrote and published a children's book, *Young Phantom*.

brary readings will go toward the town in which the purchase is made.

The cost per book is \$14.95 (shipping included), and buyers should expect their purchases to arrive within one to three weeks. To order a book, email Tedeschi at jmstedeschi@gmail.com.

New Shop in Portland for Cold Treats

by Elizabeth Bowling

With the summer months heating up, it's nice to cool off every once in a while with a dip in the pool, or, for those with a sweet tooth, a taste of ice cream. If the latter's desired, The Main Scoop ice cream shop, owned by and located next to Melilli Café in Portland, may be just the thing.

The Main Scoop officially opened June 7 and owner Seb Milardo affirmed, "We have all kinds of flavors."

With more than 20 ice cream flavor options – from cotton candy to moosetracks – Milardo said his favorite is s'mores.

But that's just the ice cream; it's not counting the Italian gelatos or ices.

The 53-year-old business owner brings in the ice cream from Gifford's, a Maine-based ice cream company, but the gelatos and ices are "done by us," Milardo said. He added, "We make it every couple of days."

Milardo said the gelato "is a very different texture [than] ice cream." Also, regarding the gelatos and ices, he added, "The recipes come from my town in Sicily."

Milardo's favorite flavor of gelato is "torone," which is made with almonds. Other gelato flavors to write home about include "baci," hazelnut and chocolate.

Milardo said of the popular baci flavor, "It's like Nutella."

Some other tasty treats offered at The Main Scoop are shakes, floats, and "all kinds of toppings," according to Milardo.

The cherry on top?

"You can build your own ice cream cookie [sandwich]. We make our own cookies fresh daily."

* * *

The cafe portion of Melilli Café opened May 9, 2013. Before he opened The Main Scoop, Milardo explained, "we were selling some ice cream out of here, but then the newspaper stand [that was next door] went out of business."

Once the space next door opened up this winter, Milardo was able to expand to that building and "create more flavors" than the 10 he was able to offer in the café.

This is Milardo's first time owning an ice cream shop, though he's been in the restaurant business for 20 years.

Of his first year of business in Portland, the Middletown resident said, "It's been good. Very promising."

Asked why Melilli Café has been so successful in its first year, he said, "The good food and the great staff."

"We have good customer service," he furthered, but "mainly our food is what people come back for."

And the ice cream business, so far, has been no different.

"It's been good," Milardo said. "The ice cream is really, really, really good."

* * *

The Main Scoop, located at 264 Main St., Portland, is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day.



Melilli Café owner Seb Milardo is pictured here in his new ice cream shop, The Main Scoop, which officially opened last month. The ice cream shop is located next door to the café, at 264 Main St., Portland.

Chatham Historical Society Gets New Shed

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Chatham Historical Society is East Hampton's hub of local history. It features a one-room schoolhouse dating back to the 1800s and a museum displaying Bevin Bells, toys and artifacts made or used in East Hampton, and other historical items.

Sandy Doran, president of the CHS, said the historical society had been in need of a storage shed for about 10 years. That's why the CHS recruited two carpentry classes from Vinal Technical High School to build a 10' x 12' -shed, now used to store "all of our fundraiser signs," Doran said. "It's the perfect space for that."

Doran explained the historical society holds different events every year, and each event has about 10 signs, for which storage space was needed. Those four events include: the antique appraisal day every spring; the town-wide tag sale every June; an open house every month; and the bi-annual quilt show. Additionally, the CHS hosts a historic house tour every other year.

So the CHS contacted Vinal Tech, of Middletown, and proposed its students build the shed as a community service project.

"We do a community projects a lot," said Vinal Tech carpentry teacher Greg Landry. He explained Vinal Tech requires that students complete 10 hours of community service per year.

Because the students constructed the shed for community service, labor was free, Doran explained. So the only cost to the CHS was material, which came in at about \$2,800, Doran affirmed. She said \$2,800 is "almost the price of a [pre-made] shed that you could buy," but the new, custom-made shed is "better quality" because it's just that – custom-made.

"It matches our existing museum," Doran said, noting, for example, it is the same color, has a matching "beautiful red door" on the front, and has a double door on the side to fit signs through. Additionally, it has a small loft inside, Doran described.

Landry further described some of the matching details. He said the shed has, for example, all wood siding, and a wooden shingled roof.

Landry said he and his classes were very careful to match small details because of the "rich history" in Belltown, and in the CHS specifically. He said of the shed, "We didn't want it to stand out and be an eyesore."

Doran raved about the final result. "We're so impressed," she said. "We've had so many wonderful compliments on it."

"They looked like a very cohesive class," Doran said of the Vinal Tech students. "Greg was a wonderful teacher. They looked like they were learning things but also having fun."

Construction of the shed began at the end of April and the project was completed in the first week of June, not long before the last day of school, June 23.

Vinal Tech went through the approval process in early April, Landry said. Then Landry and his students visited the site in mid-April to check, for example, if the site was level and had power sources.

"We wanted to see some of the details of the existing buildings because we wanted it to match aesthetically," he explained.

Landry and the students took pictures at the site, then went back to Vinal Tech to start designing the blueprint. The actual construction of the shed – at least 90 percent of it, according to Landry – took place in the Vinal Tech parking lot. Then the class had to take it apart and transport it via trailer to East Hampton and re-assemble it there.

"It was kind of like we did it twice," Landry said.

The on-site work took two school weeks, at three hours per day, and included leveling the foundation and putting on the roof.

Two classes, made up of a total of about 30 freshmen and sophomores, worked on the project.

