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Earlier this week, kindergarten teacher Holly Johnson was busy preparing for the start of school and her first year with the Hebron school district – a place she said she was “thrilled” to be a part of.

Hebron Schools Ready for New Year

by Geeta Schrayter

Things at Gilead Hill School were relatively quiet Tuesday, but there was an excited buzz in the air that mingled with some of the scents of school – like crayons, books and paper – as preparations continued for the start of school next week.

Teachers could be found putting the final touches on their classrooms, while custodians could be seen moving through the halls with their cleaning carts, helping to ensure everything was just so for the return of students.

Also working to make sure everything is in place was the administration, like schools superintendent Jeffrey Newton, who said this week, “It’s been a busy summer.”

Newton explained a number of projects had taken course during the summer months, including the renovation of some of the bathrooms at Gilead Hill School.

“I’m happy to report that is finally coming to completion,” he stated. “I know [the renovations] have been an issue for some townsfolk, but the previous bathrooms were awful. Some urinals were boxed off and couldn’t be used.”

The renovations were approved in this year’s budget: \$46,500 was included for the project in this year’s Capital Improvement Plan.

Along with the work on the bathrooms, Newton shared the district had a new mission which,

“in partnership with families and the community, is to instill confidence, resolve, and the fundamentals of learning in each child, so that they are motivated to explore possibilities in the world and to succeed in their chosen path” according to the district website.

In addition, the district has new goals, and a new three-year strategic plan, district improvement plan and school improvement plan are being finalized.

Newton also shared a new district website was in the works, which he explained in his Aug. 20 letter to parents and guardians, would be “a responsive website with a complete new look. It will be more user friendly on smartphones and other handheld devices.”

Newton also mentioned the district now had a self-operated food service program, and had hired a new food services director, Chris Urban.

“We’re excited because we’re our own operation, our own program,” Newton said. “We don’t want to make money [with the program], we want to break even, and we haven’t been” when the district was working with the foodservice management company Chartwells.

Speaking on the change, Hebron Elementary School Principal Amy Campbell said with a

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Changes Afoot at Marlborough Elementary

by Melissa Roberto

From the color of the walls to the leaders within them, Marlborough Elementary School awaits students with several changes for the 2014-15 school year.

Perhaps the most noticeable difference to students when they head back to school next Wednesday, Aug. 27, the first day of school, will be a new principal and assistant principal – a leadership team that “can’t wait” for the year ahead.

Principal Dan White and Assistant Principal Kim Kelley assumed their new positions at the elementary school on July 1. The two say the summer months have been spent working as a team.

White, a resident of Columbia, comes from the Chaplin school district, where he spent the last nine years as principal of Chaplin Elementary School. Kelley, however, may be a familiar face to MES students. She has worked at MES since 2005, first as a sixth-grade teacher, and in the last year, as its math, science and technology curriculum specialist.

The two sat down with the *RiverEast* on Tuesday to discuss all the “exciting” happenings taking place this year. For starters, the administration team agreed it’s been a busy summer.

In terms of transitioning to a new school district, White said it’s been a nice change to have other administrators to work with at MES. In Chaplin, he said, he was the only administrator at the elementary school.

“To have an administrative team, with [Superintendent of Schools] Dr. [David] Sklarz, Kim and our new special education director, it’s really been nice to have that team approach instead of doing everything by yourself,” White said.

Kelley shared this is her first position as a school administrator.

“I’m familiar with the school, but Dan is teaching me all the different aspects of running a building, so it’s been very exciting,” Kelley said. “I’ve learned a lot this summer.”

Another personnel change is the separation of the former joint position of assistant principal and special education director. The funding to split the joint role into two was approved in the 2014-15 fiscal year Board of Education budget. This summer, the administration team hired Holly Maiorano for the special education director position. Maiorano has a history in elementary school administration, with stints as a former special education director and school

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A new and improved STEAM room is just one of the changes kids at Marlborough Elementary School will see when the new school year starts next Wednesday, Aug. 27.



One of the programs new to Marlborough Elementary School is the Sixth Grade Academy, which will exist in the bottom floor of the school. Sixth-grade teachers have already decorated their classrooms, shown at left. The sixth grade wing's hallways, at right, were painted blue to give it a fresh look.

Changes Afoot cont. from Front Page

principal on her resume. "I think the big benefit is going to be that [special education] is her specialty, so she's got the background to do all of the special education tasks," White said of Maiorano.

The principal has also brought along a long-term kindergarten substitute and two paraprofessionals.

Although seeing new faces at the school isn't just occurring at the staff level. In fact, White said 30 new students are enrolled at MES "across the board." The principal said he believes this is due to "a lot of people" moving into town.

"A lot of people have sat here and told us that they specifically targeted Marlborough, that they researched some schools and selected Marlborough just based on its reputation of education kids will get here," White said.

Therefore, the incoming principal said, "We have twins, we have triplets, we have kindergartners, we have sixth graders" new to the school.

A change that will impact all students in grades one through six this year is something many MES parents have been waiting for: the implementation of the new Spanish program.

The program was introduced only to sixth-graders last year, with the understanding that it would become full-scale at the start of this year. The foreign language program has been a hot topic ever since 2012, when the Board of Education cut the former Spanish program from the school's budget.

Spanish will be offered to students 15 minutes a day, every day. Full-time Spanish teacher

Beth Schwartz and her part-time counterpart Natalia Sidorova will travel to each classroom with Spanish materials on a cart.

"It's very exciting," said Kelley. "The Spanish teachers have been in and they have been working extensively on writing units where they're going to do an introduction at the language level, but also work on doing direct ties right into the curriculum in every grade."

And on Wednesday, there may be gasps heard by the oldest students of the school, the sixth-graders. When sixth graders enter MES on Wednesday, they will not head either right or left down the school's main hallways to their classrooms. Instead, they will travel down a stairwell to the bottom floor, which has been tailored by staff all summer long to create the Sixth Grade Academy.

The academy will operate within the bottom floor of the school, which has been painted blue.

"It's ready to roll!" White said excitedly of the academy. "We painted the entire sixth-grade wing so all the classrooms, the computer lab, all the hallways, will have a fresh look for sixth grade."

In addition to its independent space, the sixth grade will also undergo a completely new schedule than in years past. A group of MES teachers proposed the change last year, which was ultimately approved by the school board.

The purpose of the academy is to prepare sixth-graders for their entrance into middle school. The grade will undergo a modified rotating schedule, where they will transition to different subjects throughout the day.

"They'll have all their subject areas with different teachers and classes will be comprised of different students," Kelley explained.

"They'll still do their specials first thing in the morning and they'll still have a locked-in lunch and recess."

Another difference is that the students will gather in their designated homerooms before taking off on their changing schedules.

"The nice thing about the new model is it'll be a nice way to transition to RHAM for all the students that are going there for seventh grade," White said. "It also allows all the teachers to teach in their area of specialty, instead of one teacher having to teach science and social studies, and reading and writing and math."

White concluded "parents are excited, kids are excited, teachers are very excited" for the new sixth-grade endeavor.

The school's STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) Room has also been updated this summer. Through a Lowe's grant the school received a few years back, Kelley said the school is continuing to purchase its science equipment for the curriculum. The room is painted in bright orange and blue and more closely resembles a science lab, with cabinets filled of beakers and other scientific equipment for projects.

The two new principals added that the school has received two carts equipped with 24 iPads each to be used by students. And on Monday, when the staff arrives, classroom teachers and specialists will each receive their own iPad.

So, while summer is winding down and there may be some students dreading to return to school, their two new principals seem more than eager to get the school year started.

"It's going to be such a fabulous year," Kelley said, as White nodded, "It's going to be a terrific year."



Spanish teachers will transport this cart around to each classroom to teach the new Spanish program 15 minutes each day.



Most of the teachers at Gilead Hill School had been to the building by the time Monday rolled around, and their classes were ready to be filled with students when another school year gets underway next Wednesday.

Hebron Schools cont. from Front Page

laugh, “One of the things I noticed is pizza is on Friday, which has been a Wednesday tradition in Hebron since I’ve been here – so we chuckled, ‘That’s a big change!’”

She added Urban was “already bringing a great energy to the program,” and Gilead Hill School Principal Eric Brody said having Urban on-site would be a “huge benefit for the quality of food we’re going to provide to the kids.”

He added Urban’s “got ideas how to make lunch exciting,” relating to food presentation, cafeteria decorations and themes.

“It’s going to be a different experience for the kids this year, so we’re looking forward to that,” said Brody.

Along with the above, Newton also mentioned work was being done on a new emergency response protocol manual for the schools, and said each school will have a “command team” made up of staff, administrators, parents, state police, the fire department and the town’s emergency director.

“Those, in a nutshell, are the big ticket items,” Newton stated. “Apart from that, we just want to continue the course of providing an excellent educational school system that will push our students to continue to excel. They’re high achieving students now, and that can’t falter – that will remain.”

Looking toward the new year, Newton said the focus – and challenge – would continue to be on the Common Core State Standards, transparency and getting accurate information out to parents and the community.

“Common Core is a big focus this year,” he said. “We want to offer more information, more community forums.”

Newton added, “We really need to come together with the community to keep them as informed as possible. We encourage parents to get involved and learn more if they don’t know about something – like Common Core for example.”

He explained the district discovered last year there were a lot of mixed messages and misunderstandings surrounding the new standards.

Regarding the school budget, Newton also said, “We want to make sure we’re getting information out. We were very transparent last year [with the budget] and that will continue; to make sure all of our accounting is out there so people can see where their tax dollars are going.”

For Campbell, having all teachers evaluated in the upcoming year under the new teacher evaluations was sure to “make things a little busier for everyone.”

Brody, meanwhile, mentioned the continua-

tion of curriculum initiatives that started last year as a challenge. He explained a new writing program began last year, “so having a second go around on that, reflecting on last year and making any changes we need to make for this year,” will be one of the challenges.

Similarly, he said the math units piloted last year would need to be refined.

“Those will be ongoing processes as we go through the year,” he stated.

But for now, the focus is on the first day of school, which for Brody meant “just making sure we’re ready to go, to open up the buildings, [and] making sure we get the teachers what they need for the first day.”

Campbell added, “It’s just the last minute, getting rid of the things that teachers have discarded, and that last run-through of the hallways to make sure it’s all clear for the meet-and-greet.”

She continued, “Otherwise, I think we’re ready and in good shape.”

And overall, Brody said, “It’s time. It’s time to start. We’re excited to have the kids back. The summer’s nice, and it’s quiet, but the school only comes alive when the kids are here.”

Newton felt similarly.

“I’m looking forward to having the kids back – that’s the biggest piece,” he said. “I can’t wait to see them walk in the doors – and staff as well – and just get back to the grind of working together, seeing kids in the classrooms and seeing the staff, and getting back to the normalcy of our everyday occurrences at school. I’m very excited.”

