

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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Colchester resident-turned-movie star John Koopman, middle, stands on the red carpet in Los Angeles at a party celebrating the premiere of *America: Imagine the World Without Her*. Koopman – who is standing alongside actor Jon Voight, who dropped by the premiere – plays the role of young George Washington in the film, and at his left is Caroline Avery Granger, who plays the young Martha Washington.

## Colchester Man, Horse Hit the Silver Screen

by Melissa Roberto

John Koopman III of Colchester is a technician by trade, a history buff in his spare time and, now, a movie actor.

The Colchester resident can be seen on the big screen for his role as a young George Washington in *America: Imagine the World Without Her*, a documentary in theaters now.

This week, Koopman sat down with the *RiverEast* outside of a Colchester stable where his horse Abishai is boarded. It was there he told all: how his involvement in historical reenactments led to the casting of he and his horse in a nationwide film, what it was like to walk the red carpet at a movie premiere, among other details that could pique anyone's interest – not just a historian's.

Koopman explained his entrance into the world of film is "kind of a funny thing" that he credits to "networking." He said he has "always been fascinated by history," particularly military history. His passion shifted more toward the American Revolutionary War and George Washington in 1998, when he joined a Revolutionary War regiment as a result of attending a war re-enactment held on the Colchester Town Green.

The regiment Koopman is a part of is the 2nd Regiment Light Dragoons, Tallmadge's Troop. According to its website [2dragoon.org](http://2dragoon.org), the group "re-enacts a dragoon regiment of the Continental Army during the American War of Independence" portraying mounted and dismounted soldiers. This spurred Koopman's interest in horseback riding.

"I thought, 'Gee, that would be neat to do the horseback thing,'" Koopman recalled. "But little did I realize how much work it was going

to take to get to that point because it takes a lot of skill."

Koopman began horseback riding in 2002. Today, he has a close bond with Abishai, who Koopman trained to be a cavalry horse.

"When I first got him he was completely herd-bound which means they always want to be with other horses," Koopman said. "Now I can ride him through explosions, we can do full contact swordplay, I can fire a pistol off his back, he can handle cannon fire."

Then, the idea of portraying George Washington was a suggestion made to Koopman in 2006 by his regiment commander, Robert Allegretto.

"He said, 'You know, you'd make a great George Washington,'" Koopman remembered.

And it seems Allegretto was right. Before long, Koopman was accepting invitations to star in television documentaries to portray Washington. He did this in addition to portraying Washington in other ways, such as acting in first person at national parks, state parks and historical sites all over the East Coast.

Asked why he almost always interprets Washington, Koopman said directors have noticed a resemblance between the two. It also helps that Koopman was found to have the exact dimensions of the United States' first president – a coincidence discovered by the tailor who made Koopman an authentic uniform similar to the one Washington once wore in battle. This tailor also produced the uniforms dressed on three life-size figures of Washington at the George Washington Mount Vernon Museum in Virginia.

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## Camp Hemlocks Saved by Hartford Non-Profit

by Geeta Schrayter

Sadness was expressed last October when the announcement was made that Camp Hemlocks in Hebron would be closing its doors due to financial reasons. Since that time, there has been a question regarding what will happen to the property – and now, there's finally an answer.

Today, Aug. 1, Oak Hill LLC, a non-profit based out of Hartford with services available throughout the country, became the controlling member of Easter Seals Coastal Fairfield County and Camp Hemlocks – and plans to not only save the camp, but hopefully expand it.

Since 1893, Oak Hill has been providing services and programs to individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities; among those programs are summer camps in Waterford and West Hartford, which, according to the website [ciboakhill.org](http://ciboakhill.org), are "specifically designed for children with physical and intellectual disabilities."

That just so happens to be what Hemlocks was designed for as well. The camp, which is located on over 160 acres, has allowed indi-

viduals with disabilities to experience camp since 1974 (prior to which it operated out of Trumbull, since 1950).

Oak Hill President and CEO Barry Simon said in a recent release regarding the matter, "When Oak Hill learned of the closing of the camp, we realized the service void that would be created for people with disabilities, as well as those in the greater community around health, wellness, and a beloved camping experience."

This week, Simon, who has lived in Hebron for over 20 years, explained he got in contact with Hebron Town Manager Andrew Tierney soon after he learned about the camp's intention to close.

"The way I found out about it was reading about it in the *RiverEast*," he stated. "That's when I called Andy [Tierney] and said 'What's this about? Are you kidding me?'" and then he put me in contact with the CEO" of Easter Seals.

Tierney furthered this week when Simon contacted him, he had already been looking to

See Camp Hemlocks Page 2



It was announced last fall Camp Hemlocks in Hebron would be closing, due to financial reasons. But a Hartford non-profit recently announced plans to save the camp – and hopefully expand it.



**Koopman defined his appearance on the red carpet as “surreal.” Koopman shared the experience with Janitta Swain, left, who plays Madame C.J. Walker in the movie; Dinesh D’Souza, the film’s co-director; Caroline Avery Granger, who plays Martha Washington; and Don Taylor, who portrays Abraham Lincoln.**

**Silver Screen cont. from Front Page**

The fated actor said from “the length of his sleeves to where his britches fell,” his dimensions aligned identically to Washington’s.

“Of course, that just made my day when I learned that,” Koopman said with a laugh. “It was kind of weird.”

Also, as it turned out, one of Washington’s former horses, Nelson, was chestnut in color, like Abishai.

When others in the Revolutionary War community – which Koopman said is “small” – learned of these similarities, the actor explained “the whole thing just took off on its own.”

Of course, starring in a hit movie wasn’t something that crossed the history enthusiast’s mind, Koopman admitted. However, it was a conversation between *America* co-director John Sullivan and a director Koopman formerly worked with, Rob Child, that Koopman was suggested for the movie gig.

An email and phone interview later, Koopman was offered the part – and, to his surprise, so was Abishai.

“Somehow they figured out my horse was a trained cavalry horse,” Koopman said.

Last October, the Colchester resident and his steed traveled to Camden, S.C., where they filmed for four days. And while the opportunity to be cast in a nationwide film sounds enticing enough, Koopman says it was the premise of the film that sparked his interest in the role.

“What really intrigued me,” Koopman recalled, “was when they approached me saying ‘We’re going to [question] what if George Washington got killed?’”

Koopman described his portrayal of young Washington as an honor.

“He was a true battlefield commander. He was the greatest horseman of the age,” the ac-

tor said. “I just feel honored that I’m in a position that I can bring honor to his memory – at least that’s what I try to do.”

The trailer, which shows Koopman and Abishai in a battle scene, informs viewers of what the movie is about. The narrator asks, “What would the world look like if America did not exist?”

And in terms of what’s shown in the trailer, Koopman hinted that the explosions shown “are real.”

“They were loud and there was dirt flying in the air,” he said, adding that they were the first real explosions Abishai had encountered. “It was pretty impressive.”

What also impressed Koopman during his movie star role was the amount of time filmmakers spend perfecting a scene.

“Particularly what I enjoy is watching them do their thing,” Koopman said. “I find it very entertaining to see how much work they go through that’s going to end up being a few seconds or a few minutes.”

Koopman also shared his experiences that occurred once the filming came to an end. He was invited to three movie premieres, one of which he traveled to Los Angeles with his wife to attend.

“It’s almost surreal,” Koopman dished. “I couldn’t believe it. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I’d be walking the red carpet in Los Angeles.”

That trip granted Koopman other perks, such as being able to “stick my feet in the Pacific” for the first time, and even meeting actor Jon Voight.

As far as what Koopman was feeling during the moment he saw himself on the big screen for the first time, he admitted he wasn’t looking at himself.

“I was looking at my horse!” he said. “I was just so proud to see him on the big screen.”

And having Abishai by his side during the experience is what Koopman said was the best part.

“I just really enjoy being able to work with my horse. He’s my boy,” the war re-enactor said.

While *America: Imagine the World Without Her* is certainly a highlight on the actor’s resume, Koopman admitted he isn’t interested in making acting a full-time gig.

“Life is good the way it is at my regular job,” said Koopman, who works as a senior mechanical technician at Proton OnSite in Wallingford. “I can do the historic sites, the film. I think it’s a good balance where I’m at right now.”

Those interested seeing Koopman, or Abishai, on the silver screen can log onto [americathemovie.com](http://americathemovie.com) for a list of theaters where *America: Imagine the World Without Her* is still playing. Koopman’s first book, titled *George Washington at War-1776*, is also anticipated to hit bookstores and [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) in the next few months. He described it as a short historical novel of “non-stop action” about the Siege of Boston and the Battle of Harlem Heights – “two campaigns of Washington’s that get very little attention.”

Koopman also plays the lead in a documentary filmed by Child called *America’s First Day: Washington Crossing*. The project will be broadcast on the American Heroes Channel later this summer.