Landry said the project was "a learning opportunity" for the students. He added it was "all brand new to them."

"They're seeing it in a book or on a screen and the next minute they're working on it," he said of the importance of a hands-on project. For example, he said, the elements are different on a job site compared to the smooth, dry



The Chatham Historical Society has a new, custom-made storage shed. The shed, at 10'x12', will store the society's signs. Students from Vinal Technical High School built the shed as a community service project.

conditions of a classroom workbench. Plus, working hands-on allows for important learning experiences, like how to safely work on a ladder, and tool safety, he furthered.

Jason O'Leary, a Vinal Tech sophomore who helped work on the shed project, had only good things to say about the hands-on effort.

"It was a really good experience," he said. "We learned a lot – everything from how to roof a shed or even a house, to how to assemble and how to build it from the ground up."

The Middletown resident furthered, "To some degree it was challenging, but it gave us a reason to step our game up and make it that much better."

While no East Hampton residents worked on the project, 47 East Hampton residents attend

Vinal Tech.

The CHS' next open house is Sunday, July 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to meet at the museum and check out the new shed.

The CHS museum is located on 6 Bevin Blvd., behind Center School.

The next historic house tour is coming up this September. Eight houses from all around East Hampton will be on display. Tickets cost \$15 and provide buyers with a map of those eight houses. (One of the eight houses is the CHS museum.) The tour is Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact the CHS for more information. Tickets are not available yet.

\$40.29 Million Budget Passes in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Bowling

The third time is the charm – at least for the East Hampton town budget.

The \$40,285,926 spending plan for the 2014-15 fiscal year was passed at referendum last Thursday, June 26, by a vote of 1,120-831.

The budget represents a 2.67 percent, or \$1,047,951, increase from the 2013-14 budget. It features a mill rate of 27.14, a 1.92 percent, or 0.51 mill, increase from the 2013-14 year.

The spending package can be broken down into the education budget, \$28,265,097; town operations, \$9,766,448; transfers to other funds, \$954,701; and debt service, \$1,299,680.

The Town Council's first proposed budget, which went to referendum May 6 and was shot down by a vote of 1,180-839, totaled \$40,872,675. That was shaved down for the second trip to referendum, with a proposed budget of \$40,550,320. But that, too, was rejected, by a 1,140-839 tally.

Compared to the budget that was proposed and shot down at the second referendum June 3, the third go-around called for a total reduction of \$264,394 – with \$107,700 of that coming out of the Board of Education budget.

One major reduction from the second referendum on the town side is the elimination of the police captain position, which initially made up \$59,748. After much debate, the Town Council also cut a facilities foreman position, which would have called for a \$82,650 price tag.

Additionally, \$75,000 was cut in improvements to Sears Park, and \$16,608 was cut that had been earmarked for a playscape replacement at Memorial Elementary School.

For the first two budget proposals sent forward by the Town Council, the Democrats and Republicans on the council were divided. Both times, the budgets were sent to referendum by a tight 4-3 vote, with the Democrats all voting in favor of the referendum and the three Republicans voting against.

For this budget, however, the council was not so divided. This time, the proposal passed with a 5-2 vote, with Democrats Kevin Reich and George Pfaffenbach voting against.

Pfaffenbach expressed his disappointment with the approved budget in a phone interview Thursday.

"I'm really disappointed that they eliminated the facilities person on the town side. I understand why – to make the people happy and save some money," he said.

But even though he understands the council's decision, he doesn't agree with it because he believes the facility's foreman is a necessary position.

"We are way behind the curve as far as maintenance goes for these buildings," he said. "The only thing more expensive than maintenance is no maintenance."

Pfaffenbach also reflected on the town budgets over the years – and commented that

they're simply not sufficient.

"These budgets are never adequate. They're always too lean to move forward," he said. "We just need a little more than the bare bone."

So until the town has a spending plan that has some more meat on its bones, East Hampton will continue "kicking the can down the road," Pfaffenbach said.

However, Town Council Chairwoman Barbara Moore said Wednesday she was happy the budget was okayed by the voters.

She said the budget passed "right on time" – the new fiscal year started this past Tuesday, July 1 – and affirmed "there'll be no more changes in the budget."

"I certainly am pleased that the budget passed and I think we all learned from the process that it'll take some more work in getting everyone engaged in the process," she said, noting that in the future she'd like the public "to understand what they're voting for."

"I'm not unhappy with the number that voted," she furthered, "but many people aren't educated to exactly what they're voting for."

That's why she's inviting members of the public to Tuesday's Town Council meeting, July 8. The council plans to discuss the capital plan, as well as a 10-year strategic plan for the town. The second part of the meeting will be an open workshop, in which the public can get involved, she said.

Marlborough School Board Receives Spanish Curriculum Update

by **Melissa Roberto**

At its meeting last Thursday, June 26, the Board of Education received an update from the full-time Spanish teacher, who shared what next year's full implementation of the foreign language program will look like.

Spanish teacher Beth Schwartz has been employed in the district since March. She was hired to begin the Spanish program this past spring for sixth-graders only. When the school board adopted the program and the costs associated with it last fall, it agreed the program would begin in the sixth grade to prepare them for RHAM Middle School, with its full implementation occurring at the start of the 2014-15 school year. Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz commented last week on the program's success thus far.

"That was like magic, what happened in a few months, and the enthusiasm of the children was just astounding," Sklarz said of this year's sixth grade program. "This board made a tough decision but it made a promise that it's going to bring back a Spanish program and it's going to be exceptional."