And administrators weren’t the only ones to feel that way.

Second grade teacher Kristin Gladding was at the school preparing Tuesday, and said, “I’m looking forward to a fresh start with new faces, the first day and the excitement on [the students’] faces when they come in.”

Similarly, first grade teacher Nikki Craig said she was looking forward to “a new bunch of kiddos who are ready to learn.”

She added, “And I’m looking forward to being back with my Gilead Hill School family. It’s a nice place to be; I love it here.”

Newcomer Holly Johnson, who will start her first year teaching kindergarten in town next week, shared those sentiments.

Speaking about the district, she said, “I’m definitely thrilled to be working with the team here in Hebron. They’ve been so great in welcoming me and I’m so excited to meet the kids and families.”

And all that will occur in just a few short days; school gets underway Wednesday, Aug. 27.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

A friend challenged me Monday night, so Tuesday night – as per the rules of this thing – I participated in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. By dunking a bucket of freezing cold water on my head, I realize I didn’t donate as much to the ALS Association as I could have had I kept my head dry – and that’s caused some controversy in the past week or so, as this craze has swept Facebook (and I admit, it is rather fun).

The challenge is this: once you get called out by a friend, you have 24 hours to dump a bucket of ice water on your head, or else you donate \$100 to the ALS Association. Most people that I know seem to be opting for the water (which, depending on the version of the challenge you hear, either gets you totally off the hook, or still means you donate \$10 to the cause. I’ll donate the \$10) and this does make for fun videos. There are lots of people laughing in homemade videos all over Facebook these days – that’s a good thing, right?

Well, no. Some media outlets – and also some friends of mine – have advanced the notion the whole thing is stupid. You’d be better off donating the money rather than participate in a silly video craze. But, three things: It’s fun; it really does raise awareness of ALS research; and it’s not hurting anybody. So why hate on it?

Plus, it certainly seems as if people are opting to get doused with water *and* make a donation. According to the ALS Association, from July 29 through Aug. 19, the foundation received \$22.9 million – an astronomical increase from the \$1.9 million generated during that same period last year.

And even if you don’t donate, like I said before, you’re now more aware of ALS research than perhaps you were – and the ALS Association really likes this aspect of the challenge too.

“The money is wonderful, but the real positive story out of this is the visibility that this disease is getting,” association spokeswoman Carrie Munk recently told *Forbes*. Indeed, the association said it recently surveyed 1,000 people who had a history of giving to philanthropic causes, and while nearly everyone knew about disease like HIV/AIDS, only about half were aware of ALS.

And it’s a brutal, brutal disease. As *Forbes* describes it, ALS – more commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease – is “like Parkinson’s on super-steroids.” It kills off your motor neurons, leading to the loss of voluntary movement; within weeks – weeks! – muscles begin to waste away. And to make matters worse, there’s basically no treatment. *Forbes* said the lone drug approved to treat ALS, riluzole, slows symptoms by only a few months.

The average prognosis for those stricken with ALS is three to five years.

That’s why it’s important to raise awareness of, and money for ALS research. And why it’s important, next time somebody’s

hating on the challenge, to tell them there’s far less philanthropic ways to make goofy Facebook videos. People are having fun, nobody’s getting hurt and even if people who pour ice water on their head aren’t always making donations, at least they’re spreading awareness of the need for research – and spurning curious folks like myself to learn more about the disease, both how terrible it is and how little in terms of research funding goes to it.

So I hope the trend lasts a while, and I hope to see many more videos on Facebook of people getting dunked. Although I’ll make an exception for my brother. See, he lives out in Los Angeles, and with the horrible drought they’ve got going on out there, I can see how wasting water by pouring it on people’s heads – even if it were for a good cause – might be ill-advised.

* * *

Also, it’s hard to believe, but next week is the last week of August. And that means a couple of things here at the *Rivereast*.

For starters, this is our annual back-to-school issue. The pages of this week’s paper will feature, in addition to our usual news, a veritable smorgasbord of school information – everything from details about free lunches to listings of school bus routes. There are also in-depth stories about most of the school systems in *Rivereast*-land (except Portland; Portland doesn’t start until after Labor Day, so its in-depth story will be next week), featuring interviews with administration and a sneak peek of what kids, and parents, can expect in the coming year.

Also, since next week is the last issue before September, which means it’s the last time you’ll see pictures candidates for political office out and about in our towns – at least for a little while. As is our annual policy, come September, photos of all candidates – as well as those currently in political office but up for re-election – won’t be published until after Election Day.

In September and October, candidates typically hit the fair circuit, for example, meeting residents and talking the issues. And that’s all well and good – and frankly makes sense from the candidate’s point of view; to win a campaign you typically have to, well, campaign – but if we published all the photos we got of said meet-and-greets in the weeks leading up to election, we wouldn’t have space for anything else. So, in an effort to prevent the paper from turning into a giant campaign brochure, we’ve decided to implement a cut-off date for photos of candidates.

And that cut-off arrives next week. So, if you want to send in a picture of yourself meeting some constituents (or who you hope will be your constituents), get it in by next Tuesday at noon if you want to see it. And please, only one photo per candidate.

* * *

See you next week.

Community Support Crucial to East Hampton Mail Carrier's Recovery

by John Tyczkowski

USPS mail carrier Adrienne Shonio doesn't remember much from a good 12 hours of her life after being involved in a three-way car accident at work.

"It's not exactly how you normally see your day ending," Shonio said this week.

On May 31, Shonio was finishing her regular mail route at around 2 p.m. when she was asked to assist another mail carrier. Shonio said that as she moved to make a left turn off of Young Street, a Ford F150 hit her mail truck from behind, and moved the mail truck into the other lane. A Chevy Avalanche then struck the mail truck head-on.

"I really don't remember much of it, I just blacked out," Shonio, a postal worker for the past six years, said of the accident. "I just remember looking down and seeing blood on my shoes, and I knew it was mine."

Shonio was transported to Hartford Hospital by LifeStar, and stayed there for the next month as doctors treated her injuries, which included a left knee cap shattered into nine pieces, and a right lower leg slashed open down to the bone by a piece of sheet metal from the mail truck's floor around the engine.

"Initially [paramedics] thought I would bleed out at the scene, and then later, [doctors] thought I would lose my [right] leg," Shonio said. "I've been pretty lucky in many different ways."

Shonio said she especially credits the Hartford Hospital staff with letting her know exactly what procedures she would be undergoing at all times.

"They didn't keep me in the dark at the hospital, they always explained everything to me and made me feel as comfortable and at ease as they could," Shonio said.

However, the helpful hospital staff were only one of the many positive contributions to Shonio's ongoing recovery.

While workers' compensation covered her medical expenses, Shonio still needed help with everyday living expenses. Within days of the accident, her friends Barbara Moore, Barbara Trojanowski and Lorraine Valli – the latter two of which also worked at the post office – organized a benefit spaghetti dinner to help her out.

Around 75 people attended the event June 22 at the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5095, Shonio said. It featured food, a cash bar, a raffle, door prizes and music, according to a Facebook event page Valli set up.

"Everyone was asking mail carriers what they could do and how they could help [Adrienne], and this seemed like the best thing to do" Valli said. "The outpouring of support from the community at the event, and after, was really welcome."

Shonio said that while the donations were extremely valuable as far as helping her pay her regular bills and normal living expenses, she was also very grateful for all of the positive support from a wide variety of people.

"It just kind of snowballed from there. I got letters and cards from not only people in town, but also from people around Connecticut. I got cards from people who work for the Postal Service, people I've never even met," Shonio said. "I also got cards from my family all over the country."

She said that having such a large volume of support from all over contributed heavily to what she called the mental side of her recovery.

"At first, it would've been easy to think 'I'm screwed, I'm not going to be able to walk again, or drive again,'" Shonio said. "But seeing all of that from everyone really changed my attitude. It really went from, 'I don't know if I can do this,' to 'I know that I can do this.'"

Shonio said that she's still surprised by how public her ordeal and recovery became around



Adrienne Shonio stands in the East Hampton Post Office lot with a Grumman Long-Life Vehicle, or mail truck, very much like the one she was driving at the time of her accident. Shonio said that she is eager to start work with the postal service again Sept. 1.

East Hampton.

"I had pictured myself getting out of the hospital and then quietly going back to work," she said. "But when something substantial happens in a small town, the community is aware of it, and they get involved."

However, even before the support from the community at large while in the hospital and after, Shonio said she experienced help from a capable community member who happened to be at the accident scene.

"Someone there had some medical training,

and wrapped a belt around my leg to stop the bleeding," Shonio said. "It probably helped save my leg, and save my life."

Shonio said she's slated to be back at work at the Post Office on September 1, and will continue with physical therapy into October. She'll have some restrictions on crouching and bending, and on how much weight she can carry.

"I'm never going to be able to say thank you to everybody enough," Shonio said. "Their support helped me so much; through every step of the way, I've had the community at my side."

Renovations Ring in Another School Year at EHHS

by John Tyczkowski

As the school year begins anew, East Hampton High School is preparing to renew and renovate all of its facilities.

"We're waiting for the final [state] approval, but construction should start in November," John Fidler, EHHS principal, said. "We have plans for each phase of the project to make sure things move as smoothly as possible."

Fidler said that the \$51.8 million renovation project, approved at referendum last June, will consist of six phases over the next three years. The end of construction is slated for May 2017, with the grand re-opening of the high school set for fall of that year.

While the light at the end of the tunnel may indeed be a bright one, Fidler said the next three years will still have their challenges.

"We stand to lose a fair a chunk of parking which will affect every day activities and special events," Fidler said. "We've planned the best we can to minimize the impact."

According to project plans, there will be three expansions to the high school. These will include a new science wing at the front of the school, an expansion of the cafeteria space and the addition of a new gym, and the addition of new family and consumer science classroom space in the back of the school.

Fidler said a bonus to the planned expansions is the easing of congestion in hallways during passing times.

"There used to be a lot of dead-end hallways, where there was one way in and one way out," Fidler said. "With these changes, there will be multiple routes to get to a location and traffic flow should be better."

At the same time, Fidler mentioned replacing and updating existing parts of the high school is a major focus of the renovations.

"Eighty percent of the project is replacing

what we have already," Fidler said. "Every single square inch of the school will be touched."

These renovations will be done in a methodical way on a hallway-by-hallway basis, Fidler said.

"Teachers and students will always know where they have to go," Fidler said. "We planned very carefully, all of it has been looked at and discussed."

An especially novel component of the high school's renovations could include the school being adapted to use electricity generated by a geothermal power system. However, that proposal has been bogged down by discussions among Board of Education members over upfront cost versus long-term savings.