To learn more of Koopman’s work readers can log on to his website at [johnkoopmanIII.com](http://johnkoopmanIII.com).



**Koopman with his other co-star, trusty horse Abishai. Abishai plays the role of Washington’s horse Nelson in the movie, and when the two aren’t in front of the camera they can be found at a local stable in Colchester.**

**Camp Hemlocks cont. from Front Page**

meet with Easter Seals to discuss the future of the property.

And so, Tierney said, “I put these guys in a room together along with myself and the town planner [Mike O’Leary] and started talking negotiations – and [the process] went from there until we had today.”

Tierney furthered he had been working on the Hemlocks situation from the very beginning.

“I started working on this immediately after they announced they were going to sell,” he stated, explaining the town was concerned about the possibility the land would be sold and developed.

In a letter sent to Easter Seals corporate headquarters in New Hampshire on behalf of the Board of Selectmen last December, Tierney wrote the Hemlocks property “is a very large parcel in the community – over 160 acres – and therefore, any change in use on the property is of a significant interest to the town.”

Tierney also shared in the letter the many services the camp provided to Hebron and the surrounding communities, in addition to the camp. These offerings included “swim lessons, Aquacise classes, American Arthritis-certified water exercise classes, corporate retreats, conferences, team building and youth activities, respite care for children and adults with disabilities, autism workshops, challenge course, small business luncheons [and] interfaith meetings.”

Barry’s own family utilized some of those services. He explained his three daughters learned to swim at Hemlocks, and his family held birthday parties there.

Living in Hebron, he said, he “recognized the value in the camp in both Hebron and the surrounding communities.”

Tierney furthered in his letter, “The loss of these services will be keenly felt by many in the area, particularly our population with disabilities.”

But now that loss, and the sadness expressed over the camp’s closing, can dissipate, because Hemlocks is slated to return.

“I’m, like, tickled pink,” Tierney said this week about the outcome. “It’s about what’s good for the Town of Hebron. It’s good for the residents and the town as a whole to have the property intact and not developed.”

Tierney explained while a housing development there may have benefited the Grand List, it could have also meant an increase in taxes through the addition of more families in town and more kids in the schools. Plus, he said, the camp fit in “with the rural character of that area” and “Hemlocks has been a part of this community for 40 plus years.”

Tierney concluded, “This is just a great thing.”

Larry Gammon, president of Easter Seals corporate headquarters, furthered those thoughts in the news release.

“Camp Hemlocks has been a tremendous resource to the disability community for over 40 years,” he wrote. “With local ownership and new programming it will remain an asset to the community for many years to come. The town officials of Hebron expressed great interest in preserving the facility and the open space rather than losing it to commercial development. I am pleased that we were able to find the right partner to continue moving the mission forward.”

No money changed hands in the deal; rather, Oak Hill said it is assuming the assets and liabilities of Easter Seals Fairfield County.

Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan was similarly pleased this week, and acknowledged Tierney’s efforts.

“To Andy’s credit, as soon as that hit the fan and we knew they [Easter Seals] were looking

to sell, he jumped right in and got involved and had discussions with Camp Hemlocks letting them know we were really concerned about the sale and didn’t want it to be commercial,” she stated. “We wanted to keep it, if at any way possible, servicing the clientele they currently do.”

Mulligan furthered, “Having Oak Hill get involved and ultimately taking over is just such a win-win, for, I think, Oak Hill and our community.”

She concluded, “It’s a beautiful piece of property that will be used to its potential. ... Everybody worked collectively to get this to work and we’re very fortunate to have this transition.”

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According to the Oak Hill news release, the Camp Hemlocks property is being envisioned as a facility that will be open to “youth, adults, veterans and seniors with physical impairments or disabilities along with their family, friends and caregivers.”

Oak Hill “also plans to utilize the space for year-round programming and will be looking for opportunities to partner with other agencies in an effort to maximize the use of the facilities.”

Simon furthered, “Oak Hill would not only like to save but continue to expand opportunities for adaptive recreation in the state” through Camp Hemlocks.

To achieve that, the organization is hoping to secure \$1 million in bond funds for camp renovations.

Ruth Hayes, chief development and communications officer with Oak Hill, explained Thursday the plan was to renovate the camp throughout the fall “with some form of programming going in late fall/winter.”

She added, “We are hopeful that the \$1 million in bond funding will get on the bond fund agenda for September and that will help to move renovations along.”

Along those lines, state Sen. Cathy Osten and state Rep. Pam Sawyer were each thanked in the release “for their efforts in helping to encourage the state to assist with funding.”

On Thursday, Osten called Oak Hill “a good group of folks,” and said Simon was “a force to be reckoned with, and Pam and I have been working to help him out and ultimately the state.”

Osten continued, “I don’t think there’s any doubt as to the benefits that the camp brings to the area. It’s important to the constituents of the camp – thousands and thousands of people have gone through there and as they have said, it was a place where they could leave their disabilities at the door.

“They were allowed to be successful without having anybody judge them,” she furthered.

Simon added Thursday, “Pam and Cathy and Andy were all key in supporting moving this forward, and actually right now I’m up at the capital trying to talk to some people about the value of the camp.”

Simon concluded there was plenty of work to be done – with the biggest challenge being the renovations – but he was happy with how everything had worked out and was looking forward to preserving the mission of Camp Hemlocks.

“I’m really, really happy and so glad that it didn’t fall into disrepair, that it didn’t get taken offline for development,” he said. “The fact that we’re able to preserve the camp, preserve the mission – it’s been there since the early ‘70s fulfilling its mission, so the ability to preserve that and move us forward is a very exciting prospect.”

# Bray Wraps Up 21 Years in Town Hall in Colchester

by Melissa Roberto

Nancy Bray today will make her final exit out of Town Hall, where she has spent the last 21 years working in the town clerk's office.

In early July, Bray notified the town she would resign at the end of the month because she is moving to Charleston, S.C., with her husband. Bray's current four-year term runs through November 2015. The Board of Selectmen unanimously appointed resident Gayle Furman, a fellow Democrat, to fill Bray's seat starting Monday, Aug. 4; Furman has been training alongside Bray since mid-July.

"I think it will be a smooth transition," Bray said this week of Furman's imminent assumption of the town clerk seat. "[The training period] has been going very well."

Bray this week said today, her final day in office, would be filled with a "mixture of emotions."

"I think I'll be a little sad, but happy to go home to my husband," she said. While her husband moved to their new South Carolina home two months ago, Bray has stayed behind, to close out her official Colchester duties.

Bray took her first steps in the town clerk's office in March 1993, when she was appointed to the role of assistant town clerk. She held the assistant position for six years, and during that time received her town clerk certificate through the University of Connecticut.

Then, in 1999, when former clerk Pat Legrega resigned, Bray ran in her first election to fill Legrega's shoes – and, she recalled off the top of her head, she won "by 72 votes."

"It was exciting," Bray remembered. "Scary and exciting at the same time."

And Election Day victories became a regular occurrence for Bray, as she won additional terms in 2003, 2007 and 2011. In the last two elections, Bray explained, she ran unopposed.

But it isn't just her own election statistics Bray is able to recall. She can tell you much of the town's history, as keeping its many records organized – such as land, historical, and vital records – is one of many responsibilities that falls under the clerk's purview.

"There's over 400 jobs, believe it or not," Bray said of her role.

Therefore, Bray agreed working in the clerk's office for 21 years has made her quite familiar with the town she's lived in since 1985.

"I think I've learned a lot," Bray said with a laugh. "I do have a lot in my head. I don't know

how long it will stay there!"

Of all her duties, Bray said the aspect of her job she enjoyed the most was "the people" she met because of it.

"I love my job," Bray said. "I've always loved it. It's very rewarding. I will miss most of all the people."

Those "people" don't just include her co-workers in Town Hall, but also other town clerks in the state and Colchester families, Bray said.

"I've met mother and father, married the daughters, or the sons, and then they had children, so I've met whole families and become close with them," the clerk explained.

And out of all the memories that have occurred in the two decades Bray has worked at Colchester Town Hall, this week she recalled a few that stuck out in her mind. The first was the recount of the "very close" race between Democrat Joe Courtney and Republican Rob Simmons in their bid for the United States House of Representatives in 2006.

"It was such a close margin," Bray recalled.

Bray also remembered an event in town that didn't have much to do with the town clerk's position at all – the September 2004 explosion at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church. The church was blown to pieces by the explosion, which was believed to have been caused by propane gas; a statue of Mary one of the few things left undamaged by the blast.

Bray said she had felt the explosion from her home across town, but it wasn't until she walked into work that she learned what it was.

"That was huge," Bray said.

Another highlight of Bray's career in Town Hall was working with former first select-woman Jenny Contois for 15 years. She said she also cherishes memories she has with Stanley Moroch, the late town historian who often came into the clerk's office to utilize town records.

"That was one of my favorite jobs, too," Bray said of working close to Moroch. "We worked really well together."