Schwartz brought the board up to speed on what took place during the 15 minutes sixth-graders were taught Spanish daily. She said they learned basic conversational skills such as numbers, weather, colors, dates, sports and activities, and also about Spanish-speaking countries.

The Spanish teacher also shared videos of the students where they were shown singing and conversing with one another in Spanish. The language teacher shared what next year's curriculum will consist of for first- through sixth-graders.

"Of course we sing, we dance, we present, we dialogue, we do puppet shows – lots of different learning styles," Schwartz explained.

The full implementation of the program will be rolled out at the start of the coming school year for grades one through six. It will be taught to students 15 minutes daily. Schwartz said it would be based on the Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) model.

"FLES is great," she explained. "It develops language efficiency in a very natural way. It really mirrors how one learns their first language naturally."

Schwartz then shared the program's philosophy statement: "Our program is designed to motivate, inspire and challenge students to become contributing members of a global society. Our students will embrace learning the skills necessary for effective communication and cultural awareness."

And it's goal: "The goal is for us to launch the second language process for our young, enthusiastic learners, supporting the ultimate goal of course of acquiring the ability to communicate meaningfully and appropriately in another language."

Schwartz said the program is going to be "very standards-based" through the use of both national and state standards. One of the national standards is known as the "5 Cs," she explained. They stand for communication, connections, comparisons, communities and cultures.

"[The 5 Cs] define what all the students should know and be able to do," said Schwartz.

The language teacher went on to explain the curriculum will include a "spiraling of concepts," meaning the students won't learn colors once and forget them.

"We will reinforce vocabulary by spiraling through all things in the future," she said.

Lastly, the foreign language program will be taught in different themes depending on the grade level. This means the program "will be

developmentally appropriate to their grade level," Schwartz said.

However, the Spanish teacher is aware that most MES students haven't been taught a foreign language in two years. Thus, she said "the students will be learning introductory concepts because they're all starting from pretty much scratch."

Schwartz will be joined by the help of part-time Spanish teacher Natalia Sidorova. Sidorova was recently hired and introduced to the board at the June 26 meeting.

* * *

Also on Thursday, the school board approved its year-end transfers and decided what to do with the estimated \$45,000 in surplus funds leftover from the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Sklarz explained the board has two choices. The first was to spend the leftover funds toward something for the school district, or to return it back to the town. He reminded the board of the district's need for a new playground, of which Sklarz earlier this year said was in need of an upgrade and is not handicapped accessible.

Member Bob Clarke asked how much it would cost to redo the playground. Sklarz said it would be "well over" \$125,000 "to do it right." The superintendent added it could be done in phases, and if the project was to move forward he would apply for grants.

The board unanimously voted to approve using the fund balance towards improvements to the MES playground. Members Wes Skorski and Judith Kaplan were absent from the meeting.

* * *

Last Thursday's meeting also included the approval of school lunches at MES to go up from \$2.60 to \$2.70. The board pointed out this

was due to a federal state mandate as part of the National School Lunch Program.

Lastly, Sklarz gave an update on the progress of the sixth grade academy, which will launch at MES this fall. The academy will place all sixth-grade classes in the same wing of the school, and the students will transition from classes similar to the RHAM Middle School schedule.

"I think sixth-graders are going to be thrilled to have their own special place," said Sklarz. "This summer we're going to have the corridors and each classroom painted. When you go down the corridor you're going to know you're in a unique part of the building. ... I think this is just what is needed and I think sixth-graders are going to feel a sense of pride."

* * *

The June 26 meeting was the final school board meeting for Interim Principal Paula Schwartz and Assistant Principal Maureen Ryan. Ryan announced earlier in the school year she would resign, and Schwartz's contract was up July 1. Starting this fall, Daniel White will be principal of MES, while Kim Kelley will be assistant principal.

Sklarz thanked both for their work and for making MES a better place.

"It's hardly a celebration when two people like you are leaving us but we're celebrating the good times we've had and all that you've been able to do for us," he said.

Schwartz, who took over the interim principal position in January, said the last six months have been "a labor of love," while Ryan said the school is "a very special place."

* * *

The next Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m., at the MES media center.

Public Hearing Next Week on Sewer Expansion in Marlborough

by **Melissa Roberto**

The Water Pollution Control Authority will hold a public hearing next Thursday, July 10, for a period of questions and comments on the proposed Phase III sewer expansion project.

WPCA Chairman John Murray this week said the hearing is being held "to inform the taxpayers and the sewer users of our upcoming budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year and what it will mean at least to the sewer users for their operation and maintenance portion of their sewer costs."

Phase III has been discussed by the WPCA since last fall, though Murray says its designs have been included in the plan for the town's sewer expansion all along. The sewer expansion has been in the works since the early 2000s. The first phase of the project was marked by delays and then lawsuits against the town. The second phase, approved at a town meeting last June, has gone more quietly, and is currently

under construction and slated to be completed this summer.

The WPCA decided at its May 8 meeting which area of the town Phase III would include, and Town Planner Peter Hughes reiterated the plan to the Board of Selectmen at its June 17 meeting. According to minutes of that meeting, the phase will include "a portion of North Main Street to the intersection at Lake Road, Coleman Lane, Pettengill [Road] to the cul-de-sac, unfinished portions of Lafayette Road, down Roberts Road about 2,300 feet to approximately 54 Roberts Rd."

The same meeting minutes state "projected cost figures are being gathered." The minutes further that the impact of Phase III to the town "is projected to be about \$90,000 a year for 20 years."

This third phase would add 113 Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) to the sewer system. Phase I added 420 EDUs, while Phase II is add-

ing 85.