"I don't think there's been a definitive decision yet," Fidler said. "But we're moving to the point where we need to decide one way or another on it."

The \$51.8 million price tag on the project covers fees for construction, architectural design and furniture, equipment and technology hardware, as well as a host of miscellaneous professional fees.

* * *

In addition to the renovations, though, Fidler said that there is plenty in store for the high school this year.

Notably, EHHS will be expanding its early college experience offerings by adding a University of Connecticut chemistry course this year. Also, Fidler said he will be working to strengthen ties between the high school and Middlesex Community College, specifically in the area of family and consumer science courses for credit transferable to MxCC.

"Our goal here is college and career readiness," Fidler said. "We want to prepare students for four-year colleges, two-year colleges, mili-



The new year at all East Hampton schools – including East Hampton High School – begins next Thursday, Aug. 28.

tary service and careers. We want to make sure every student is ready."

Another focus of Fidler's is what he called an emphasis on rigor in the classroom, with teachers emphasizing critical thinking and the ways by which students find answers to questions, which aligns with the goals of the Common Core Standards recently implemented by Connecticut schools.

Other highlights of the coming year include a strengthening of the high school's directed study program and the recruitment of more peer tutors for students, as well as the expansion of

the school's positive behavioral interventions and support (PBIS) program.

PBIS is a U.S. Office of Special Education school, family and community initiative, which focuses on teaching respect of self, others and property, responsibility and safety to students, according to pbis.org.

"Our teachers and staff have been working very hard, and we're ready and excited for the students to return," Fidler said.

* * *

The East Hampton school year begins Thursday, Aug. 28.

VFW Flag's Arctic Display Honors East Hampton Veterans

by John Tyczkowski

The marching flag of East Hampton Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5095 journeyed to a place of unique honor this past March: the North Pole.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Raj Sodhi, a sonar technician and combat systems department enlisted adviser stationed aboard the U.S.S. New Mexico (SSN-779), a Virginia-class nuclear submarine homeported at Naval Submarine Base Groton, said that he never expected to be presented with the chance to have such a privilege.

"It is definitely a highlight to my career, and to my life, to carry the flag to the North Pole," Sodhi said.

Sodhi said he has been serving in the Navy 17 years, and that he volunteered for the Submarine Corps.

"I thought it was fascinating and interesting," Sodhi said.

Sodhi now lives in Lebanon, but he previously lived in East Hampton for six years. During that time, he became very active with and involved at VFW Fowler-Dix-Park Post 5095. He said he marched with other local veterans every July in the Old Home Days parade, as long as he was not away on duty.

"The VFW is a great organization that gives a lot back to the town, with basketball scholarships, events and more," Sodhi said. "I'm proud to be a part of it."

Ted Turner, service officer for VFW Post 5095 and chairman of East Hampton's Board of Finance, said Sodhi approached him personally in November of 2013 with the idea to bring the VFW's marching flag to the North Pole when he was on his next submarine deployment.

"I told him I'd have to talk with the rest of the (VFW) officers," Turner said. "But as long as we could have the flag back for Memorial

Day, it would be great."

The flag Sodhi took to the North Pole is carried by veterans from the post during marches every Memorial Day and to start off the Old Home Days every July.

"Our VFW is very proud of the fact that he brought the flag to the North Pole," Turner said. "It was just a great thing, for him to do it."

Sodhi said the East Hampton area has a very high percentage of veterans, and for him, that fact lent an especially great significance to the act of taking the VFW marching flag to the Arctic.

"I thought it would be a very honorable thing to do for all them, to bring the flag to the North Pole, to follow in the footsteps of so many veterans," Sodhi said.

According to the U.S. Navy archives website, in 1958, the U.S.S. Nautilus (SSN-571), the world's first operational nuclear submarine, made the journey underneath the polar ice. The U.S.S. Skate (SSN-578), also a nuclear submarine, surfaced through the polar ice in 1959. Both boats were constructed at Electric Boat in Groton.

Sodhi said the U.S.S. New Mexico surfaced about 166 yards from the geographic North Pole, or about a football field's length away.

Sodhi happened to get the chance to bring the flag to the North Pole because the U.S.S. New Mexico was assigned a deployment involving protecting U.S. interests in the Arctic Circle.

"The ice has been melting, and it's been opening up new routes around our coastline," Sodhi said. "It's in our best interests to train in that environment."

According to an article on ussnewmexico.net, the U.S.S. New Mexico and her crew were selected to participate in ICEX 2014. This joint



Several members of the U.S.S. New Mexico's crew display the VFW Post 5095 flag in the vicinity of Ice Camp Nautilus near the geographic North Pole. The flag displayed here is the post's marching banner, carried by veterans in several parades each year.

tactical exercise with Canada and the UK included conducting war games under the polar ice.

In addition to the importance of bringing the VFW marching flag to the North Pole, Sodhi also stressed as important his commitment to his crew, the average age of which is 22.

"The Submarine Corps recruits the best of the best," Sodhi said. "They're in the top percent of the Navy. They had the chance to go to

college, but they didn't. They chose to serve, and to do so voluntarily."

Sodhi said it is common to go 85-95 days without emails or other Internet communications from family and friends. Shifts are long, with 18-hour days, he said.

"They voluntarily cut themselves off from Facebook and email and the rest of the world. It is truly the Silent Service," Sodhi said. "These guys have a distinct mental toughness."

East Hampton Town Council Decides on Lot for Police

by John Tyczkowski

With a deadline for relocation fast approaching, the Town Council Tuesday decided on new – albeit temporary – digs for the East Hampton police cruisers.

The council voted 4-2 along party lines – with Republican councilor Ted Hintz Jr. recusing himself – to use a medical arts building parking lot, located at 205 East High St. near the Marlborough town line, as the replacement lot.

The other two locations that had been proposed for consideration were the former Belltown Auto site at 80 East High St., and the lot located at the G&S service station at 100 Main St.

Previously, the town had leased a lot from Connecticut Light & Power at its facility behind Town Hall for its squad car fleet. However, CL&P notified the town four years ago that it would not renew the lease. Then, this past February, it announced plans to relocate around 60 employees from its Willimantic facility to East Hampton, which would require the full use of the formerly leased lot.

As a result, finding a new lot for the cruisers has been a Town Council agenda item for the past few months, according to the council's own agendas and minutes.

Council chairwoman Barbara Moore and fellow Democrats Kevin Reich, George Pfaffenbach and Phillip Visintainer all voted to use the 205 East High St. location, while Republican councilors Patience Anderson and Mark Philhower united in voting instead for the proposed location at 100 Main St.

Hintz had recused himself from the vote, but after the meeting said that, according to council guidelines, he couldn't disclose why.

The four Democrats defended their decision by saying that, compared to the 205 East High St. location, there were no current plans to deal with the security problem of multiple glass windows at the service station location. (Though the cars would be stored on the service station's lot, a small substation for lockers, weapons storage and other related items would be housed inside the service station – hence the concern regarding the windows.)

"It simply isn't shovel-ready," Reich said. "The big issue is that there are too many windows to cover."

However, Philhower insisted that the 100 Main St. location would be the preferred location, despite the large amount of glass windows, due to its proximity to the police station and Town Hall.

Anderson said she supported using the 100 Main St. location based upon her experience with town government in the past.

"I feel that the 100 Main location is more close to being able to be moved into than the 205 [East High St.] location," Anderson said. "This town has been known to take a temporary solution and make it permanent."

However, Moore responded directly to Anderson's challenge.

"This lot will serve its purpose, and it will not be a permanent home," Moore said.

The 205 East High St. location will need to be upgraded with a fence, bars on the windows of the portion of the building the police would be using, uniform lockers, locker room benches, door locks, a one-touch emergency dialer, a weapons storage vault and a clearing trap for unloading guns safely.

According to a document East Hampton Police Chief Sean Cox provided, the rough estimate for the total cost of the renovations for the temporary location is \$24,800. The most expensive items on the list include an estimated \$8,120 for 14 uniform lockers, an estimated \$7,935 for the fence, which includes barbed wire and a sliding gate, and an estimated \$4,060 for barring the building's windows.

Cox also told the council that the majority of equipment needed for the temporary site could be re-used once the town selects a site for a new police station, another issue that ties in closely to the police parking lot problem.

"Everything except for the fence and the window bars is transferable," Cox said.

At the same time, Town Manager Michael Maniscalco stressed that such improvements would not constitute a large-scale building project.



This medical office building, and its accompanying parking lot, is the new, albeit temporary, home of the town's police cruisers.

"The idea is not to have a full substation, but you need to have locker rooms available and a secure location available to secure weapons," Maniscalco said.

Maniscalco said he was able to secure approval from the owners of 205 East High St. for the town to put in the required fencing and equipment. However, that lot still has a remaining outstanding issue in that the town must still seek a waiver to create a new police facility in a residential zone, even though town policy permits police and fire buildings in either residential or commercial zones.

Under normal circumstances, no development would be able to proceed until the town's Planning and Zoning Commission could have the chance to clarify the lot's status. Such a

clarification must be requested at a PZC meeting.

The council agreed that they planned to put this concern on the agenda for the upcoming PZC meeting next Wednesday, Sept. 3, in order to fast-track the town's use of the lot.

Additionally, during the last phase of the meeting, the Town Council was unable to reach a final decision on their annual performance evaluation of Maniscalco during nearly an hour and a half of closed proceedings.

Afterward, Moore said that councilors will attempt to reach a final decision on the performance evaluation in another special council session Tuesday, Aug. 26, at 6 p.m., with the final meeting location to be determined.

Andover Gearing Up for Another School Year

by Geeta Schrayter

With less than a week until the start of school, local students are hopefully almost done getting ready for the new year. At least that's the case over at Andover Elementary School, where preparations for the return of students have been taking place throughout the summer, but were winding down this week.

"As soon as the wax dries, we're ready," Schools Superintendent Andrew Maneggia said Tuesday.

Maneggia explained a number of projects had taken place during the summer to improve the school, including resurfacing, painting and applying polyurethane to the gym floor.

"That looks great, so when the kids come in the first day and see it I'm sure they're going to be impressed – as well as the adults," he stated.

In addition, the corridors in the oldest section of the school were repainted, as was the restroom in the fourth grade area and the outside doors in front of the school, "so when you drive up, it looks nice and clean and fresh" said Maneggia.

Other projects included resealing the basketball court and HVAC work. Maneggia explained there were some heating problems last winter, but they couldn't be addressed until school was out so the entire system could be shut down.

"So we kind of nursed it along through the last month or so of the heating season and those things got taken care of," he stated.

"Then," he continued, "the washing and waxing and all that is pretty much done."

Maneggia called the building "in good shape," and said the custodians had done an excellent job. In addition, a majority of the teachers, he shared, had already been in to get their rooms ready.