Overall, Bray labeled her job as town clerk "amazing."

Of course, the longtime clerk said her role also made her aware of the town's growth since the early 1990s.

"[The population] was about 9,000 when I first started," Bray said, "and now it's 17,000."

She recalled "a lot of businesses coming in"

and added that each year presented her with change, such as "new election laws almost every year" and "new ways to do things and new systems to be put in and learned."

Asked how she kept up with the changes, Bray said she went to training conferences twice a year. In 2008, Bray also received her certified municipal clerk certification from St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vt.

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Those who knew Bray well described her as "accommodating" and explained the clerk would go above and beyond to do extra duties "not because she had to but because she wanted to."

For example, Bray was a notary public, and notarized documents free of charge for residents. Also, Reed Gustafson, longtime Colchester fire marshal and emergency management director, recalled Bray coming in to work on the weekends so residents could obtain dog registrations and fishing licenses.

"She always made herself available," Gustafson said, adding Bray was "always seen with a smile."

Bray said she has enjoyed her job because she's "a very organized person." And so, she said she took it upon herself to organize Colchester's historical records and preserve them.

"I've taken some very, very old books and cased them in Mylar and had new bindings put on so they'll be preserved forever," Bray said.

Contois this week said Bray's departure presents a "huge loss" to Colchester.

"She's top-notch," Contois said of her former colleague. "Both [the Democrat and Republican] parties have respected her for her approach to her job."

Contois furthered "there's just so many" memories her and Bray share, making it difficult to recall just a few.

"She leaves a footprint in the town, that's for sure," Contois continued. "We worked well together. We were able to work out issues together. We also had a lot of fun."

Town Engineer Sal Tassone, who has been employed by the town for 23 years, said working with Bray "was a pleasure."

"Anytime I asked her to do anything for me in terms of helping me out with mapping issues in the town clerk's office she was always ready to assist anyway she could," Tassone said.



Nancy Bray

"I think it's a big loss obviously for the town to lose her. I will certainly miss her."

As will Colchester Finance Director Maggie Wasicki, who described Bray as a "great town clerk."

"She'll be hard to replace," Wasicki shared. But Bray reminded the *Riverast* on Monday that she will be missing many, too.

"I have many, many friends here including my town clerk friends," she shared. "I will miss them terribly."

The town clerk added that she still has family in town, so she will be back to visit. In Charleston, Bray said she will look for work, but may pursue employment entirely different from what she's done in Colchester.

"I haven't decided what yet, but I will look for something," Bray shared. "I'd like to do something like hospice care."

And although Bray said she and her husband are "looking forward to a new chapter in our lives," she also said she has high hopes for the town she's spent over the last two decades living and working in.

"I think there will be a lot of changes," Bray said. "I'm hoping some new businesses [move to town] to make it grow and maybe relieve some of the taxpayers of their burden."

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## Arrest Made in Teacher Death

by Geeta Schrayter

An arrest was made Tuesday in relation to the March accident at RHAM Middle School the claimed the life of a teacher.

Hebron resident Elizabeth Everett, 50, turned herself into State Police Troop K in Colchester on the charges of misconduct with a motor vehicle – a felony – and unsafe backing.

According to police, Everett was dropping her children off at RHAM the morning of March 14 when she realized she had driven into the bus lane. She subsequently backed out of the lane and struck middle school teacher Dawn Mallory, 65, of Groton, who was walking through the parking lot.

Mallory suffered a skull fracture and bleed-

ing in the brain as a result of the accident, and was transported by LifeStar to Hartford Hospital, where she passed away March 28.

According to a release sent July 29 from the state Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the charges were the result of an "extensive accident investigation." State statutes state misconduct with a motor vehicle occurs "when, with criminal negligence in the operation of a motor vehicle, [a driver] causes the death of another person."

Following Everett's arrest Tuesday afternoon, she was processed and released on a \$100,000 bond, and is scheduled to appear in court Aug. 12.

## Former Hebron Resident Killed in Minnesota Crash

A former Hebron resident was killed in a crash in St. Paul, Minn., last Thursday morning, July 24, according to published reports.

Kim Stevenson, 39, was riding her motor scooter south on Lexington Parkway in St. Paul shortly after 8 a.m. when she collided with a northbound vehicle, the Minneapolis *StarTribune* reports. Police said Stevenson, who lived in St. Paul, was wearing a helmet, the newspaper reports.

According to the *StarTribune*, police are investigating the cause of the crash. Police said the man driving the car that collided with Stevenson was uninjured, the newspaper reports, and police also said there was no indication the driver was under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Stevenson was a 1992 graduate of RHAM High School in Hebron, and received an associate's degree from Eastern Connecticut State University. She also acted in several AHM plays, and was a member of the RHAM chorus and Encore ensemble.

She is survived by her parents, Milton "Tom" Stevenson and Linda Stevenson of Hebron; her brother, Robert "Bob" Stevenson and his wife, Stephanie of Norwalk; her niece Aubrey, her nephew Cyrus, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and her dog Bowser.

A memorial for Stevenson was held at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home in Manchester on Monday.

Stevenson's obituary appears on page 32.

## Gas Stolen from Marlborough Station

by Melissa Roberto

Thousands of gallons of gas were stolen from a Marlborough gas station last week, according to a news release on file at the State Police Troop K barracks.

State Police said that during the overnight hours of July 20-21, approximately 5,400 gallons of unleaded gasoline was allegedly stolen from an underground gas tank at 2 East Hampton Rd.

According to [yellowpages.com](http://yellowpages.com), 2 East

Hampton Road is the address of Maxum Fuel, a gas station in the center of town at the intersection of East Hampton Road and North Main Street.

Gas station workers were unable to be reached to contribute to this story. State Police also did not return calls. Anybody with information regarding this incident is asked to call Trooper Joshua McElroy at 860-465-5455 ext. 4066.

# Out-of-Town Lake Use Raises Concerns in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

Residents living on Lake Terramuggus have grown concerned with non-residents using the lake and parking in its associated parking lots – and town officials this week offered some explanations.

According to some residents whose homes about the lake, there has been an increase in the number of out-of-town residents using it. One resident, who wished to remain anonymous, said he's noticed large groups of people from out of town kayaking and paddleboarding there.

"I think there's a certain amount of privacy you expect to give up when you live on the lake, but it's overboard when you have 20 people on kayaks watching you have dinner with your kids," the resident explained.

Another resident, Joe Asklar Jr., agreed. He said "it's an every day occurrence" seeing these large groups out on the lake. To Asklar's knowledge, "Lake Terramuggus is supposed to be for residents only."

Parks and Recreation Director Mandy Rocznik said these kayaking and paddleboarding groups are members of classes offered through L.L. Bean. The retail company runs a program called "L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery Schools," which offer introductory classes on a variety of activities throughout the state. Last year, the company and the Parks and Recreation Department reached an agreement on using Lake Terramuggus as a site for the retailer to host some classes. It's currently in the second year of utilizing the Marlborough lake.

"They come in and run the entire program, so it's a totally self-contained, self-sufficient program," Rocznik said. "It's on weekends from the end of May through sometime in October."

However, residents are now questioning whether it is these classes that are giving non-residents access to the two parking lots for the lake: the main lot on Park Road and the boat-launching lot on Lake Road.

"Why is there no enforcement on the parking, ever?" the anonymous resident asked.

Although according to Rocznik, this conflict is not being caused by the Discovery Schools program.

"The issue from parking is not from L.L. Bean," Rocznik said. "They get a parking pass for the day. It goes on their dashboard. We have not had any issues."

Rocznik said people pay L.L. Bean to participate in the classes. First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski also confirmed that information, adding that part of that fee goes toward parking in the main lot on Park Road. In turn, L.L. Bean is paying the town a total of \$2,000 for

using the lake this year, which is the same amount it paid in 2013. Rocznik said these funds then go into the Parks and Recreation revolving fund, which is used for parks and recreation expenses that are not included in the town's annual operating budget. For example, last year the revolving fund was used to fix the Rolling Ridge Tennis Court; at other times it has been used for the lake or replacing sand.

Rocznik said the partnership between the two entities has gone smoothly.

"They have just been fantastic tenants to work with," Rocznik said. "They're absolutely not on people's properties."

Gaudinski also pointed out benefits the town is reaping from the L.L. Bean program.

"It's been well-received by many people to have the program in town," the selectwoman said. "I think the program offers economic development opportunities to come into town. It's a nice resource and it expands the program offering for residents here in town to try something new."

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However, the parking issues aren't all related to the L.L. Bean kayakers. Rocznik discussed with the *Rivereast* what might be causing the parking issue: "The people who are non-residents who park in the boat launching lot."

"We are enforcing it as best we can," Rocznik furthered.

The director explained there is a parking attendant, who regularly monitors the main parking lot for the lake that exists on Park Road. Both that lot and the boat-launching lot, she said, "are for residents only."