Selectmen Dick Shea said the town has sent out 98 connection notices to residents impacted by the proposed project.

Murray explained why he feels Phase III is important.

"Phase III is important because it continues to build the system that we designed and intended to built all along but because of time and cost constraints and inflation we were unable to get it done at the same time," he said. "The result will be added flow to our main pump station on North Main Street, which will improve the operation of the system."

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski communicated in May that overall cost of Phase III – which was estimated then at \$3.5 million – pushes it to the threshold of a referendum process. The town's bond counsel Joseph Fasi has

since prepared a timeline the town would need to abide by in order to bring the project to a referendum vote in November. It involves votes from the WPCA and the boards of selectmen and finance, and a public hearing and town meeting.

Next Thursday's public hearing is one of the first steps of the process. It will be held at 7:15 p.m. in the MES cafeteria, 25 School Dr.

Selectman Dick Shea said next Thursday's hearing would be a good one for citizens of Marlborough to attend.

"Obviously the sewer expansion is an ongoing project and it's a fairly complex subject," said Shea, "and it certainly is desirable and valuable for people to ask their questions and get the latest information so they can fully understand what the plan is going forward."

Nichols Bus Service Sells to DATTCO

by Elizabeth Bowling

East Hampton-based Nichols Bus Service Inc., which supplies school buses for several school systems in the area, announced last week it will be sold to DATTCO, effective Aug. 1.

Charles Nichols, founder of the bus company, announced his retirement in a letter dated June 26. The *RiverEast* obtained a copy of the letter sent to Andover Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia.

"It is with mixed emotions that I am announcing my retirement from the transportation business I founded in 1944," Nichols wrote.

"For the last 70 years I have had the distinct pleasure of transporting children to school in the towns of East Hampton, East Haddam, Portland, Marlborough and Andover," Nichols continued in the letter. "I cannot express how appreciative I am to have been associated with so many outstanding representatives from each community."

Nichols stated in his letter he is selling Nichols Bus Service to New Britain-based DATTCO. DATTCO was established in 1924, services 17 school districts, transports 103,000 students each day, and is a family-owned business.

Nichols affirmed he would "work jointly with

representatives from DATTCO" throughout the upcoming school year to help ease through the transition. Part of that transition will involve the retention of Nichols' staff.

According to Nichols' letter, "DATTCO plans to oversee the day to day operations of my firm as of Aug. 1, 2014, and is planning to park and maintain the bus fleet in East Hampton."

Nichols could not be reached for further comment.

Andover's school board chairman, Jay Linddy, spoke highly of Nichols' service over the years in a phone interview Wednesday.

"We've had him for many, many years. He's been doing this for 70 years and whenever we had a problem he would come and resolve it immediately," Linddy said. "All our equipment [the school buses] over the years has been in great shape."

Linddy raved about the company's "great bus drivers." He added, "We just hope that they retain the same drivers. That's the only concern that I have."

On a more personal note, Linddy also mentioned what a pleasure it had been working with Nichols.

"I can assure you that we have nothing but

respect [for Nichols] and same with his wife Maria. She's the other part to all of this," Linddy said. "We will miss him and we'll miss his wife."

According to Linddy, Andover schools signed a five-year contract with Nichols this winter. The contract was set to start July 1. Linddy explained DATTCO "has to honor the contract at the [agreed-upon] price."

Linddy, looking ahead to working with DATTCO, concluded, "I'm sure we'll have a great relationship with them."

Like Linddy, Ken Barber, East Hampton's school board chair, sang the praises of Nichols Bus Service. He noted the town "never had any problems with it," and the owner was "always very attentive" and "quick to donate additional services."

Barber furthered Nichols "served the town and its people very well."

East Hampton is currently one year deep in a five-year contract with the company. "We have to figure out our legal obligation to see whether we're obligated [to see the contract through]," Barber said, adding the contract has been sent to the school board's legal authority.

"We're not expecting any issues," he said.

"The contract seems to be working fine."

It's more than just school systems impacted by the news. Nichols Bus Service also provided shuttle buses for several area events, including the annual Old Home Days in East Hampton.

Matthew Walton, a member of the Old Home Days Committee, recalled his committee's reaction to learning the news that Nichols Bus Service was no more.

"The committee was in a state of shock and still is," he said in a phone interview Thursday. "Nichols Bus Service has been extremely cooperative with us and we work with them really well. They're really part of East Hampton's fabric."

The OHD Committee started offering shuttle bus services at its glorious celebration about five years ago, Walton said, "and naturally we always use them [Nichols Bus Service]."

Asked about the future of the shuttle bus service during OHD, Walton said once DATTCO gets established in East Hampton, "I'm quite certain we'll be ...making arrangements with them for the shuttle service." He added, "We'll start there first."

Walton concluded of Nichols' retirement, "It's like losing a good friend."

Marlborough Man Gets 18 Months on Voyeurism Charges

by Melissa Roberto

A 74-year-old man who admitted last year to videotaping women in the bathroom of his Marlborough home was sentenced last week to 18 months in prison and five years' probation.

A judge made the decision last Wednesday, June 25 at Hartford Superior Court. William Myers of Marlborough turned himself into State Police Troop K in April 2013.

Myers was charged with 132 counts of voyeurism for allegedly filming 23 victims using his bathroom through the use of a hidden camera. He was also charged with six counts of second-degree sexual assault for allegedly having intercourse with his girlfriend who was unable to consent, the document states. His girlfriend had been diagnosed with dementia in 2006.