"With so many teachers coming in and the custodians finishing up the waxing, we're ready to go," he stated.

And as the new year begins, one of the biggest changes students will notice is John Broidy, who started as principal and curriculum director July 1 after the retirement of Dave Griffin, who had been principal for 10 years.

Maneggia said regarding Broidy, he's "come on board and he has been working very hard to catch up on things and become apprised of everything that needs to be done as principal."

This week Broidy, who spent 15 years teach-

ing in Glastonbury prior to his start in Andover, added he'd already gotten to know much of the staff over the summer, and he'd received a lot of support from Maneggia and assistant principal and special education director Dawn Davis in the two months he'd been there.

"Now," he said, "my goal is to get to know the students and their families as we get started with the year."

Broidy called the arrival of the year "very exciting" and said he was looking forward to working with the teachers, who all seemed "very motivated."

"It's exciting for me to be working with a staff that's proud of their school and as excited as we are to get started with the year," he stated.

Along with Broidy's arrival, this year will also bring a change in bus companies. The school entered into a five-year contract with Nichols Bus Service Inc. in April, a contract that will save the town a significant amount of money. However, Nichols Bus was purchased by DATTCO Inc. in August after the retirement of founder Charles Nichols.

Despite the change in ownership, Maneggia said the contract, which he said in April would realize about \$13,500 in savings for the elementary school over the previous bus contract, would be honored.

"DATTCO has agreed to assume that contract based on the sale, which is a good thing," he stated.

In addition to changes, both Maneggia and Broidy said one of the challenges for the year was to maintain the high expectations expected at the school.

"We have high expectations for all of our students and for our teachers also, and we have a community that has grown to expect that," said Maneggia. "Trying to achieve that is always a challenge; it's a challenge at every level, whether you're a classroom teacher or a principal or a superintendent or a board member."

He continued, "We know what we need to do, and that is to focus on student achievement and the overall education of each student – and we recognize that responsibility and we work hard to accomplish it – that's our challenge."

Broidy added, "One of the things we hope for is that we are able to support our teachers, support the staff [and] support our students to grow and to progress to their fullest potential.



Earlier this week, Andover Elementary School Superintendent Andrew Maneggia said most of the teachers had been to the building to prepare their classrooms – like this sixth grade room – for the arrival of students and the start of another school year next Wednesday, Aug. 27.

...we have high expectations and we want to be able to support them in their growth and development."

As the year gets underway, Maneggia said the focus would continue to be on the Common Core State Standards in both language arts and math, with an emphasis on writing.

Maneggia explained the writing initiative was started last year, using a program out of Columbia University called the Writing Workshop; he stated there was still more work to be done to implement the program.

"That will consume a lot of time and energy" he said, adding curriculum changes and altering instructional practices to address those changes would also be challenging in the upcoming year.

"And just as we're starting to progress with the math and the language arts, the state initiatives that will be starting this year are in social

studies and science," Maneggia furthered. "So all the school districts are faced with continuing what they've started and addressing the changes in science and social studies. So there'll be a lot to do."

But both Maneggia and Broidy are ready for whatever challenges the school year brings, and said they were looking forward to the return of the students.

"We're looking forward to seeing the students," Maneggia stated. "Everything that we do is focused on students."

Broidy added, "They bring that energy into the building. We can prepare all summer long for them to come here, and certainly if we had more time we could use it to prepare, but we're ready for them to be here – we're ready to get started."

And it's a good thing too, since students will return next Wednesday, Aug. 27.

Golf Tourney Reels in \$3K for Colchester Senior Center

by Melissa Roberto

The Colchester Senior Center held its first-ever golf tournament earlier this month and reeled in \$3,000 in profits – and it has one Colchester family to thank for making it happen.

The tournament was held Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Chantclair Golf Course in Colchester. Twenty-four golfers shot 18 holes and then were joined by 26 other supporters for the steak and baked potato benefit dinner that followed at the St. Joseph's Polish Society.

Director of Senior Services Patty Watts said participants "couldn't have gotten any luckier weather-wise," yet stressed the sunshine was just one of many aspects that contributed to the event being a "real success."

And the director credited that success to the Hajdasz family of Colchester, and especially 15-year-old Luke Hajdasz. Luke was instrumental in planning the tournament, Watts said.

"Luke is probably the most exceptional 15-year-old I've ever met in my life," Watts explained, adding, "He really took the lead in planning this whole thing with the guidance and support of his parents."

Luke, his parents Colleen and Joel, and his sister, Emma, 11, came up with the idea of hosting a golf tournament to benefit the senior gathering place in town. The young siblings are no strangers to the center; they have been volunteering there for the last five years.

"They are a regular presence here," Watts said enthusiastically.

The siblings help out at the annual holiday fair and make weekly visits to seniors at the center during the summer months.

In 2013, Luke won the Liberty Bank Youth and Action Award for his volunteering efforts. Along with the recognition, Luke was awarded \$1,000 to go to a charity of his choice, which he turned over to the senior center. The money

was then used for the purchasing of equipment and program supplies at the center, Watts informed.

"It went very quickly," Luke recalled, "so I decided to create a golf tournament to raise more funds."

The event was first approved by Watts, and then headed to the Board of Selectmen. Once it received support from the policy-making board of the town, Watts and the Hajdaszes met regularly to bring the event to fruition.

Watts said Luke did "a lot of the legwork" for sponsorship, designing printed materials, soliciting golfers, as well as receiving donations of door prizes from local businesses.

"He did a ton," Watts said of Luke. "It was remarkable."

The senior center director admitted she wasn't sure what she was in for with this inaugural event, but walked away with the notion that it'll happen again next year.

"We didn't know what to expect given it was the first year. It certainly exceeded my expectations," she said.

In addition to witnessing golfers, friends, families and seniors enjoying themselves on Aug. 9, Watts added she was "tickled pink" that the event raised \$3,044.72 – a grand total that's already earmarked for enhancements at the center.

"We're going to upgrade the computer lab here at the senior center so seniors can Skype with their families around the world and experience things kids of Luke's age do all the time," Watts shared.

And according to Luke, the tournament "was definitely worth it."

"It was a big success and everyone had fun," the soon-to-be Bacon Academy sophomore continued. "The people that I have met [at the senior center] have been very nice. A lot of them

don't have family members that they can see very often. They've outlived family and I think they enjoy having youth there."

Luke's mother Colleen said the seniors and her family have "just clicked" over the years. She added the event was rewarding for both the people planning it and the ones participating.

"It was a blast," she said. "Everybody had a good time and now the senior center will have more money to help [its] efforts."

Colleen added the event, which was sponsored by 17 local businesses, was a good example of a community helping out its own.

"It was great to see how Colchester responded to the initiative," Colleen said. "My son learned what a good community looks like and it's definitely Colchester."

The event sponsors include: AB Graphics, BHHS Skyview Realty, Boyden Real Estate, Caley Nutrition, Colchester Veterinary Hospital, DH Marvin & Son, Edward Jones, Gano's Power Equipment, LLC, Hathaway Financial Group, Liberty Bank, Life Long Dental Care, Minuteman Press, Paradise Agency, LLC, S&S Worldwide, Toyota of Colchester, Valvoline Express Care and Westchester Woods.

Watts, who joined the senior center as its director in June of last year, said the event's profits will help continue "an exciting year of growth" at the Norwich Avenue building.

"We're seeing a lot of faces new around the senior center. People around the community who have never utilized it before are coming in, which is always exciting to see," Watts said. "There's always something fun happening. We want to see more and more people coming down and taking advantage of what we're offering."

The Colchester Senior Center, located at 95 Norwich Ave., is open to local seniors Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Wednesdays from 8 a.m.-6



Fifteen-year-old Luke Hajdasz, pictured, and his family spearheaded the 2014 Colchester Senior Center Golf Tournament Fundraiser. The tournament, held Aug. 9, raised \$3,000 for the center that will be utilized for technology upgrades.

p.m. In addition to its year-round programs and services, Watts and the Hajdasz family remind area residents to keep an eye out for next year's tournament, as they anticipate it will become an annual tradition.

"It was very exciting and worthwhile to come out to, and we would look forward to seeing people come out next year to support the cause," Colleen said.



Colchester administrators have been working hard hiring new staff and implementing new initiatives for the school year ahead. At left stands a sign for William J. Johnston Middle School created by a Bacon Academy student last year, and, at right, CES makes it clear all-day kindergarten registration is still continuing. School starts in Colchester Wednesday, Aug. 27.

Colchester Administrators Busy Planning for School Year

by Melissa Roberto

Colchester students may have had a break from school work for the past two months, but district administrators have been keeping busy in preparation for the students' return to the four Colchester schools next Wednesday.

"It has been a busy summer in hiring staff," Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Mathieu said this week.

Mathieu and his administrative team were dealt an unusual hand last year, when 12 Colchester professionals retired from their teaching careers at the end of the 2013-14 school year. The number of new hires only increased in recent weeks, as Bacon Academy Principal Mark Ambruso announced he would depart from the school system, effective today, to become principal at Windham Technical High School. The Board of Education accepted Ambruso's resignation at its Aug. 12 meeting, in addition to the resignations of a Jack Jackter Intermediate School (JJIS) math specialist and a district-wide English Language Learning (ELL) teacher.

Mathieu proved Monday the district is seeking to fill those roles before the start of the school year. He had just hired a new third-grade teacher before he talked to the *Rivereast*, and shared that three more interviews were lined up for this week. Also, Mathieu confirmed an interim principal has been put in place at the high school, yet could not disclose his name because the contract had not been signed as of the *Rivereast's* press time.

The new high school leader will assume the interim role for one year. In January, the district will begin advertising for a permanent principal position, followed by a thorough interview process.

Of the new Bacon leader, Mathieu shared,

"We have a retired principal who was a principal at a local high school for a number of years. This will be his fifth interim position."

Mathieu furthered he anticipates an appointment for the permanent principal position to occur sometime in March 2015.

This week Ambruso said it was a "difficult decision" to leave the Colchester district but added it was made in "the best interest of me and my family."

"The Colchester community has been wonderful," Ambruso said. "I can't tell you how much I appreciated all the support of the community. I'm truly going to miss the students; they're outstanding and I've made strong relationships that will continue on throughout my life."

Ambruso added he is confident an "extremely smooth transition" will take place at the start of the school year.

"Both assistant principals, Charlie Hewes and Linda Iacobellis, are veterans and well aware of the way things run," Ambruso said. "We have a solid leadership team. Bacon Academy is in a great place."

Both Ambruso and Mathieu commented on exciting updates that have occurred at the high school over the summer – the most significant of which, they said, is a complete update to the school's technology infrastructure. The technology upgrades were made possible by \$540,000 in state grant money awarded to the district in the spring.