Special cases like L.L. Bean aside, "to park legally you have to be a resident and have a permit," she said. "We've had some people park in other areas. [When that happens] we have police come down and ticket them."

Gaudinski also spoke toward the parking issue. She explained that "according to state statutes and regulations," the lake "is open to the public," and the town "cannot restrict someone from using the lake." The town does, however, have the authority over who is able to park in the two lots.

"We can only restrict parking," the selectwoman said. "That's why we have beach stickers and monitors for parking."

Those who live near the lake say they aren't seeing necessary enforcement.

"There's no enforcement," Asklar said. "I'm out there on the lake in the wintertime and I talk to ice fishermen. I always ask them out of curiosity where they're from. They're never from Marlborough; they're from all over the state. And sure enough, I go down to the parking lot and there are out-of-town-stickered ve-



Despite the sign, some Marlborough residents are complaining that out-of-town residents are parking in the town's permit-only lots to gain access to Lake Terramuggus.

hicles in our parking lot."

Asklar and another lake resident, Vincent Zito, said Marlborough is known by out-of-towners as an easy place to get away with illegal parking. They said some comments confirming this can be found on an ice fishermen blog site [iceshanty.com](http://iceshanty.com).

Marlborough Day Resident Trooper Ben Dodge said police check the beach parking lots "at least a shift everyday."

"The town has a person that sits and watches the gate," he said of the main lot on Park Road. "If he has any problems he either contacts the town or contacts us."

Dodge continued the police "haven't seen anything out of control or crazy" regarding lake parking this season. However, to put concerned residents at ease he said, "Now that it's been brought to my attention we'll get guys out there a little more often."

For Zito, the biggest concern from the out-of-towners isn't the parking and overcrowding on the lake; it's pollution.

"My family and I canoed and kayaked around the lake last Saturday morning [July 26], and we counted 100 soda and beer cans close to the shore in the water," he said.

Zito said he assumes this pollution, among others, "are coming from out-of-towners because I can't imagine people that live around

the lake would do this."

Zito said the only solution he can think of is that both parking lots, "should be better patrolled."

Asklar also has concerns with the quality of the water. Specifically, he said there is a "real weed problem" in the lake. He attributes that to out-of-town use.

"There's just a lot of traffic," Asklar said. "I've lived on the lake for 10 years and I've never seen it as busy."

The lake resident concluded the reason he wants to see changes is because he feels "Lake Terramuggus is the jewel of our town and I feel it is getting overused."

Rocznik and Gaudinski said they had not been made aware of these concerns until they each received calls from the *Rivereast*.

"We're aware of some of the little things here and there, but we're not aware that there's anything bigger going on that people seem to have a concern about," Rocznik said, adding, "It would have been nice [of residents] to come to us first."

Rocznik said the department knows the lake is "a great asset and people want to protect it yet it's also making sure that we're keeping an open mind and provide some inclusion for other people to enjoy it."

## Hebron's Tierney Gets Pay Raise

by Geeta Schrayter

Impressed with the job he's been doing, the Board of Selectmen recently gave Town Manager Andrew Tierney a 2.5 percent raise, as a result of a six-month review conducted last month.

The raise was approved unanimously after an executive session July 17 with Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan, selectmen Dan Larson and Brian O'Connell and Tierney. (Selectmen Mark Stuart and Jeff Watt were absent from the meeting.)

This week, Mulligan said the board felt Tierney, who was named town manager in October 2012 after serving as interim town manager since the prior December, had "really gone above and beyond reaching his goals."

She explained one of those goals was to prepare a budget that would pass at the first referendum, which was achieved in May.

"He, the staff and the town worked very hard in keeping the budget down and working with the [Hebron] schools and RHAM to, overall, keep it down as much as possible," she stated. "So I thought he did a great job of working the budget and doing that."

In addition, Mulligan said Tierney had successfully hired a finance director and they were beginning to work on a debt management

policy, which were also goals of his.

Furthermore, a new fire chief was hired, and Tierney has been focusing on economic development, "which is [the selectmen's] number one goal," Mulligan said.

Overall, she said, "I think he's done a great job."

Along with the raise, gas was also added for Tierney's work-related travel. Mulligan explained he already receives a \$500 stipend for vehicle maintenance and now, "we're just allocating gas because he is in his car all the time."

She continued, "He's been working on a lot of regionalization so he's in other towns, so we felt that should be incorporated into his pay."

Tierney will fill up his designated business vehicle with town gas, which Mulligan said they get at a cheaper rate. Use of the town gas is monitored, she furthered, and the amount used is recorded.

Earlier this week, Tierney touched on some of the goals Mulligan mentioned, and also shared some others he's accomplished.

Regarding economic development, he said he "continued to meet with developers" as well as "visit with business owners on a regular basis and work on catering to the public."

As far as the fire department, Tierney ex-

plained along with getting a new chief in place he helped make changes to the existing organizational structure and was working with the chief on issues like retention, policy and procedures, morale and infrastructure.

Tierney also said he was working to take more of a leadership role during the selectmen's meetings as instructed, by providing "more guidance" and "recommendations from committees in advance."

"Instead of letting [committees] come in front of the Board of Selectmen and state what they're there for," Tierney explained, "they come to me, give updates, we work out how to proceed, I write a recommendation and send it to the selectmen in the [meeting agenda] packet."

This, he said, gives the selectmen time to process the information in advance.

Most recently, Tierney also said he had helped to connect the non-profit Oak Hill, which provides services and programs to people with disabilities, with Camp Hemlocks. Camp Hemlocks, which had provided a place for individuals with disabilities to experience camp life since 1950, was closed by Easter Seals last year, due to financial reasons. Since that time, the town has been concerned over what could happen to the land.

Last December, Tierney helped connect the two entities, and today, Oak Hill became the controlling member of Camp Hemlocks and plans to continue using it to help the disability community (a story on this appears on the cover of this week's *Rivereast*).

As for things he'd like to improve moving forward, Tierney said, "My goal is to maintain or possibly lower taxes, so we're looking to possibly reduce some of the positions in town; we're looking at the exit poll [from May's budget referendum], trying to reduce where we can and at the same time, if we can get some new businesses to add to the grand list, it will lower everybody's taxes."

He added, however, that it was important to maintain the town's character.

"It's still a rural town. People come here for the rural character and the schools so we have to work to maintain that character," he stated. "I'm always sympathetic to both the old and new residents and working on a balance – working on it every day."

He concluded, "Hebron took a chance on me 20 years ago and I've come up through the ranks as town manager, and I take this position very seriously. It's a passion for me – it's more than just a job."

# Johnny's Snak Shak in East Hampton Thrives Under New Ownership

by Elizabeth Bowling

Three months into its new ownership, Johnny's Snak Shak on Route 66 has been thriving.

Bruce Moquin and his wife Mary are co-owners of Johnny's Snak Shak since May 3. They had looked around for three years "to find the right place," Moquin said, until his wife spotted Johnny's Snak Shak, and they "fell in love with it."

They love that it's right on Route 66 and right near Lake Pocotopaug, Moquin explained.

Though this is Moquin's first endeavor as a business owner, he said it's been going very well.

"When I came here I upgraded quality," Moquin said. "Everything here is fresh."

"I make my own roast beef here and turkey," he furthered. "I upgraded everything to Angus beef."

His foods are "never frozen," Moquin affirmed, and he offers specials. For example, his current Friday night special is baby back ribs.

Another change under the Snak Shak's new ownership: Moquin said the business will be open year-round, seven days per week. The former owners of Johnny's Snak Shak closed the business down for the winter months. When the Moquins decided to buy it, it was during that off-season. So when they opened it back up in May under new ownership, customers were pleasantly surprised with the changes that ensued.

"Our customers love the [new and expanded] hours," he said. "I love taking care of customers."

And he takes care of his customers by treating them all "like they're special," for example, by learning their names and a little about them, he explained.

Be it this personal approach, or simply the food, Moquin's approach has already proven to be successful, as he has "a lot of repeat customers," he said.

Overall, Moquin said of his business, "Each week it's gotten steadily and steadily better."

Moquin and his wife live in Wallingford during the winter months, and Lebanon in the summer, where they enjoy the beauty that is Amston Lake.

Moquin said in an interview Monday, however, that the happy couple is looking to move

closer to their new business in East Hampton. By doing that, they would also be closer to Moquin's son, who lives in Belltown, and daughter, who lives in Marlborough.

Moquin was a butcher for 42 years before he decided to take his career in a new direction. Some of his significant years were the 20 he worked at Ellington Super Market and eight at Shop Rite, where he held the title of meat supervisor – his job was to teach and train people in the meat department.

"It was time for me to change from 40[plus] years of the butcher business," he said – adding that his most recent undertaking is "like retirement."

But that doesn't mean he'll have retirement hours. Moquin will work there full-time and his wife will come help out when she gets out of her full-time job as an accountant.