State Police had seized 11 memory cards from Myers' home, and nine of them contained video files depicting the sexual assault and the voyeurism, with a majority taken inside of the bathroom, the affidavit states.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, in

December 2012, Myers told police he had purchased the camera sometime in 2009, because he had suspicions a cleaning lady was stealing from his home.

Myers admitted to videotaping family members, friends, neighbors, the cleaning lady, and his girlfriend's caregivers since 2009, the affidavit states. He also told police voyeurism is a problem he has had since he was young, and said he is glad he was caught now before he started putting hidden cameras in bathrooms of local businesses, the affidavit states.

In March, Myers pled no contest to two of the 23 counts of voyeurism. He faced up to five years in prison, under the terms of his plea agreement. However, he was sentenced to nine months for each count, which he will serve consecutively, according to the Hartford Superior Court clerk's office. He is required to register as a sexual offender and will be on probation for five years following the sentence.

Colchester Police News

6/26: Colchester Police said Patrick Lachapelle, 26, of 116 Broadway, was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

6/26: Colchester Police is investigating a reported forgery/larceny of personal checks in November 2013. The victim is a resident of Windham Avenue. Police said this case remains active.

6/27: Colchester Police is investigating a reported identify theft to a victim of Taintor Hill Road. Police said the victim reported someone used her personal identifying information to establish a utility account and accrued a significant debt. This case is currently under investigation.

6/27: Colchester Police said William Bromley, 44, of 100 Lebanon Ave. was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief, reckless driving, breach of peace, evading, threatening, operating a motor vehicle under a suspended license, failure to carry registration and insurance coverage fails to meet minimum requirements.

6/27: State Police said Doria J. Pryor, 55, of

672 Rye St., South Windsor, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane.

6/28: Colchester Police said Oseia Long, 30, of 555 Grove St., Irving City, NJ, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

6/29: State Police said Arturo Zampelli Jr., 51, of 75 Bracewood R., Waterbury, was arrested and charged with DWI, failure to drive in the proper lane and improper parking.

6/29: State Police said Rachel Ambrose, 18, of 251 Long Hill Dr., Glastonbury, was charged and charged with DWI and failure to drive right.

6/29: State Police said a one-car accident occurred at 3:14 p.m. on Route 16. Police said Fred H. Fowler, 70, of 2 Bradley Ln., Mystic, was traveling east on Middletown Road when he left the roadway and struck the edge of the guardrail causing his vehicle to roll onto its roof. Police said Fowler was transported to Middlesex Hospital for possible injuries.

6/30: State Police said Kimberly Raia, 26, of 51 Lake View, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

East Hampton Police News

6/17: Jeffrey D. Hyde, 55, of 77 Smith St., was issued a summons for traveling unreasonably fast and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

6/18: Meghan A. Thomas, 29, of 8 Main St., was arrested and charged with DUI, police said.

6/18: Chad Bagley, 33, of 21 N. Maple St., was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to drive right, making an improper turn and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, police said.

6/19: Glen A. Esposito, 46, of 59 Mallard Cove, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, police said.

6/22: Barry D. Marchinkoski Jr., 48, of 1 Labella Circle, Middletown, was issued a summons for shoplifting (sixth-degree larceny), police said.

6/23: Robert D. Saltus, 32, of 18 Middletown Ave., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

6/23: Julie Lynn Root, 32, of 33 Flatbrook Rd., was arrested and charged with possession of heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

6/24: Alan J. Kromish Jr., 48, of 57 Sillimanville Rd., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree threatening, police said

Hebron Police News

6/27: State Police said a one-car crash occurred at 6:43 p.m. on Route 85. Police said Carlo A. Calliva, 59, of 102 Wetherell St., Apt. 8, Manchester, was traveling south on Route 85 when his vehicle veered off the roadway and struck a CL&P utility pole. Police said Calliva was transported to Manchester Memorial Hospital for complaint of pain. The driver was found at fault and issued an infraction for improper turn.

6/27: State Police said Steven Linial, 66, of 14 Stonecroft Dr., was charged with failure to respond to an infraction.

6/28: State Police said Zackry S. Drown, 30, of 384 Swamp Rd., Coventry, was charged with violation of a protective order, risk of injury to a child and disorderly conduct.

Portland Police News

6/21: Jonathan Ruhe, 52, of 87 Clark Hill Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, Portland Police said.

Marlborough Police News

6/26: State Police said Sean P. Bouthiller, 21, of 91 Heritage Dr., Ludlow, Mass., was arrested for reckless driving and operating a motor vehicle without a license.

Obituaries

Colchester

Barbara Ann Barry

Barbara Ann (Esten) Barry, 80, a Colchester resident for over 50 years, passed peacefully Thursday, June 26. Born in Santiago, Chile, on Feb. 27, 1934, Barbara was the daughter of Alfred W. Esten, an accomplished pilot, and Gladys K. (Johnson) Esten.

By her 13th birthday, Barbara had lived in multiple South American cities, including Bogota and Barranquilla Columbia. She also resided in San Diego, Detroit, and Elizabeth City, N.C. When Barbara's family finally settled in Manchester, she met the "boy next door" who would grow up to become her husband of over 60 years, Francis "Sonny" Barry.

After the birth of their first child, Tim, the couple moved to Colchester, Barbara was the quintessential homemaker, caring for her husband and four children. In the kitchen, she was her mother, Gladys: a wonderful cook, taking joy in pleasing her family. But in most ways, she was her father's daughter, exhibiting the quiet strength and integrity for which he was noted.