"We've made huge strides with technology through the grant. Our wireless Internet is 100 percent up to date and we have four new Thin Client labs," Ambruso shared. "We are in the best shape Bacon has ever been [in] with technology."

In addition to a new face at Bacon, the Colchester Elementary School Cardinals will be welcomed by a new administrative team come Wednesday. Amity Goss, former CES assistant principal, was appointed to the interim principal role following Anne Watson's departure. Linda Rhodes, former speech language pathologist at CES, was then appointed to fill the assistant position. Goss shared the two have a similar vision for CES' future.

"There was a moment this summer when Linda Rhodes and I were planning for the year ahead and our goals and vision were so aligned that it felt like there was nothing we couldn't accomplish," Goss said. "We are definitely starting the year with the feeling that great things are about to happen at CES."

Perhaps one of the most talked-about installations at CES is all-day kindergarten for all. The kindergarten program was expanded last year and Mathieu said it's already produced "unbelievable" results.

"Two former second-grade teachers told me in June that the work they're seeing by the kindergartners is typically early second grade work," Mathieu said. "They are very pleased."

Other successful programs continuing this year is CES' work as a Teachers College Writing Project School. Goss said this was possible from ongoing funding the district has received by the Graustein Memorial Fund's Early Literacy grant. The interim principal added the school is also making strides to reach out to parents. She said one way in doing so is through the CES Twitter page. Through the social media site, Goss said "we hope to give families and the community a cardinal's eye view of CES in action each day."

Twitter users can look for the elementary

school's page by following @Caring Cardinals.

For the district's intermediate grades, continuity will be a goal. Mathieu said JJIS continues to be a Higher Order Thinking (HOT) school. HOT schools place a focus on integrating arts, such as music, art, writing and drama, into the school's curriculum.

Mathieu said he was pleased to see six JJIS teachers attend a HOT School institute this summer. The superintendent also shared that "a number" of teachers from JJIS and William J. Johnston Middle School attended LearnZillion, which is a conference where teachers work on different initiatives. The LearnZillion experience is a part of TeachFest, a mandatory three-day professional development event.

The superintendent was also pleased to share that the fifth, eighth and tenth grade science testing scores have been received and "were up again from last year." He furthered all three schools – JJIS, WJMS and Bacon Academy – beat the state average test scores. This will be further discussed at the next Board of Education meeting, he said.

And while Colchester students only have a few more days to hit the stores and pick up their school supplies, Mathieu confirmed each Colchester school is polished and ready for students to come barreling through the doors.

"I just did my walkthrough this morning [at all four schools] and the buildings look great," Mathieu said. "I spent an hour at each building with the custodial staff and administration. We're ready to go!"

The first day of school in Colchester Public Schools is Wednesday, Aug. 27.

Marlborough Resident Releases Cooking Magazine

by Melissa Roberto

Marlborough resident and home chef Cindy Anschutz specializes in cooking and entertaining, and now with the release of her first magazine, she's aiming to prove that anyone – even full-time working moms and dads – can be a superhero in the kitchen.

Named after her growing brand, *Cindy's Table* is a magazine that provides readers not only with hosting and do-it-yourself tips, but also shares how to make healthy recipes sans the fuss.

"There's not a ton of ingredients in them," Anschutz said of her recipes, "and they do not require a lot of preparation. I try to make my recipes as simple and easy to follow as possible, but with having tons of flavor."

Anschutz made her debut in the publishing world in September 2012, when her self-published Italian cookbook *Cindy's Table: Bring Italy to Your Home* hit Amazon.com. She also has a growing blog on her website cindystable.com and at times ventures outside of the confines of her kitchen to do cooking segments on local news programs.

Although Anschutz's latest publication shows she's got much more to dish. *Cindy's Table* will come out six times a year. Its first issue, which covered the July and August months, was offered for free.

"I've gotten great responses from it," Anschutz said happily.

The inaugural summer issue was "all about grilling," and included recipes of kabobs, stuffed burgers and grilled seafood.

"On hot summer days when you don't want to have your oven or stove on you can make everything outside," Anschutz said.

The next issue to come out will cover the months of November and December, which Anschutz explained would have a holiday theme.

"It's going to be easy holiday entertaining tips," the branded chef said. "We don't need all that bad stuff. We can serve good stuff and stay fit for the holidays."

The idea of creating a magazine was actually pitched by one of Anschutz's interns, she said. Anschutz began hiring interns in 2013 who focus on various departments of her brand, such as marketing, social media and communications.

"My interns are the ones who said 'We should do a *Cindy's Table* magazine' as we were talking about branding," Anschutz explained.

A partnership with Staples made the first 1,000 free copies possible. Anschutz said her interns have helped her brand significantly.

"They come in full of energy," she shared. "They're up with the most current apps and technology. They have really helped brand *Cindy's Table* and come up with ideas that are doable."

The July/August issue was available in Shop Rite of East Hartford, D&D Market and DiFiore Pasta Shop of Hartford, and Down to Earth Coffee Shop and Whole Foods of Glastonbury, as will be the issues to follow.

Anschutz said the next phase of the magazine is to attain advertisers. Her goal is to eventually sell copies of the magazine for under \$2.

"What I want it to be is not your typical magazine full of advertisers," Anschutz said, adding all content, including advertisements, would be focused specifically on food. "I want to focus on healthy recipes and eating clean."

Part of "eating clean," Anschutz explained, is placing an emphasis on home-grown and local products.

"We have so many great products here in Connecticut. I want them to shine and show people how we can buy local," Anschutz said, highlighting that "anything from herbs to ricotta cheese and homemade salsa" can be found around the state.

Pages of *Cindy's Table* are also going to target those who may doubt their abilities in the kitchen. Anschutz, who pursued her *Cindy's Table* endeavor after leaving a job in the corporate world, said her magazine will help readers learn how to strategize in the kitchen.

"I'd like to show people how you can make great recipes especially in advance," she said. "With a little bit of preparation and thoughtfulness you can actually have nice meals all week long."

Anschutz is also working on a new book anticipated to come out next spring published through Tuttle Publishing. The book will focus on paleo Italian recipes, she said.

The local chef will also appear for cooking segments on *Better Connecticut* on WFSB-TV Channel 3 Sept. 12 and on NBC Connecticut Sept. 20. Overall, the seasoned chef said her journey has "been very exciting."

"The best part of what I'm doing is I can share healthy recipes and entertaining tips you can cook in advance," Anschutz said. "You don't have to be stressed cooking your meals."

To learn more about the *Cindy's Table* brand, readers are encouraged to visit Anschutz's website and blog at cindystable.com, follow her on Twitter @CindysTable or email her at cindy@cindystable.com.



Marlborough resident and cook Cindy Anschutz has released her first magazine series, *Cindy's Table*. The magazine will be released six times a year and each issue will sport a different theme.

Anschutz said she's thankful for the support she's received thus far in her cooking career. She also hinted at what could happen after putting down the latest copy of *Cindy's Table*: "When your guests show up, you can look like a superhero."

Marlborough Resident to Launch Publishing Company

by Melissa Roberto

Marlborough resident Kathleen Sands has been surrounded by books a majority of her life. She has three college degrees, works part-time as a librarian, and on Sunday, will launch her own publishing company.

Yellow Girl Press LLC is an undertaking Sands has taken on herself. The Marlborough resident describes the business as a "purveyor of handcrafted novels" – and the tagline is no joke.

"Everything is made by hand," Sands said of the books she's published thus far, with the exception of one digital magazine.

The entrepreneur said she believes this makes Yellow Girl Press stand out from larger publishing agencies. "There aren't a lot of agencies making their books," she said. "Hopefully customers feel like it was sort of made for them."

Sands holds a bachelor's degree in history from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and a joint master's degree in geography and library science from the University of Maryland at College Park. She grew up on Long Island in New York, but has lived in Marlborough since 2008.

Sands moved to the area upon taking a job as a librarian at East Hampton Public Library. She held that position for five years before accepting a librarian position at Richmond Memorial Library in Marlborough.

Sands' inspiration to start her own publishing company came from something near to her heart, the willingness to publish a children's book her late father, Thomas Vazoulas, wrote.

"It was always something I wanted to see published and since I eventually got a background in a book-related field I kind of learned the ins and outs of how that works," Sands said.

And so, Sands decided "the best way to get it published was to actually start from the ground up and create the publishing company that would actually be putting it out for purchase."

The first book published by Yellow Girl Press is her father's, titled *Rocky the Rock...and Robbie Too*. The company also has published other works, all written by Sands, including

handmade paperbacks, eBooks and a book that follows a "button board book" format.

"You can remove all the pieces from the storyboard and rearrange them however you'd like to read a new story every time you read it," Sands said of the button board book. "I hope the kids really enjoy that one."

The line of items Yellow Girl Press has published can attract a variety of readers in terms of age and content, Sands said. Other books include *Ending Red*, the company's first teen series, and *The Greener Cross: 100 Ways to Seek God in Nature*, tailored to adult readers. She will also release a magazine, titled *Dewey Dabbler Magazine*, which focuses on the Dewey Decimal System.

And if writing and publishing books isn't enough, Sands also has created programs that are directly related to the publications.

"There's a program that pretty much goes with every product," the publisher explained. "Each is based in some capacity on something that happened in the book or a theme in the book."

For example, *Robbie the Rock...and Robbie Too* is paired with a rock-painting program for kids.

Additionally, Yellow Girl Press will offer a scholarship for RHAM High School students. Sands said students are asked to write a short story and submit it to the company via email. The essays will be judged and three winners will be chosen. In turn, the students will have their work published in an anthology, and they'll receive a small cash prize. Information about the scholarship will be distributed at Marlborough Day.

Though Yellow Girl Press' groundbreaking day is on Sunday, Sands has her sights set on a bright future for the company.

"I'd love to be able to publish lots of local authors," she said enthusiastically. "I think we'll definitely keep across the board in terms of ages, and we'll definitely be offering all different kinds of media, not just your typical print books."

Sands' future plans for the company include turning some of the already-published books into eBooks that can be read on handheld elec-



Resident Kathleen Sands is launching her own publishing company this Sunday at Marlborough Day. The company, Yellow Girl Press LLC, publishes handmade books.

tronic readers such as a Nook or Kindle. She also hopes to expand the company pending on its success, and bring more employees on board.

Although for now, Sands' adventure begins with Marlborough Day, where she's hoping to interact with book lovers and writers alike.

"I'm definitely excited to get started," the writer said. "Hopefully it takes off on the right foot and everything goes smoothly."

To learn more about Yellow Girl Press, or to meet Sands in person, head down to

Marlborough Day and look out for her booth. Also starting Aug. 24, Sands' products will be available for purchase on Amazon.com.