In addition to the husband-wife team, the two have also recruited Moquin's two step sons, and son and daughter-in-law to help out. Also, Moquin cracked, his 3-year-old granddaughter "comes in and sweeps the floor once in a while."

In short, "it's a family affair," he said.

Compared to the Johnny's Snak Shak that existed before the Moquins took it over, the menu has changed a bit, based on customer requests.

Moquin said the crowd favorites are the Junkyard Dog, a hot dog served with bacon, cole slaw and chili, and the Coney Island Hot Dog, served with a special chili sauce, bacon and cheese. Other "very popular items," according to Moquin, are the California Girl Burger, with cheese, avocado, onion and bacon, and the Bruised and Drunken Burger with bacon, blue cheese, onion, lettuce, tomato and Ale Sauce. Moquin also said the Snak Shak Signature Steak and Cheese "sells the most" and is his personal favorite.

But the crowd pleasers don't end there. According to Moquin, "Nobody's been disappointed with our fresh whole belly clams," which come fresh from the fish market. And, especially in this August heat, who can say 'no' to what Moquin calls "real ice cream," which is Hershey's brand and not soft-serve. Even though ice cream is great way to cool down in the summer, Moquin plans to sell it year-round.

Some lighter menu choices include salads, wraps and soups, specifically fresh clam chow-



As of May 3, Bruce Moquin, pictured here, has been the proud owner of Johnny's Snak Shak, located on Route 66 in East Hampton.

der and seasonal lobster bisque.

Come fall, the Snak Shak will be serving breakfast sandwiches and eggs, in addition to coffee, which they already serve.

"A lot of the customers were asking me to do breakfast," Moquin said, so he plans to start serving the most important meal of the day in September.

Also in the fall, the menu will change – as it will every season – to include "colder weather items," Moquin said, for example, a prime rib sandwich.

And Moquin's also made it more convenient for customers to pay for all this food; the Shak now accepts credit cards, rather than just cash like it had previously.

With all the changes to the menu and the quality, it seems the name and location of the business are the only aspects that remain from the previous ownership.

Asked why he opted to keep the name

"Johnny's Snak Shak," Moquin said, "It'd already been established for a few years." But eventually Moquin plans to transition into a new name: Route 66 Snak Shak.

Outdoor seating is included on a back patio, complete with Adirondack chairs and picnic tables. Mary even added a garden. The outdoor seating offers plenty of space, not that the inside is particularly limited. "It's bigger than it looks," Moquin assured.

Moquin also wanted new customers to know he offers free WiFi.

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Johnny's Snak Shak is located at 197 East High St., or Route 66. It is open seven days per week, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Come September, those morning hours will be extended to 6 a.m., as the Snak Shak will begin serving breakfast. Closing hours will re-

## Hebron Resident Retires as Glastonbury Health Director

by Chris Seymour

Today marks the first day of the rest of Hebron resident David Boone's life. Or, at least, the first day of his retired life.

Boone, 61, served as health director for the Town of Glastonbury for 21 years, before deciding it was time to call it a career. His last day in office was yesterday, July 31.

Boone began working for the Town of Glastonbury in 1980, as an operator at the wastewater treatment plant, and, he joked, he never imagined he would "work my way out of the sewers."

But he eventually left the Ed Norton life behind, and made his way up the ladder to health director. After more than two decades in the role, Boone decided it was time to wrap things up.

"It feels like the right time," said Boone. "Friends of mine who have retired and have been retired for awhile, their advice has been, 'You're going to know when it is time' and I kind of feel like it is time."

A longtime Hebron resident, Boone grew up in Glastonbury, attending the local Naubuc, Buttonball and Academy schools. He graduated from Glastonbury High School in 1970.

"In fact, I seem to think Mr. Johnson's office



David Boone

was my old homeroom," said Boone with a laugh, referring to the office of Glastonbury Town Manager Richard Johnson, which is located in the former Academy School at present-day Glastonbury Town Hall.

"I have a long relationship with the town," he continued. "The only time I really left town was after high school when I went into the Air Force, so that four years in the Air Force is really the only time I was away from Glastonbury."

Boone served in the U.S. Air Force from 1971-75 and did a tour in Southeast Asia in 1972 during the Vietnam War, but he was not stationed in Vietnam; rather, Boone was stationed at Nakhon Phanom Air Base in Thailand. Prior to that, he was stationed at Duluth International Airport in Minnesota, and after Thailand, was stationed at Buckley Air Guard Base near Denver.

Boone was hired by the town in 1980 to work as an operator in the wastewater treatment plant. About a year later, he began working in the lab at the plant. "It's not the kind of thing that appeals to everyone, but I really liked that lab work, believe it or not," said Boone. "There is process control and testing that needs to be done, so based on the lab work it helps us know how to modify the plant operations so we can meet our discharge requirements."

Around 1984, Boone applied for an opening in the health department and landed a job as a "sanitarian;" he stayed in that position for about 10 years. "A sanitarian deals with environmen-

tal health issues, and with local health departments, typically that is mainly sewage disposal, septic system matters, testing vacant land for suitability of septic systems – things that are related to development," he explained. "And then there is also, on the sanitarian side of the house, food protection [such as] restaurant inspections."

In addition to dealing with environmental health matters and food safety, the Glastonbury Health Department provides educational programs on health issues as well as screenings and immunizations for high-risk groups.

Boone became the health director around 1993, following the retirement of the former director Dick Coppa, who, along with former Town Manager Dick Borden, encouraged Boone to pursue a master's degree in Public Health (MPH), because they felt he had the potential to lead the Health Department.

"They encouraged me to get a master's degree in public health because that is a requirement to be a director of a local health department," said Boone, who received his MPH from the UConn Health Center in 1992.

Boone also has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology/environmental science from Central Connecticut State University, and an Associate in Science degree in environmental science from Holyoke Community College.

As he heads into retirement, Boone admitted to being a little frightened by the unknown. He even joked that his wife, Debbie, with whom he has two grown daughters, is concerned the

couple may starve.

While Boone has no grand plans just yet, he said he would likely get more involved with the Appalachian Trail and the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

"I have been involved with the Appalachian Trail over the last couple decades and I have been the chairman of the Connecticut section for the past 13 years," Boone said, "so that trail management and maintenance piece really is pretty much at least a part-time job, maybe a full-time one."

Boone's committee, made up of all volunteers, manages the 52 miles of Appalachian Trail in Connecticut along with approximately 6,000 acres of what he called "adjoining corridor land."

Glastonbury Town Manager Richard Johnson praised Boone's work, saying, "Dave has done a very good job throughout his tenure," and adding that Boone's different jobs with the town "have served him very well."

Boone "has done a very nice job throughout some significant construction activity in town throughout the years – residential and commercial – and he has kept up in changes in technology over the years in terms of the world of health and sanitation and construction activity," Johnson said. "He will be missed but we certainly wish him the very best."

Chris Seymour is a reporter for the Riverast's sister newspaper, The Glastonbury Citizen. A version of this story initially ran in the Citizen.

*From the Editor's Desk*

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Driving home Monday night, listening to the Mets game on the radio, the two broadcasters began talking about the designated hitter. And each of them shared that, based strictly on their own observations, from folks they've talked to around the game, it sounds like there may be a movement to expand the DH rule to the National League.

And that'd be a shame.

The designated hitter, for those of you unfamiliar, is a position exclusive to the American League. It was first established in 1973 to get another bat in the lineup – and that's what it is. Instead of the pitcher hitting, an extra hitter does. This man doesn't have to play defense. All he has to do is show up, take some hacks and, if he connects, run the bases.

It's no shock players love this, as it's a way for older players to squeeze a few more years out of their battered baseball body, long after age has rendered them a liability in the field. Or, if they were never good in the field to begin with, it's a way to stay playing the game they love.

Interestingly, in the 41 years since the DH rule was adopted, it's remained strictly an American League phenomenon. The National League has never wavered from its belief that pitchers should bat. The closest it came was in 1980, when a vote by NL owners to add the DH to their league failed by a tight 5-4 vote, with three abstentions.

And here's the thing: the National League is better off without it.

The NL is, in my opinion, simply a better brand of baseball. Because the pitcher has to hit for himself, there's a whole extra level of strategy that is absent from AL games. Picture it: Your pitcher is hurling a gem; a three-hit shutout through six innings. Only thing is, the other team's pitcher has been nearly as good. As a result, you find yourself up by a tight 1-0 score. You've got a runner on second, two outs, and the pitcher coming up. Do you lift your pitcher for a pinch-hitter, and try to get that extra run home, and then turn it over to your taxed bullpen? Or do you let him swing away, knowing he'll likely make an out, just so you can keep him pitching?

Tough choice? Sure. And I wouldn't want to be in the manager's shoes in that spot. But it adds a whole other layer of decision-making to the game you don't see in the AL.