A truly kind and gentle soul, her presence in the lives of those who knew and loved her will be greatly missed.

Barbara is survived by her loving husband, Francis, "Frank"; her sons, Tim of Manchester, Chris and his wife, Susan Peak, of Durham; Shawn and his wife Justine of Stafford Springs. Barbara was predeceased by her beloved daughter Kathleen in 2010.

She is also survived by her son-in-law, Russ Piper of Manchester; her brother, Dick Esten and his wife Ann of Deer Isle, Maine; her grandsons, Zac and Sam Piper and Jackson Barry; four nieces and numerous extended family and friends.

The Barry family would like to express their thanks and gratitude to the wonderful nurses, physicians, and staff at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford for their exceptional care during Barbara's illness.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 1, beginning with visitation at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral service followed, also at the funeral home. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Island Food Pantry, P.O. Box 12, Deer Isle, ME 04627.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

David Frank Godwin

David Frank Godwin, 65, of Tampa, Fla., formerly of Portland and Middletown, was reported missing Oct. 18, 2013, after a brief visit to Connecticut. Born in Portland Dec. 25, 1947, he was the child of the late Frank Godwin and the late Thelma Edith (Barrett) Bergstrom.

David grew up in Portland, and attended local schools there graduating from Portland High School. He worked for Middlesex Hospital, Middletown, CT; Saint Vincent Hospital, Bridgeport; and he helped out at the Griffin Hospital, Derby, before retiring to Tampa, Fla.

David leaves behind his two sons, Jeffrey and wife Rebecca of East Hampton; David and wife Jennifer of Portland; six grandchildren, Jacob, Danyel, Gabriel, Christopher, Alyssa, and Ryan Godwin; stepmother Grace Godwin of Portland; aunt, Arlene Petras of Bristol; sister, Judy Caminiti of Thonotosassa, Fla.; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Besides his parents, his stepfather Roy Bergstrom predeceased him.

Family and friends will gather for a "Celebration of Life" Sunday, July 6, at 1 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, 24 Old Church St., Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

Family and friends may gather at Cypress Restaurant, for good times and laughs in celebrating David Godwin's life, following the service.

Amston

James Robert McArdle

James "Jim" Robert McArdle, 79, of Northam Road, Amston, formerly of Manchester, passed away Friday, June 27, surrounded by his family at Hartford Hospital. He was born in Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 19, 1934, son of the late James and Mabel (Sullivan) McArdle. He is predeceased by his loving wife for 52 years, Alyce (Carlson) McArdle.

He is survived by his three daughters, Kim Horan and her husband Tom of West Hartford; Kathleen Knox and her husband Dave of Andover; and Karen Maidment and her husband Dave of Bolton. He also leaves seven grandchildren, Sonia Mancini and her husband Ted of West Hartford; Dayan Bedingfield and her husband Bud of West Hartford; Thomas Horan of West Hartford; James Knox and his wife Amy of Amston; Jason Knox of Medford, Mass.; Nathan Maidment and Haley Hennessey of Torrington and Jonathan Maidment of Bolton. He also leaves seven great-grandchildren: Anthony, Michael and Angela Mancini of West Hartford; JD and Ava Knox of Amston; Jackson Bedingfield of West Hartford and Avery Maidment of Torrington. He is also survived by one sister: Bonnie Carlson; and many brothers-and sisters-in-law, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Jim worked for SNET immediately after his discharge from the service and gained some wonderful friends while working there. He retired at an early age, after 30 years at SNET. Jim was a devoted husband, loving father, and loyal friend. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, and the monthly luncheons with his long time work friends. He especially loved his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who were his pride and joy. His immeasurable strength enabled him to live life to the fullest.

There are so many people to thank for their part in his long happy life. Most of all, thank you to friends and family who, despite his health issues, helped to create some enjoyable times for him.

There will be no services. Jim wished to only have a party thrown in his honor. We are waiting for his grandson, Jonathan, to return in the fall from his Appalachian Trail Alpha-1 Fundraiser hiking journey that Jim so proudly supported.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ALS Association CT Chapter at alsact.org or to the Alpha-1 Foundation at tinyurl.com/Jonathan-Alpha-1-Fundraiser.

Colchester

Samuel Sarinsky

Samuel "Sam" Sarinsky, 93, of Farmington, died Sunday, June 22, with his loving family by his side. He was born in Colchester June 13, 1921, to the late Cecilia and Sidney.

Sam was a wonderful storyteller, great humanitarian and a keen observer of life. Sam was employed by EIS Automotive Corp. in Middletown as a tool and die maker. Sam was gifted with a multitude of talents. Those who knew him referred to his "golden hands." Sam loved anything to do with land, sea, and air.

Sam is survived by Miriam, his wife of 60 years, his daughter Charlotte of California, and son William of Farmington. Sam is also survived by his grandson, Mitchell Sarinsky, and his sister, Pauline Gittleman, both of Florida.

Sam was preceded by his beloved sister Charlotte, and two brothers, Louis and William.

Service and mourning period are private through the Weinstein Mortuary.

Donations in memory of Samuel may be made to the American Asthma Foundation, 4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 3150 San Francisco, CA 94111.

East Hampton

Mary Teresa Adams

Mary Teresa (Krebs) Adams, 69, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Thomas Adams died Thursday, June 26, at Middlesex Hospital. Born May 13, 1945, in St. Louis, Mo., she was the daughter of the late Wilfred and Virginia (Coad) Krebs.