Readers can also check out its website at yellowgirlpress.wordpress.com and visit its Facebook page by typing "Yellow Girl Press LLC" in the search engine. To contact Sands, readers can call 860-819-0260 or email yellowgirlpress@gmail.com.

Marlborough Day Returns Sunday

by Melissa Roberto

It's getting dark a little earlier, and the air may be getting a little cooler, but in Marlborough, summer celebrations aren't over yet. The Marlborough Business Association (MBA) will bring back its annual Marlborough Day this Sunday, Aug. 24, at Blish Park.

From 11 a.m.-5 p.m., the park will be filled with booths representing businesses or civic organizations that are members of the MBA. Each booth offers an activity or service of some sort, all with the same purpose, MBA Executive Jessica Olander pointed out: "to give back to the community."

The community-wide event is free to the public. It has been held for a total of 26 years and was originally run by the town before it took a brief hiatus in the 2000s. In 2007, the MBA took over the planning of the event. And ever since, it has continued to expand.

"We're keeping it growing and getting more community involvement," the association executive explained this week. "The town of Marlborough has increased their participation quite a bit."

This year, 34 vendors have agreed to participate, which is up from last year's 29.

"There are literally activities at every booth," Olander said.

Regular attendees will be pleased to see popular activities making their way back to the park this weekend. Youngsters in attendance will likely hop aboard the Roaming Railroad, a trackless train that offers rides to kids around the park. There will also be face painting, plus a number of giveaways and a scavenger hunt

sponsored by the Richmond Memorial Library.

A Closest to the Pin contest will be held for golfers, as was the case last year, and the popular Prize Walk, which is similar to the game of musical chairs, that allows attendees an opportunity to walk away with some prizes. Prizes include gift certificates to local businesses, such as free lobster rolls from Jessica's Garden and flower arrangements from It's So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe, among others.

Familiar faces from the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department will also be on site near Lake Terramuggus providing hose demonstrations to attendees.

"They're a great resource to the town and they are very supportive of the event," Olander said of local firefighters.

Of course, Marlborough Day wouldn't be as lively without bouts of entertainment. Local bands Catch the Falling, The Modern Riffs, The Music of Jim Ferguson and Anam Cara will supply tunes throughout the day. Hot Stepz Dance Academy of Marlborough will also perform, and Master of Ceremony Steve Kistner will also be the voice behind the event "back by popular demand," Olander said.

Marlborough Day 2014 is also welcoming new activities and sponsors. For the first time, Connecticut State Police troopers will make their way to the park and bring along with them "The Convincer," which is an activity used to demonstrate seat belt safety and to raise seat belt awareness.

Also a first, Lake Terramuggus is anticipated to be filled with kayakers and paddle boarders as offered through L.L. Bean Discovery Tours.



Attendees at last year's Marlborough Day enjoyed activities by the lake, and at this year's event, held Sunday, Aug. 24, there will be even more to choose from. The event will be held from 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.

L.L.Bean instructors will be hosting demonstrations on the water.

"I'm so excited," Olander said when naming this year's returning organizations and newcomers. "It's going to be a great day."

And perhaps the only items Marlborough Day goers will have to reach into their pockets for are the savory treats. Grilled food and summertime treats will be offered, as well new vendors this year, Marlborough Pizza and The Ur-

ban Gourmet, a food truck offering its signature fish tacos.

Olander said a lot has gone into the planning of this year's Marlborough Day. The Marlborough Day Committee, chaired by It's So Ranunculus owner Craig Robinson, begins the very next day following the annual event. Robinson described what the event is all about: "a family festival of food, fun and frivolity for Marlborough."

Hebron Selectmen Pleased with Realized Energy Savings

by Geeta Schrayter

At last week's Board of Selectmen meeting, a presentation was provided showing the results of the first year of an energy performance contract between the town and Siemens Industry Inc.

The 20-year contract, which the town entered into in 2012, allowed the town to replace old, outdated equipment from an escrow account; the lender will be paid over time through the energy savings the town receives from the changes – savings guaranteed by Siemens.

As part of the project, improvement measures were made to a number of town buildings including town hall, the Horton House, Russell Mercier Senior Center, the public works garage, facilities at Burnt Hill Park, the town's elementary schools, and fire stations 1, 2 and 3.

Improvement measures included lighting retrofitting, changes to the exterior lighting, the installation of new boilers, and energy management systems; through these changes, Siemens guaranteed the town \$80,641 in savings during the first year, which ran from April 1, 2013, through March 31 of this year.

And with the results compiled, it turns out the town saved \$12,797 more than the guaranteed amount, with \$93,438 in total savings for the debut year.

Along with savings in terms of dollars, the amount of energy conserved was also shared. During the first year, changes made through the contract resulted in a 720,720.2 pound reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) emissions; CO2e is a term used to describe different greenhouse gases in a common unit.

There were also reductions in mono-nitrogen oxides (541.3 pounds) and sulfur dioxide (632 pounds) emissions.

These reductions were depicted during the presentation in terms of the environmental impact, and were listed as being equivalent to preserving 2.3 acres of forest from deforestation, 1.7 railcars of coal not being consumed, or 59.8 cars being removed from the road for a year.

Over the length of the project, the emission reductions are projected to reach 14,414,405.2 pounds of CO2e, which is equivalent to 46.1 acres of forest preserved from deforestation, 34.5 railcars of coal not being used, or 1,197.9 cars taken off the road for a year.

Speaking on the results, Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan said the company had done a "good job," and selectman Jeff Watt added the savings were "very good."

Also at the Aug. 14 meeting, the board approved a number of bid contracts.

First, the board unanimously approved a bid for a new compactor at the transfer station. Public Works Director Kevin Kelly said he was recommending the second lowest bidder.

"After reviewing the bid packages I'm recommending On the Spot [Welding]" Kelly stated, explaining they were a local contractor, while the lowest bidder is based in Canada.

"I couldn't even get reference responses" for the lowest bidder, Reaction Distributing, he said, while he had visited On the Spot Welding three times and the references "were very good."

Speaking to the decision, Watt said "I agree with your logic."

Selectman Dan Larson added, "I think his reasoning is very, very sound."

The board voted unanimously 4-0 (selectman Mark Stuart was absent from the meeting) to award the bid in an amount not to exceed

\$28,695 for the transfer station compactor from On the Spot Welding of Thomaston.

In addition, the board also approved the bid for a new salt shed for the Public Works Department to LaRoche Builders of Stafford Springs.

Kelly explained he checked LaRoche's references "and they came in good."

He added LaRoche Builders would actually be installing the hoop structure the other bidder, Shelter Logic of Watertown, had presented – but came in with a lower bid at \$31,373.92 compared to \$33,694.

Money was included in the Capital Improvement Plan account for the salt shed in the amount of \$50,000, and Kelly explained the remaining money "goes towards the blocks for the foundation for any construction we're going to do."

Finally, the board approved a bid for paving fabric for the Public Works Department which Kelly said was intended to help prolong the life of the asphalt on town roads.

The bid was awarded to New England Asphalt Services LLC out of Northford at a cost of \$2.72 per square yard.

Kelly explained the paving fabric, which is put on the road prior to paving is "a little bit more expensive, but we're hoping it's going to extend our pavement life."

According to the website newenglandasphalt.com, the fabric forms a membrane "that prevents the penetration of surface water through the pavement and also provides a stress relieving layer which inhibits reflective crack growth."

Mulligan said regarding the purchase, "we're supposed to do 10 miles of road [repairs] per

year. We keep cutting that and doing less and less."

As a result, "any way we can prolong the life a little bit helps tremendously," she said.

The bid was approved unanimously.

Also at the meeting, the board scheduled a town meeting for next month to vote on the approval of a joint purchase with Glastonbury through the Inter-town Capital Equipment Purchase Incentive Program for a Bobcat loader with a trailer and attachments and a turf sprayer.

The selectmen adopted a resolution endorsing the purchase at their Oct. 17 meeting, and both towns were later notified they were awarded the grant; the town meeting is required under grant guidelines.

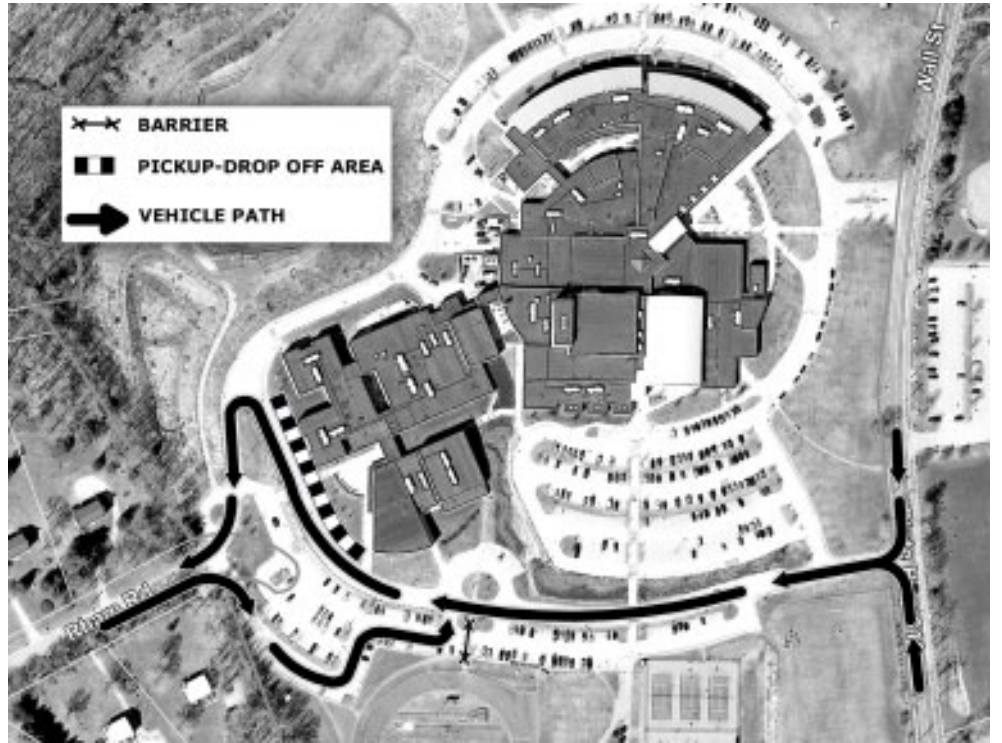
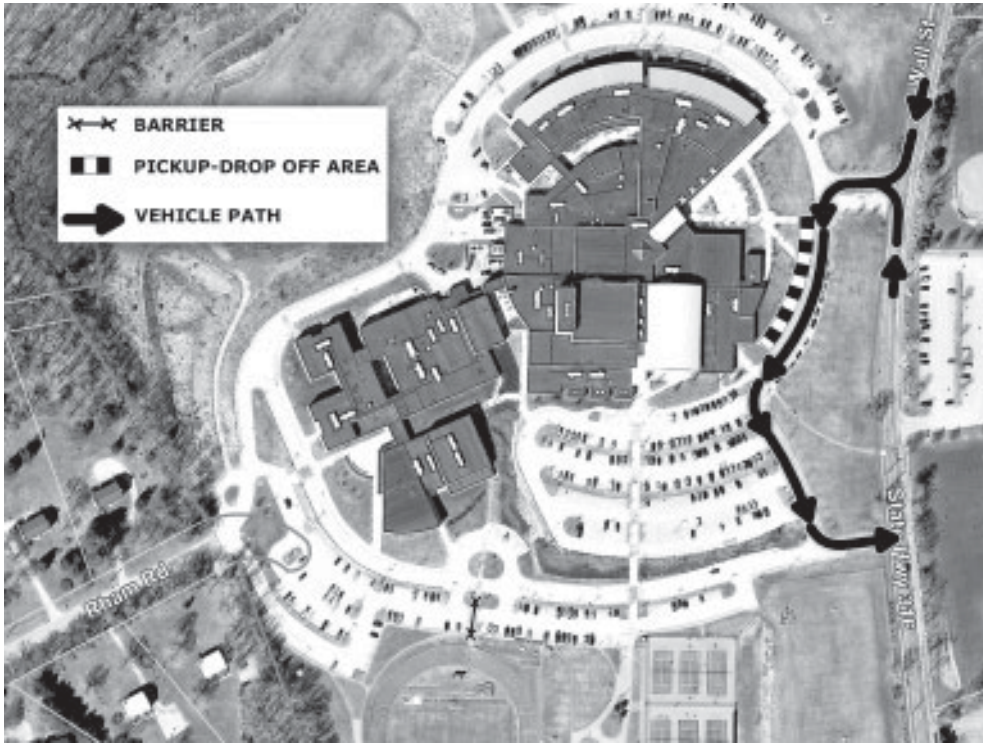
Parks and Recreation Director Rich Calarco explained Hebron would be responsible for 35 percent of the cost, Glastonbury would cover another 35 percent, and the state would take the other 30 percent.