Then there's the double-switch. In NL games, you see it all the time in late innings. It's the sixth inning, you're down 4-3, and there are two outs. Your pitcher is getting hit hard. He's got nothing left. You were hoping to nurse him through the inning, because when your team comes up in the bottom of the frame, he's due to hit second. You don't want to use a reliever for just one third of an inning – but you'd have to, as you sure aren't going to let the reliever hit for himself, not with the score this close. So you double-switch; you take out a position player, replace his spot in the lineup with your new pitcher, and then have the new position player bat in the pitcher's stead, buying a few more spots in the lineup before the pitcher is due up again. But who do you take out? Whose bat are you least likely to miss later on?

Tough choice? You bet. And one as manager you could get second-guessed for sure. I've seen games end with a weak pinch hitter batting fifth with the tying run in scoring position, instead of the stronger hitter who'd normally be in that spot but instead got double-

switched out some two innings earlier. But, again, it adds a whole level of tension, of strategy, of stress, you don't get in AL ball.

The games, frankly, are more interesting that way.

I've heard the arguments for expanding the DH – the biggest one being, of course, that pitchers can't hit. They're an automatic out, and their presence in the lineup makes the games more boring. I disagree. I'd gladly take Bartolo Colon weakly striking out on three pitches in the second inning in exchange for having to some taut strategy in a pressure-filled situation later on. For managers, they may be Maalox moments, but for fans, they're interesting to watch play out – and provide instant fodder for good-natured arguments.

Another reason expanding the DH to both leagues is it'd make the game longer. Games are shorter in the National League, due largely to pitchers having to hit and, 85 percent of the time, make outs. Now that expanded replay is here, the moaning and groaning among the media that the games are just too long seems to be louder than ever (whining that I don't really agree with, by the way; baseball games are still shorter – sometimes a lot shorter – than football games). So why would you add an element that evidence has shown *does* make the game longer? It doesn't make sense.

Now, there is one thing – one very big thing – that greatly increases the chances of the NL adopting the DH: offense is on the decline. Baseball cleaned up, has among the strictest drug laws in all of sports, and I applaud them for it. But as a result of hitters returning to mere mortals, power numbers are seriously down. There are fewer runs being scored per game this season than at any point in the last 23 years. And through late May, hitters were averaging .251, down more than 10 points from the .262 they averaged in 2009 – and way down from the .270 players averaged in 2000.

The last time baseball had a big offensive drought, in the mid-60s, the game responded by lowering the pitching mound, to give pitchers less of an edge. This helped, but not as much as baseball wanted, so in 1973, the DH was born, to help solve baseball's hitting woes.

And if there's enough of a feeling now that baseball's in a hitting funk – which I actually like; not every game needs to be a 10-8 affair – then the DH may very well wind up being expanded.

But I certainly hope that doesn't happen.

In the 1988 movie *Bull Durham*, Kevin Costner's character, Crash Davis, famously says, "I believe there should be a constitutional amendment outlawing Astroturf and the designated hitter." These days, Astroturf is largely gone, only existing in a couple of ballparks. It's time for baseball to make Crash a happy man – and do away with the designated hitter too. Don't expand it; get rid of it altogether, and give AL fans the cleaner type of baseball us NL fans have loved for years.

\* \* \*

Next week's issue is the last before Primary Day – a.k.a., Aug. 12 – and, as such, anyone sending in political-themed letters to the editor for next week's paper is reminded to keep things nice. The letters should be endorsements only, and no new issues should be raised. And, as always, the deadline for letters is Tuesday at noon. Due to our production schedule, we can't publish letters that come later.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

## East Hampton Police News

7/11: Robert Damon Saltus, 32, of 18 Middletown Ave., was arrested and charged with possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, East Hampton Police said.

7/12: Cory S. Mislick, 27, of 36 Spring St., Deep River, was arrested and charged with DUI, evading responsibility and following too closely, police said.

7/12: A 16-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for possession of marijuana with intent to sell within 1,500 feet of a school, possession of a deadly/dangerous

weapon, possession of drug paraphernalia within 1,500 feet of a school and interfering with police, police said.

7/15: Robert C. Bassett, 30, of 54 Jerry Rd., East Hartford, was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle and misuse of plates, police said.

7/23: Robert M. Robinson, 25, of 1 Dziok Dr., was arrested and charged with DUI, possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

## Hebron Police News

7/20: State Police said Tiffany Var Jenski, 18, of 141 Mill Hill Rd., Colchester, was arrested for DWI, failure to obey stop sign, and possession of liquor by a minor.

7/24: State Police said Tina Tarryk, 50, of 3D Plum Tree Drive, Norwich, was arrested and charged with DUI.

## Marlborough Police News

7/21: State Police said a three-car crash occurred on at 5 p.m. Police said John A. Giantonio, 29, of 9 Scenic Dr., Portland, was traveling westbound on route 66 in the area of Rhonda Way when he swerved over the double yellow line and struck two vehicles driven by Ashley A. Madore, 24, of 16 Mountain View Dr., Plainville, and Judith S. Craig, 61, of 43 Dickinson Rd. Police said Craig was transported to Marlborough Clinic for precautionary reasons. Giantonio was issued an infraction for failure to maintain lane.

## Colchester Police News

7/20: Colchester Police said Daniel Winslow, 39, of 19 Sunset Dr., East Hampton, was arrested and charged with illegal possession of narcotics, possession of a hallucinogen, breach of peace and third-degree assault.

7/21: State Police said John Douglas Collins, 27, of 655 Talcottville Rd., Vernon, was arrested and charged with reckless driving, DUI and improper passing.

7/22: Colchester Police is investigating a reported identity theft involving a resident of Crestview Drive. The complainant reported that an unknown person(s) have obtained his personal identifying information and attempted to gain fraudulent credit accounts. This case is currently under investigation, police said.

7/22: Colchester Police said Timothy Watrous, 22, of 75 Alexander Dr., was arrested for weapon in a motor vehicle, carrying a dangerous weapon, breach of peace, misuse of plates and having no insurance, and Vanessa

Nixon, 19, of 24 Prospect St., was charged with having no insurance, misuse of plates, weapon in a motor vehicle, and operating a motor vehicle without a license. On July 25, in a separate case, police said Watrous was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of narcotics.

7/24: State Police said Juan I. Villar, 25, of 196 Prospect St., Willimantic, was arrested on an active PRAWN warrant and charged with violation of probation.

7/24: State Police said Joy Devon, 22, whom the state police did not have an address on file for, was arrested and charged with DUI.

7/25: State Police said Colleen Gosselin, 48, of 807 Route 32, North Franklin, was arrested and charged with DUI and drinking while driving.

7/28: State Police said Shannon Brown, 40, of 71 Elm St., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

# Obituaries

## Hebron

### Kimberly Ann Stevenson

Kimberly "Kim" Ann Stevenson, beloved daughter of Milton "Tom" Stevenson and Linda Stevenson of Hebron, passed away suddenly Thursday, July 24.



Kim was born Oct. 26, 1974, in Manchester. She graduated from RHAM High School in Hebron, Class of 1992, and received an associate's degree from Eastern Connecticut State University. Kim acted in several AHM plays, and was a member of the RHAM chorus and Encore ensemble. She also enjoyed camping, geo-caching and scrapbooking.

She moved to Minneapolis, Minn., in 1994. There she enjoyed a fulfilling life teaching music to children, singing in several choirs and being a nanny to several adoring children.

Kim had numerous friends who will dearly miss her. Kim had a certain zest for life and always took her own path. She surprised us with her courage and will leave a vacuum in all of our lives. Please honor her spirit. Take time to "surprise" a stranger with a random act of kindness.

In addition to her loving parents, she is survived by her brother, Robert "Bob" Stevenson and his wife, Stephanie of Norwalk, her niece Aubrey, her nephew Cyrus, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and her loving dog Bowser.

A memorial gathering was held at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 W. Center St. Manchester, Monday, July 28.

In lieu of flowers, a donation in Kim's memory may be made to the RHAM High School Chorus Department, RHAM Road, Hebron, CT 06248 or to the ASPCA, [aspc.org](http://aspc.org).

For online condolences, visit [tierneyfuneralhome.com](http://tierneyfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Jessica Lynn Ross

Jessica Lynn (LePage) Ross, 44, of Colchester, beloved wife of Wayne, passed away Monday, July 28, at home, surrounded by her loving family after a courageous battle with cancer. Born June 9, 1970, in Norwich, she was a daughter of Emile LePage of Voluntown and Katherine (Soriero) Dickins of Wauregan.

She had worked for S&S Worldwide in Colchester for many years. Jessica loved to bird watch and was an avid fan of the New York Giants and NASCAR racing.