Mary had worked as a teller for Liberty Bank, and was the former owner of MTA Video in Durham.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her son, David K. Adams of Portland and his partner Angela Bergman; her daughter, Nicole M. Rudder of Marlborough and her partner John Tepley; a brother, Bill Krebs of New York; a sister, Suzanne Mervine of New York; and five grandchildren, Mark Adams, Michael Adams, Sean Rudder, Amanda Rudder and Alison Tepley.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Wednesday, July 2. A wake service followed, that evening.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Natalie Virginia Atwood

Natalie Virginia "Ginnie" Atwood, 87, of Berlin, formerly of East Hampton, died Tuesday, July 1, at her home. Born Nov. 28, 1926, in Jamaica Plains, Mass., she was the daughter of the late John and Marie Jean (Bufford) Hayes.

Ginnie, as she was affectionately known, had worked as a paraprofessional for the Hartford School System. She was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her ex-husband, Stephen Atwood Sr.; a son, Douglas Atwood; three daughters, Susan Atwood, Lynda Jaskiewicz, and Catherine Atwood; her brother, Dr. John H. Hayes; and her sister, Jane Imme.

She is survived by her four sons, Stephen Atwood Jr. of Hartford, David Atwood of New Britain, Christopher Atwood of New Britain, John Atwood of East Hartford, three daughters, Connie Landry of East Hartford, Jane Souppa of Berlin, Deidre Anderson of East Hampton; 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Wednesday, July 9, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will be private in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Protectors of Animals, P.O. Box 24, South Glastonbury, CT 06073.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

Robert H. Soleau

Robert H. Soleau, 73, of Marlborough and Wellington, Fla., passed away peacefully Saturday, June 21, after a sudden illness. He was born in Amherst, Mass., and was the son of Charles and Lynda (Heyde) Soleau.

Bob spent his early years in North Hills, Pa., with his parents and older sister, Lynn. Bob was a proud graduate of North Hills High School and the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

Bob will always be remembered as an intelligent, funny person who was a fierce competitor in business and sports. His competitiveness, passion, and ability to lead, led to many accomplishments throughout his life. A successful athlete at a young age led him to being captain of his high school football team and college football team, where he blossomed into a very accomplished athlete. He was a two-time All-American player and two-time Southern Conference Player of the Year. This athleticism and passion eventually led him to professional football with the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1964.

After his professional career in sports Bob found that being competitive and intelligent had a place in the business community and started his own company Diversified Group Brokerage Corporation in 1967. DGB, a third-party administration of employee benefits evolved to be one the largest privately owned companies of its kind in the United States.

Bob was an avid reader and his passions included watching sports, and taking care of his farm. Bob loved cruising Long Island sound on his boat, entertaining friends and family to one of his favorite destinations, Block Island. He enjoyed singing, playing the accordion and the piano. Bob loved to be the life of the party.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Lynda, and his sister, Lynn.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Christine Soleau; his daughters, Kelly Soleau, and Stephanie Soleau Silva; his son, Christopher Soleau; his grandchildren, Savannah, Averie, Addison and Brayden; his nephews, Charlie Soleau and Scott Soleau; his niece, Kim Mougel; his cousin, George Patouhas; many longtime dear friends; and his beloved dogs, especially, Dewey.

A memorial service to celebrate Bob's life and legacy will be held at a later date.

In remembrance, donations can be made to the ASPCA.

Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Portland

Dr. Bruno J. Virgili

Dr. Bruno J. Virgili, 97, of Placida, Fla., formerly of Venice, Fla., passed away Friday, June 20. He was born May 17, 1917, in Chicago, Ill., and moved to Florida in 1980 from Sandwich, Mass. He served in the Army during World War II, and served with the 42nd Bombardment Wing.

Dr. Virgili was the operation and training staff officer who served on the staff of a medium bombardment wing in operations over Italy and Central Europe. He also assisted in mission planning for four bombardment groups (72 B-26 airplanes in each group), and supervised gunnery training with power operated turrets.

His proudest moment in the war may have been in North Africa when he designed a skip bomb rack for P-38s that attached under the wings of the twin engine fighters and received a Legion of Merit medal for the bomb rack. The battles and campaigns were Algeria-French Moroccan, Tunisian, Sicilian, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Appennines, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe Air Offensive and received the Legion of Merit, American Defense Service Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, EAME Theater Ribbon with two Silver Battle Stars and 6 OS Service Stars and attained the rank of major.

Before the war, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Beloit College. After his discharge, he attended Northwestern University, where he received his doctorate. Dr. Virgili retired after 37 years as a dentist, practicing in Portland.

His passions were fishing, golfing and gardening until his later years when he became enamored with "beating those slot machines," always wearing his infectious smile. Survivors include his wife of 72 years, LuluBelle; son, Robert J of Placida; granddaughter, Savannah Virgili of Old Saybrook.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Laura Virgili who will also be remembered at this time.

Services with full Color Guard Honors will be held Saturday, July 5, from noon-2 p.m., at Farley Funeral Home, 265 S. Nokomis Avenue, Venice, FL 34285.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 14010 Roosevelt Blvd., Suite 709, Clearwater, FL 33762.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I logged onto Twitter at one point late Tuesday afternoon, and it seemed like 90 percent of it – and I don't think I'm exaggerating – dealt with the World Cup. People of varying professions, from all walks of life. Everyone was invested in that USA-Belgium game.

Well, everyone but me. I'm not into soccer (I just can't get my head around spending so long watching a game that's more than likely to end with a 1-0 score) and, while I can muster up enough excitement to pay attention to March Madness every spring (I'm not a huge college basketball fan either), I know I'm very much in the minority. When the World Cup rolls around, it seems nearly the entire country gets into it. It dominates Twitter and Facebook feeds. It's on in bars. Heck, it's even shown on the Jumbotron at baseball stadiums before games start.