Use of the equipment would then be split between the two towns and Calarco said this arrangement would work because "this is equipment we don't really need to use all the time."

Selectman Brian O'Connell said "as a note, citizens come to us and say 'what are [you] doing to keep costs down?' and here's an example of two department heads looking to the future to do proactive planning."

The special meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 11, at 7:15 p.m. at the Douglas Library; a minimum of 25 people need to attend in order for a vote to be held.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled to follow the town meeting.



When school gets under way next week for RHAM students, new traffic patterns will be in place at both the high school (left) and middle school for buses, parents (shown here), students and staff. The main goal of these short-term changes, which are the result of a recently conducted traffic study, is to separate bus traffic from vehicle traffic.

New Traffic Patterns at RHAM to Start School Year

by Geeta Schrayter

When students return to RHAM Middle and High School next Wednesday, they'll see some traffic changes in place – whether they arrive by bus, with parents, or in their own vehicle.

The changes are the result of a traffic study conducted by BETA Group Inc. in response to the March 14 accident that claimed the life of middle school teacher Dawn Mallory. Mallory was walking in the school parking lot when she was hit by a car. As a result of the accident, she suffered a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain; she passed away March 28.

The study concluded a number of things. Mainly, it determined the RHAM parking lot is a complex site where segregating the buses from car traffic isn't easily obtained – but should be.

And it's with that in mind that some short-term changes have been implemented for the start of the school year.

In a statement from the administration, these changes were explained:

First, bus traffic will enter RHAM from Route 85 and RHAM Road and travel left around the schools to the high school drop-off area. After dropping off or picking up students from both schools, the buses will leave through the main high school exit onto Wall Street; middle school students will be expected to walk through the high school atrium and the middle school cafeteria into the middle school.

Parents who choose to drop off their high school students – or parents with students in both schools – must enter through the main high school entrance on Wall Street. They will drop their children at the area in front of the weight room and leave through the high school exit adjacent to the Wall Street practice fields.

Meanwhile, parents dropping off their middle school students must enter from the Wall Street entrance adjacent to the practice fields.

Using the access road adjacent to the tennis courts, they'll then drop their children in front of the main entrance to the middle school, take a left at the stop sign and exit via RHAM Road.

Staff entrances depend upon parking: high school staff who park in the curved area adjacent to the school should enter through the main high school entrance on Wall Street; high school staff parking in the auditorium/gym parking lot should use the Wall Street entrance adjacent to the Wall Street fields. High school staff can also enter from Route 85 prior to 6:30 a.m.

Middle school staff should enter from Route 85 or the Wall Street entrance adjacent to the Wall Street fields; student drivers should also enter from the same Wall Street entrance.

Parents will not be allowed to enter any of the parking areas if they're dropping off students.

This week, high school Principal Scott Leslie said traffic would "continue to be an issue."

He mentioned these changes were only for the short-term and they "work with what we have" but figuring out the long-term, "that's a challenge."

School administrators and board members, as well as the traffic engineer, will continue to study the parking situation, in an effort to determine what types of long-term changes should be implemented.

Along with the traffic patterns, other changes in the upcoming year include piloting digital portfolios with seventh- and eighth-graders as well as freshmen and sophomores.

In addition, Leslie said the schools would be moving toward an increased use of Google for Education and Google Applications.

"I think we're going to see more work submitted electronically," he added.

Middle School Principal Mike Seroussi fur-

thered, "Microsoft Office won't go away," and mentioned much of the staff uses it. But, he added, "Google makes it easier to collaborate," since people can go from computer to computer and access their documents; they're all in the cloud.

Seroussi added there will also be some changes in art this year, as it moves to a standards-based grading program. He furthered the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program piloted last year was also expanding.

Continuing at the high school during the upcoming year are scheduled late openings as part of the 10-year accreditation process. In addition, the full implementation of the Smarter Balanced Assessments will take place, and implementation of the Common Core State Standards will continue, which includes changes in how science is taught.

The Common Core, Leslie explained, is "all about thinking skills."

"We're not giving them rote requirements to solve [a problem] 'this' way," he said. "Teachers will need to remember some students are analytical, some are not."

Leslie added some of the criticisms around Common Core are based around the assumption that Common Core is a curriculum.

"It's really not," he stated. "We're not changing what we teach but how – like reading and interpreting texts. It's the same texts, but the students have more responsibility" to interpret the text.

Seroussi added that, quantity-wise, less information may be taught, but what *is* taught will be more in-depth.

"Less breadth, more depth," he stated.

But before anything can be taught, the students have to return, and that's something both

principals said they were looking forward to.

"We're ready to be open," said Seroussi. "I'm looking forward to getting kids back in the building."

Leslie added, "One of the cool things at the high school is the change from freshman to senior year. It's beyond significant. It's always a blast working with the seniors – adults on the doorstep to college, work, the military – whatever it may be, and the freshmen, [who are] so young and naïve."

That change, he said, "I always look forward to seeing."

Also ready for the return of students was middle school special education teacher Christine Hartwig, who was prepping her classroom Tuesday.

"It's exciting to start a new year," she said, "with new kids and a fresh start."

Likewise, Hebron resident Jenna Mercer, who was at the middle school getting the lay of the land Tuesday and will start seventh grade next week, said she wasn't nervous but excited to enter middle school.

"It's good to be on teams," she stated regarding what she already liked, "and I like the lockers, too."

While not newcomers, Hebron residents Steffany Hamilton and Rachel Holley were at the school seeking out a favored teacher Tuesday, and said they were excited to start their sophomore year.

"I'm excited about being back with friends and starting a new year," said Hamilton.

Holley meanwhile, said she was excited about "meeting new people and teachers and playing sports."

And all that will come to fruition in just a few short days, as summer comes to a close and school begins next Wednesday, Aug. 27.

Important Issues Shake Up Summer Selectmen Meeting in Portland

by John Tyczkowski

While the summer months are known for their traditionally slower pace, the Board of Selectmen had plenty to discuss at this week's meeting.

First on the agenda was a discussion of what First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield referred to as a question of accountability with the town's Board of Education and its director of finance.

Bransfield said that two years ago, the Board of Education decided to create a new position, business manager, out of the then-current position of business assistant. The current business assistant was promoted to the business manager position, and received a \$40,000 raise over two years, for a total salary of \$100,000.

Bransfield said she felt dismayed that only the first \$20,000 of that raise had been disclosed to the selectmen at a previous meeting during budget season. She said that neither the schools' director of finance nor the Board of Education had disclosed the full information at that time.

"We need to talk directly with the Board of Education to see what's going on," Bransfield said. "Frankly, as the chief administrator and overseer of the town, I have concerns."

Selectman Ryan Curley said he agreed with the first selectwoman.

"We really nicked and dined raises during the past budget session," Curley said. "To have something come up like this that we have no control over is really frustrating."

Another concern raised by the selectmen was

acquiring an exact description of the business manager's duties, and comparing those to the duties of the business assistant, in order to see if there was a relationship between the pay increase and the manager's responsibilities.

* * *

Selectmen also discussed holding an information session that would include the results of a visibility study conducted about the proposed cell phone tower at 9 Rose Hill Rd.

According to a document provided at the meeting, the session would also include a presentation by representatives from New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) on the technical details of the cell phone tower project.

After discussion, selectmen agreed to the need for a public hearing after the first selectwoman informed them that the issue of the proposed cell tower going up would affect 40 homes.

The Board of Selectmen set a time for such a public hearing, including the public works director and the town engineer, on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. in the Mary Flood Room of Portland Public Library. The public hearing would take place before the regularly-scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting; however, if the public hearing runs long, it would simply take the place of the selectmen meeting that night.

* * *

Water and sewers were also pressing issues

at the meeting.

Dick Cote, chairman of the Water and Sewer Commission, brought to the attention of the board that water and sewer fees and rates were not keeping pace with town expenditures in those areas.

"We need to bring rates in line with our expenses, as state and federal regulations superceded our ability to keep water costs low," Cote said. "You are the ones who can resolve this, we can't."

The Water and Sewer Commission is an advisory body with no power to create legislation.

Cote said that part of the current problem had its roots back in the 1970s, when Portland started using primarily groundwater for its needs.

"This goes back to the Cold War and concern over the Soviet Union contaminating surface water supplies," Cote said. "After the Soviet Union went away, [federal authorities] said surface water might not be so bad."

The fact that Portland's traditionally groundwater-based water infrastructure is no longer sufficient for the town's needs, even with the later addition of water from a surface reservoir and treatment plant, helped contribute to the fees and rates problem, Cote said.

Selectmen agreed to take further action on this issue at the October 15 meeting, which included finding out more details about the prob-

lem and possible solutions, per Selectman Mark Finkelstein's suggestion, and looking into hiring an outside consultant for the matter, per Curley's suggestion.