In addition to her loving husband, whom she wed Sept. 21, 2013, and her parents, she leaves her stepmother, Jackie LePage; sisters, Melissa Brisson of Webster, Mass., and Rebecca Williams of Washington State; brothers, Emile Jr. and wife, Tori of Voluntown, Christopher and wife, Tiffany of Plainfield, James of Norwich and David Mercure; brother-in-law, Robert Ross of Colchester; sisters-in-law, Phyllis Taylor and husband, Robert of Bozrah and Linda Ross of Colchester; a special aunt, Linda Sposato of Uncasville; a dear friend, Judy "Momma" Kudrak of East Hampton; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

A memorial service will be observed 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, at the First Congregational Church, 81 East Town St., Norwich. There are no calling hours and burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent St., Middletown 06457.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. Visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Portland

### Pauline A. Pelkey

Pauline A. Pelkey, 80, of Portland, wife of Richard J. Pelkey passed away Sunday, July 27, at Middlesex Hospital. She was the daughter of the late Leon and Beatrice (Trudell) Robida.

Born on Oct. 18, 1933, in Middletown, she was a lifelong Portland resident, and was a dispatcher for the Town of Portland for 30 years until her retirement. As a member of St. Mary Church, she volunteered teaching First Communion to the children under Sister Ida and Sister Laura Marie for many years.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, David Libby of Ormond Beach, Fla.; daughters, Diane (Libby) Haley of Carlisle, Pa., and Laurie Ganem of Newington; a brother, Raymond Robida and his wife, Gloria of Hartford; sister, Doris Gyllenhammer and her husband, Edward of Portland; six grandchildren, Eric, Michael, Amanda, Karen, Steven and Alyssa; four great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a son, Kevin Libby, a brother, Frederick Robida, and by a sister, Lorraine Carson.

Funeral services will be held today, Aug. 1, with a Mass at 10 a.m. at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Thursday, July 31, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Portland Fire Dept., P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Andover

### Samuel J. Koller

Samuel J. Koller, 88, of Andover, beloved husband of the late Mary (Daly) Koller, passed away Sunday, July 27, at home. Samuel was born in East Windsor July 5, 1926, son of the late Julius and Julia (Schirey) Koller.

He was a lifelong Andover resident and attended St. James Church, Manchester. He served his country proudly, with the U. S. Navy, participating and surviving the World War II D-Day invasion at Normandy. For more than 50 years, Sam was a truck driver for various freight companies in the area.

He is survived by his loving family, Michael Koller and his wife, Joan Koller; Barbara Dunn and her companion, John Roberson; Stephen Koller; Janet Foley and her husband, Bill Foley; David Koller and his wife, Janet Koller; Joel Koller; a sister, Christine Poplasky; 15 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews and their families.

In addition to his wife and parents he was predeceased by his son-in-law, George Dunn, and his grandson, Matt Dunn.

Family and friends called Thursday, July 31, at Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated Saturday, Aug. 2, at 10 a.m., at St. James Church, 896 Main St., Manchester, followed with inurnment burial in Townsend Cemetery, Andover with military honors.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942.

To leave a message of condolence, visit [holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

## Hebron

### Patrick Joseph Sullivan

Patrick Joseph Sullivan, "Sully," 58, of Hebron, passed away peacefully Monday morning, July 28. He spent his final days surrounded by the love and care of many friends, whom had supported him in his long battle with cancer.

Sully was born Sept. 10, 1955, in Hartford. He was predeceased by his father and mother, and is survived by a brother and a sister.

For many years, Sully was considered a valued member of the family of patrons at Brother Bones Café in Hartford. Sully especially appreciated the love, guidance and acceptance shown to him by Bonsey, the proprietor of Brother Bones. Upon the passing of Bonsey, Sully continued on with his close family ties which he carried to his new home, Twin Lakes Café in Amston; which is owned by Bonsey's son and daughter-in-law, Tom and Wendy Grano. Forever here his spirit is sure to remain. Left behind are many close friends whose hearts will forever be touched by having Sully consider you his friend.

Friends may call Friday, Aug. 8, starting at 5 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service will be observed at 6:30 p.m. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Our Companions Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 673, Bloomfield, CT 06002.

For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## East Hampton

### Orlando B. Davis

Orlando B. Davis, 75, of East Hampton, loving husband of AnnMarie (Nesta) Davis, died unexpectedly Saturday, July 26, at Middlesex Hospital Marlborough Medical Center in Marlborough.



Born in Port Jefferson, N.Y., son of the late Orlando R. and the late Anita (Smith) Davis, he owned and operated O. R. Davis Funeral Home in Smithtown, N.Y., was a master captain of charter boats, a fire chief in West Palm Beach, Fla., and a volunteer fireman on Long Island, ran Davis Repair Service for 15 years, and was an avid hunter.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Orlando Davis on Long Island and Raymond Ziegler of New Britain; a daughter, Anne Lawrence of West Palm Beach, Fla.; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Alfonso and Celina Nesta of Kensington; four grandchildren, Taylor Marie Ziegler, Ashlyne Davis, Amanda Davis Coroy and Jenna Lawrence; and a great-grandson, Ethan Coroy.

A memorial service will be held today, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m., at Porter's Funeral Home, 111 Chamberlain Highway, Kensington. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Friends and relatives are invited to call at the funeral home today from 5-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Paul's Church, 467 Alling St., Kensington, CT 06037.

Directions to the funeral home can be found at [portersfuneral.com](http://portersfuneral.com).

## Marlborough

### Julia Ann Crawford Veslocki

Julia Ann Crawford Veslocki, 71, of Marlborough, died Friday, July 18.



Judy was born in Ashville, N.C., a direct decedent of one of the town's founders, Robert Hamilton, and a daughter of the late Grover Lee Crawford and Arlene Price Crawford.

As an Army brat, Judy traveled extensively. Her favorite childhood homes were in El Paso, Texas, Japan, Italy and Turkey. In 1960, she returned to the States to attend Furman University where she earned her BA in psychology. Then, she moved to Shelton. Her first job was at an aerosol factory where in a week she went from being a secretary to running the plant floor. She had two children and briefly worked as a real estate agent until moving to East Glastonbury to run a horse farm.

In '76, she moved to South Glastonbury and began a 33-year career with the State of Connecticut. She advanced from a file clerk through several positions to finally ending her career while living in Marlborough as a planning specialist at the Office of Policy and Management. Some of her career accomplishments included: helping thousands find jobs, receiving a personally-given award from Governor Bill O'Neill, serving on the Board of Operation Fuel, starting Connecticut's Infoline 211, helping establish photovoltaic power systems and arrays at Eastern CT State University, and buying oil on the futures market for the State.

Some of her personal accomplishments included: helping to establish what became known as Connecticut's Deadbeat Parent Laws, assisting several battered women and their children establish new lives, and rescuing many abused horses and cats. She was a violinist, horseback rider, choir singer, quilter, and jewelry maker. Everyone who knew her considered her an incredibly strong and generous woman with a fantastic sense of humor.

She is survived by her son Ted James Veslocki of West Columbia, S.C., and daughter Cassandra Hamilton of Marlborough, as well as many relatives and friends who loved her dearly.

Funeral services are private. Those who wish may send memorial contributions to the ASPCA or That Newfoundland Place.

## Colchester

### Raymond V. Kalinowski

Raymond V. Kalinowski, 78, entered eternal rest Wednesday, July 30. He was born in Norwich Sept. 13, 1935, to the late Stanley and Mary (Kozlowski) Kalinowski.

Following graduation from N.F.A., he worked at Dow Chemical to earn money to attend college. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Willimantic State Teachers' College (now ECSU), and all graduate work at University of Connecticut. He served in the Army National Guard until his honorable discharge and was past treasurer of the Norwich chapter of the N.A.A.C.P.

It was at college where he met his loving wife, Marie Breen. They were wed on June 18, 1960 at St. Rose Church in E. Hartford. Ray worked as a teacher, teaching principal, and principal in the Norwich School System until his retirement. He was truly devoted to the concept that all children should receive a quality education and being a mentor to them and his peers.

Ray's life was dedicated to helping others and when he was no longer able to physically help, he would advocate for them spending numerous hours on the phone in conversation with people and organizations that he could assist.

He is survived by his wife Marie, his son Mark and daughter-in-law Dianne; daughter Beth Belliveau and son-in-law Philip; brother Jack; sisters, Helen Carolinas and Mary Ann Beams; five grandchildren, Joshua, Paul, Matthew, Alysha and Connor; two great-grandchildren, Shawn and Jasmine; along with several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held today, Aug. 1, at Sacred Heart Church, Providence St., Taftville, at 10 a.m. Interment will immediately follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Norwich. Calling hours were Thursday, July 31, at Labenski Funeral Home, 107 Boswell Ave., Norwich.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Vincent dePaul's Place, 120 Cliff St., Norwich, CT 06360.

The family would like to thank the wonderful caregivers of Harrington Court in Colchester.