And I realize that, for a lot of these folks who eat and breathe soccer every four years when the World Cup is played, the sport is largely ignored the rest of the time. I know people who get very irritated by this. Not that they're soccer fans – just that they're struck by the phoniness of it all; that some – perhaps most – of the very same people who are crying at a U.S. elimination couldn't begin to tell you the last time they watched, say, the Soccer Channel on cable.

But I'm surprisingly okay with that. Usually I'd be annoyed too, but there's something kind of inspiring about going online or turning on the TV and seeing just how many people are banded together to cheer on the USA. And, like I said, it's all kinds – and people of all political backgrounds too. Considering how divided a country we are these days, I think that's kind of neat. From ultra-left hipster liberals who 90 percent of the time feel this country is doomed, to gun-totin', Republican-votin' conservatives who never met a Fox News host they didn't heartily agree with, they all wanted to see the USA win Tuesday. And they all were crushed that they didn't.

Like I said, it's nice to see everyone agree on something for once. Even if it's soccer.

* * *

Speaking of soccer, I came across a sad and rather disturbing story Tuesday out of Detroit. A man there died that day after being punched on Sunday – over a soccer game he was refereeing.

John Bieniewicz, 44, was punched in the head by a 36-year-old man he was about to eject from the game, police said. The man who hit him, Baseel Abdul-Amir Saad, turned himself in Monday, but his attorney said Saad is not guilty, and added, “As the case progresses we expect to learn the cause of the referee's injuries,” according to the Associated Press.

Well, even if it turns out Saad didn't explicitly cause his death, the fact is you don't do what he did – you don't physically attack someone over a soccer game.

Where the story really got troubling, though, was when it became clear Sunday's attack is hardly an isolated incident in the world of sports.

According to Barry Mano, the head of the National Association of Sports Officials – which deals with sports ranging from football and soccer to rodeo and water polo – the group spends 20 percent of its time investigating assault and liability-related issues, up from around 3 percent 20 years ago.

“When we're unhappy with sports officials, irrespective if the calls are right or wrong, the idea that we believe that we can go smack somebody because we're unhappy is disturbing,” Mano told the AP.

In April 2013, a 17-year-old player punched out a referee after being called for a foul during a soccer game in Taylorsville, Utah. The referee, a father of three, died after spending a week in a coma. The teen pled guilty to a homicide charge.

The year before, a volunteer linesman was beaten to death following a youth amateur match outside Amsterdam. Six teenage play-

ers and the father of one of the boys were convicted of manslaughter.

The whole thing is sad, and sick, and frankly very worrisome. These are games – not even professional games. They're supposed to be relaxed, casual games – and meant to be fun. Why take it so seriously? And why take someone's life when you don't get your way?

Like I said, very troubling.

* * *

Tuesday also brought another sick story, this one from California. Thankfully, no one died, but the situation could have been far worse. A 2-year-old was hospitalized after drinking some of her grandmother's tea – tea that had been spiked with methamphetamine.

Cynthia Watson, 51, had made herself a cup of tea Sunday night and put some meth in it “to get herself high,” police told the Associated Press. The girl apparently drank it when it was left unattended. The next day, the girl's mother called authorities, as the girl hadn't slept, was talking rapidly, was scratching, and was unable to sit still. The woman brought her to a hospital, where it was found the girl had meth in her system.

Watson, who was visiting from Oregon, was held on suspicion of child endangerment. And fortunately, the little girl is expected to make a full recovery.

* * *

More dynamite parenting comes this week from Albuquerque, N.M., where a man is facing a child endangerment charge after, according to police, he left a loaded .22 caliber gun with his 11-year-old daughter for her protection, while he went off to get a tattoo.

The man, John Ruiz, was arrested shortly after a neighbor spotted his daughter with the firearm at an apartment complex swimming pool, the Associated Press reported. Authorities say the girl didn't threaten anyone with the gun, but told officers her dad left her the weapon for protection.

Ruiz appeared in court on Monday, and was released on a \$15,000 bond. He later told reporters he made a mistake. Why he didn't realize beforehand that leaving a loaded gun with an 11-year-old was a mistake is beyond me.

* * *

In closing, as you may recall, last week I went through a list of 20 Connecticut inventions you might not have known about. The list came from *Connecticut Magazine*, and it was brought to my attention Monday one of the items was, while not flat-out wrong, misreported in the magazine.

The first insurance company, *Connecticut Magazine* wrote, was ITT Hartford Group, and it was founded in 1810, to protect against injury or loss of life occurring when “journeying by railway or steamboat.” Well, not exactly. The Hartford insurance company was indeed founded in 1810, but it was known then as simply “The Hartford.” The company was acquired by ITT in 1970 – for \$1.7 billion; at the time it was the largest corporate takeover in American history – and changed its name to “ITT Hartford Group.”

As for the second part of *Connecticut's* sentence, the company founded to insure people against personal injury or loss of life “while journeying by railway or steamboat” was, fittingly enough, The Travelers Insurance Company, which was also founded in Connecticut, but in 1865.

So, *Connecticut Magazine* had pieces of facts throughout its statement about insurance – the magazine just assembled them into something less than accurate.

By the way, the guy who brought *Connecticut's* misreporting to my attention (particularly the “ITT Hartford” moniker being chronologically wrong) is my dad – who only worked for The Hartford for 35 years. So he certainly oughta know.

* * *

See you next week.