To leave an online condolence, visit [labenskiuneralhome.com](http://labenskiuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Donna L. Shutsky

Donna L. Shutsky, 67, of Preston, passed away Wednesday, July 23, at Harrington Court in Colchester after a lengthy illness.

Donna was born Aug. 7, 1946, in Hartford, the daughter of Harold and Rita Seymour. She attended Conard High School and upon graduation, Donna worked as a bookkeeper at Peat Marwick Mitchell, a national CPA firm which later became KPMG. She was employed at Arrow Paper Party Stores and at the United States Coast Guard Academy until her retirement. Throughout her whole life, she tried very hard; something that she wanted to be remembered by. Donna enjoyed sewing, crafts, painting and had a great love of flowers.

Donna is survived by her loving husband Robert Shutsky, whom she married on May 20, 1967; her three children, Robert Shutsky Jr. of Key Largo, Fla., Sherrie Shutsky of Preston, and Melissa Shutsky of Mystic. She also leaves behind five grandchildren: Paige, Ashley and Cash Leaycraft, and Keegan and Calista Wittke; and her two sisters and brother: Gail Neville of Utah, Joan Malone of Niantic and Thomas Seymour of Vermont.

Donna's family would like to personally thank the doctors, nurses and medical staff at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital for all of the care and help provided for her survival.

Calling hours were held Monday, July 28, at the Labenski Funeral Home in Norwich. Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 29, at St. James Episcopal Church in Preston. Burial followed in Maplewood Cemetery in Norwich.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. James Episcopal Church, 95 Rte 2A, Preston CT 06365.

Please visit [labenskiuneralhome.com](http://labenskiuneralhome.com) to leave a message of condolence for the Shutsky family.

## *East Hampton*

### Ralph DeNicolo

Ralph DeNicolo, 70, of East Hampton, the husband of Rosanna (Mei) DeNicolo died Friday, July 25, at Hartford Hospital. Born in Revere, Mass., he was the son of the late Dominic and Jeanne (Malo) DeNicolo.

Ralph served as the assistant golf professional at Manchester Country Club from 1963-1976 under Alex Hackney. From 1976-2008, he was the head professional and director of golf at MCC. He was a life member of the PGA of America, a member of the Manchester Sports Hall of Fame, and the Connecticut Sectional PGA Hall of Fame.

He competed in the Greater Hartford Open (now Traveler's Championship) for eight years and the Challenge Cup matches for 14 years. He was also the 1994 Connecticut Section PGA Player of the Year and 1995 Connecticut Section Senior Golfer of the Year.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his sons Mark J. DeNicolo and his wife Angela of South Windsor, and Kenneth D. DeNicolo and his wife Amy of Parker, CO; his grandchildren Andrew, Ava and Isabella. He is also survived by his siblings Dominic DeNicolo, Jr. of Manchester, Richard DeNicolo of Bolton, Antoinette Ellzey of Columbia, Carol Howe of New Canaan; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his sister, Donna Panus.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Wednesday, July 30, at St. Margaret Mary Church, 80 Hayes Rd., South Windsor. Burial was private. Family and friends called at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester, on Tuesday, July 29.

Memorial contributions may be made to either The First Tee of Connecticut, 55 Golf Club Rd., Cromwell, CT 06416, or the American Heart Association 7272 Greenville Ave., Dallas, TX 75231.

For online condolences, visit [tierneyfuneralhome.com](http://tierneyfuneralhome.com).

## *Hebron*

### Stefania Matiasz

Stefania (Zahorodna) Matiasz, 85, of Hebron, formerly of Rocky Hill, beloved wife of 60 years to the late John Matiasz, went peacefully to be with our Lord Thursday, July 24. She was born Aug. 1, 1928, in Zhornys'ka, Oblast Lviv, Ukraine.

In the hope of building a better life for her family, Stefania and her late husband emigrated from Brazil to the United States in 1960. Prior to her retirement in 1990, Stefania was employed as an electronic assembler at the C.E. Controls Division of Combustion Engineering in Windsor.

Stefania enjoyed most of all spending time with her family. She was very kindhearted and will be missed deeply by all who knew and loved her.

Stefania is survived by her three children: Nadia and her husband Robert West Jr. of Glastonbury, Nestor and his wife Maria Matiasz of Windsor, and Genia and her husband Timothy West of Hebron. She also leaves her grandchildren: James West and his wife Patricia, Tina West, Nicholas Matiasz and Anton West, as well as her great-grandchildren, Mikayla DiNatale, Sarah West and Robert (Robbie) West.

Calling hours were Monday, July 28, at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield. A Requiem Divine Liturgy was celebrated immediately following, at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 135 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford. The burial followed at St. Michael's Ukrainian Cemetery, New London Tpke., Glastonbury.

Memorial contributions in Stefania's memory may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105 [www.stjude.org/donate](http://www.stjude.org/donate). Donations: 800-822-6344.

The family would like to thank the entire staff at the Glastonbury Healthcare Center, as well as Tim, Johnie, Margie and Naomi from the Masonic Care Hospice of East Hartford, for the care they provided to Stefania. They always treated her with compassion, dignity and respect, for which the family will be forever grateful.

For online condolences, please visit [desopo.com](http://desopo.com).

## *Middle Haddam*

### James M. Shugert

James M. Shugert, 75, died Friday, July 18, after a brief illness. He was the loving husband of Diane P. Shugert, who predeceased him. Born in Huntingdon, Pa., he was the son of the late Helen Shugert. Jim also had a sister, Marlene, who predeceased him.

A professor emeritus of music at Central Connecticut State University, he helped to develop the band and marching band, and taught trumpet and method classes from 1967-97. Jim attended Penn State University as an undergraduate, obtained a masters degree in music at the University of Michigan, and a doctorate at the University of Illinois. A member of the International Trumpet Guild, he often attended conventions around the country.

Jim always loved his dogs, Bartleby, Bogey, Birdie and Vickie among them, but later in his life, he became a horse enthusiast. Jim owned two horses, Dale and Spencer, and was a regular at The Ray of Light Stables where he took riding lessons and kept his horses.

A resident of Middle Haddam, Jim was a member of the Belfry Club and a supporter of the Middle Haddam Public Library. He played regularly at Easter and Christmas services at Christ Church in Middle Haddam and for many years played Christmas carols at the Middle Haddam Post Office.

Jim loved fancy cars, films and a dry martini with olives. He was also an avid reader, a fine photographer, and an excellent writer who kept his friends entertained on email. He was known for his wit, often acerbic. His Christmas card with an account of his year and photographs of his animals were always a treat.

Jim leaves his many friends, especially those from his hometown of Huntingdon, Pa. His devoted friends from Connecticut who were a constant support in his life are Marion Sgroi-Varano of New Britain, Stephen Perry of West Hartford, and Lisa Curry of East Haddam.

A memorial service to celebrate Jim's life will be scheduled at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, a contribution can be made to [rayoflightfarm.org](http://rayoflightfarm.org).

## *Andover*

### James Robert Tworkowski

James Robert Tworkowski, 43, of New Britain, died Monday, July 21. Born in Hartford, he was the son of Robert and Geraldine (Smith) Tworkowski of Watertown, Ten., formerly of Andover. He was a US Navy veteran.

He is survived by his son, Gregg Tworkowski of Meriden; his siblings, Coleen Heathcock and husband Kevin of Raleigh, N.C., Melisa Lausier and husband David of Watertown, Ten., Mary Cantrell and husband Josh of Raleigh, N.C., and John Tworkowski of Andover; and seven nieces and nephews.

Family and friends may call at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester, Sunday, Aug. 3, from 2-4 p.m. A memorial service will be held on Sunday at 4 p.m. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

For online condolences, visit [tierneyfuneralhome.com](http://tierneyfuneralhome.com).

## *Colchester*

### Benjamin I. Orvedal

Benjamin I. Orvedal of Colchester passed away Saturday, July 26. He was born in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 11, 1946, the son of Clifford and Ruth Orvedal.

Ben was a graduate of the University of Maryland with a degree in civil engineering. A resident of East Lyme for over 30 years, Ben was involved with many charities around the world, most notably Habitat for Humanity and Water for People.

Ben was an active member of the Appalachian Mountain Club and traveled extensively always looking for a challenge and adventure from flying, hiking, skiing, kayaking, and biking to helping the needy wherever he could. He was known for designing and building award-winning homes and retirement communities.

He is survived by his brother Will Orvedal of LeCompton, Kan., his daughter, Ingrid Orvedal of Washington, D.C., his son Cliff Orvedal of Boston Mass., and his longtime girlfriend, Bo Zhao.

A memorial gathering will be held Saturday, Aug. 2, at 2 p.m., at the Orvedal Family farm, located at 65 Holmes Rd., in East Lyme.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Habitat for Humanity, National Public Radio, or Doctors Without Borders.

The Thomas L. Neilan & Sons Funeral Home, 48 Grand St., Niantic, is assisting the family with the arrangements.