* * *

The board also unanimously voted to, for the fifth year in a row, waive Portland's ability to request funds for town improvements under the state's Urban Act, with Bransfield explaining most Urban Act funds go to Connecticut's cities.

The selectmen opted instead to secure funds for town improvements via the state's Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP). Bransfield said the annual limit of STEAP grants is \$500,000.

Bransfield said Portland has been receiving STEAP grants for the past four years for a variety of purposes, including improvements to Route 17, Brownstone Avenue and to Riverfront Park.

Towns are only able to seek STEAP grants for five years in total, and Bransfield said they were getting in their application early this year to make sure the town didn't miss its final eligible year.

Spurred by comments from Selectman Fred Knous, the board agreed that a prioritized list needed to be created of Portland projects that could use STEAP funds, which could include further improvements on Route 17 and to the Portland section of the Air Line Trail.

Hebron Day is Tomorrow

by Geeta Schrayter

This weekend, Hebron residents will have the opportunity to come together for an afternoon of fun with the arrival of the inaugural Hebron Day.

The event is scheduled to take place tomorrow, Aug. 23, from noon-8 p.m., at Burnt Hill Park, and came to be after some discussion between the Board of Selectmen.

Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan explained this week the possibility for a Hebron Day was originally brought up by a number of citizens who mentioned they were interested in having a local event.

"The Hebron Harvest Fair started that way," she explained, but added it's since "gotten huge, which is great for the community and the state."

However, over the past few years, "a number of citizens have talked about having an event just for the community."

In response, the possibility was brought up during a selectmen's meeting, at which point the idea of putting together a committee to examine the idea was discussed.

"This year, I had asked that we take a look at putting together a committee for feedback," she said.

But Mulligan furthered Town Manager Andrew Tierney moved the idea onto the Parks and Recreation Department "and they took off with it, which is great."

Josselyn Salafia, program coordinator with Parks and Recreation, added onto that.

"We were approached by the town wanting to get together to do this event, so we kind of headed it and we've been working on it since February," she stated.

And the event's purpose, she continued, is

to create "a fun day for local residents to come out, be active in the community," and promote area businesses.

"We have a lot of vendors that are involved from town as well as some local arts and crafts vendors," Salafia explained.

Scheduled throughout the day are a number of events, including a performance by the Russell Mercier Senior Center's Sunshine Singers, African drumming, and open mic.

There will also be an evening performance by Gail Wade and Turning Point, a band made up of acoustic musicians from Connecticut, who bring "an eclectic blend of Americana, Bluegrass and blues" music according to the website gailwademusic.com.

In addition, the event will consist of wagon rides, face painting, kickball games, Frisbee, a one-mile fun run through the park, balloon tosses, tug-of-war, a dunk tank, an inflatable obstacle course, arts and craft exhibits, food and more.

"So there's quite a bit of stuff going on," said Salafia. She added, "I hope it's a nice day and we get a lot of people."

Mulligan furthered, "I'm thrilled Parks and Rec. was able to put an event together this year."

She added, "It's great for everybody to have a hometown event, to get everybody together and celebrate the town."

Tierney felt similarly.

"I think Hebron Day is going to be a great end of summer function," he stated. "Hopefully it is the first of many to come. I'm looking forward to an afternoon of fun activities."

The fun will begin at noon at Burnt Hill Park, 148 East St.

East Hampton Police News

8/6: Victor D. Brown, 54, of 170 Earle St., Hartford, was arrested for first-degree forgery and criminal attempt to commit fifth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

8/8: John F. Pollard, 55, of 68 Childs Rd., was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

8/8: Nina Claire Schulz, 51, of 75 Old Marlborough Rd., was arrested pursuant to an active arrest warrant, and charged with violation of a protective order, police said.

8/10: Todd Bower, 25, of 230 Old West High St., turned himself in pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest, and was charged with violation of probation, police said.

8/10: Mary M. Prisco, 48, of 21 Heritage Dr., Marlborough, was arrested for failure to drive right and DUI, police said.

Marlborough Police News

8/17: State Police said Jameel Norwood, 34, of 1085 South Main St., Waterbury, was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple-lane highway and failure to reduce speed.

Hebron Police News

8/11: State Police said a homeowner on Fox Ridge Road reported several lawn and garden items were taken from an attached garage during the time period of July 26-Aug. 9. Anyone with information pertaining to this incident is asked to call Trooper Carly Topulos at 860-465-5400 ext. 4094.

8/12: State Police said Caresse Wood, 22, of 9 Jones St., was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief and breach of peace.

Andover Police News

8/16: State Police said Kevin Cyranowicz, 27, of 309 Boston Hill Rd., turned himself into Troop K for the charges of third-degree criminal trespass and sixth-degree larceny.

Colchester Police News

8/12: State Police said Gregory Bader, 20, of 52 Balaban Rd., Apt. 310, turned himself in to Troop K on a PRAWN warrant for the charge of violation of probation.

8/13: State Police said Nicole Elizabeth Piazza, 18, of 120 High Meadow Ln., Coventry, was traveling on Route 2 westbound in the left lane approximately 500 feet from exit 20 in Colchester when her vehicle hydroplaned on the wet roadway, spun around and struck the embankment on the left shoulder. Police said Piazza's vehicle then rolled over two times and came to a rest on all four wheels. Piazza was transported to Middlesex Hospital by the Colchester Hayward Fire Department for an evaluation.

8/14: Colchester Police arrested Chelsea Lorraine Klein, 23, of 190 Union St., Deep River, on an outstanding arrest warrant for the charge of fifth-degree larceny, 22 counts of issuing a bad check, fourth-degree larceny, and 10 counts of fraud by use of an ATM.

8/14: Colchester Police are investigating a theft that occurred on Scott Hill Road. Police said a resident of Scott Hill Road reported that an unknown person or persons entered her unlocked vehicle and stole her wallet containing

her driver's license, cash and various credit cards and gift cards. Police said this occurred sometime between Aug. 13 and Aug. 14.

8/14: State Police said a 17-year-old juvenile was stopped for motor vehicle violations and was arrested and charged with reckless driving, DUI, and possession of alcohol by a minor.

8/15: State Police said Peter Kevorkian Jr., 29, of 44 Brainard Rd., was arrested and charged with violation of probation, possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia.

8/16: Colchester Police said Sean Carey, 21, of 43 Broadway, Unit 1, was arrested and charged with violation of probation.

8/16: State Police said Stephen J. Barnard, 27, of 35 Bianca Rd., Bristol, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple lane highway.

8/17: Colchester Police are currently investigating a domestic dispute that occurred on McDonald Road. Police said a resident of McDonald Road reported that he got into a verbal argument, which turned physical with a suspect. The victim reported a minor laceration to his back area.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Richard D. Ledoux

Richard D. Ledoux passed away Thursday, Aug. 14, at his home in East Hampton. Rich was the husband of Patricia (Ronewicz) Ledoux. He was born March 13, 1952, in Woonsocket, R.I., the son of the late Camille and Bernadette (Belliveau) Ledoux.

He was raised in Wallingford and was a graduate of Wilcox Tech. He worked for Tri Town Precision Plastics in Deep River for many years, where he made countless long-lasting friends.

He is survived by his children, Richard Ledoux, Adam Ledoux and girlfriend Tracey Lantz, as well as Michelle McClintick and husband Jason McClintick and their daughter Kya, daughter Lisa Reeve and best friend/son-in-law John Reeve and their sons, Ethan, Jack, and Aidan, as well as grandson Rayne Brophy.

Rich is also survived by his sister Jeannine Morrisette and husband Maurice of Rhode Island, and brothers Roland and wife Becky of Texas, and Ronald and wife Cindy of Virginia, and niece and nephews.

He is predeceased by his brother Roger Ledoux of Meriden.

Richard was a man of many hobbies – from golf, gardening and grilling, to learning guitar. Richard was a good husband, father, and loyal friend. His presence will be greatly missed by so many.

A memorial service was held at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Thursday, Aug. 21. The family requests no flowers.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Guerin Victor Muzzulin III

Guerin Victor Muzzulin III, “Vic”, “Gary,” of Colchester, beloved husband for 52 years of Barbara (Shepard) Muzzulin, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on August 20, 2014 after a long illness. Born in Hartford May 22, 1940, he spent his youth in Manchester, followed by Wethersfield in 1952.

A member of the Boy Scouts of America, he attended the National Jamboree-Valley Forge, Pa., and 9th World Scout Jamboree in England in 1957. He was a graduate of Wethersfield High School in 1959. He served his country in the US Navy (EM2) on the USS Dennis J. Buckley (DD-850) from 1959-62. Returning to Connecticut, the family settled in Lebanon, moving to Colchester 22 years ago.

He was a master electrician by trade, owned his own business, and referred to himself as “your friendly neighborhood electrician.” He belonged to the Buckskin Shirts Association, the American Legion Post 54 and the North East 4-Wheel Drive Association. He was civil preparedness director for many years in Lebanon. He was member of the Amateur Radio Relay League with callsign, WA1USD. He was a member of the National Association of Destroyer Veterans, known as the “Tin Can Sailors” – a group working to save U.S. Navy Ships. He spent many weekends over the years working on the USS Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. (DD-850), a museum ship at Battleship Cove in Fall River, Mass.

In addition to his loving wife, Barbara, he leaves his daughter, Barbara Sousa, her husband, Leonard and their daughter, Julia, all of Colchester; his son, Guerin “Jerry” Victor Muzzulin of Lebanon. Additionally, he leaves behind his siblings John “Jack” Muzzulin of Norfolk, Edward and Joanne Muzzulin of Hertford, N.C., Patricia M. Ramondetta of Enfield, Pamela M. and Alfred Baldini of Suffield and Jane M. Holleran of Rocky Hill; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

The family will receive guests from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 25, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial with full military honors will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Battleship Cove, P.O. Box 111, Fall River, MA 02722 or to American Legion Post 54, P.O. Box 54, Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Nancy Warren

Nancy (Hummel) Warren, 70, of Colchester Commons, beloved wife of James, passed away Wednesday morning, Aug. 20, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born July 2, 1944, in Hartford, to the late Russell and Elizabeth (Barrison) Hummel.

In 1965, she and James were married in Hebron, sharing nearly 50 years of marriage.

Over the years, Nancy worked as an accountant for Heublein, Shawmut Bank and Bank of America. She loved arts and crafts, and studied both cake decorating and flower arranging to hone her skills. Nancy loved boating, camping and traveling – her family will always remember the cross country trip they took together. She was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and was proud to have earned her Safe Boater Certificate.

Including her husband, she is survived by a son, Steven Warren of East Windsor; two daughters, Wendy Meacham of Manchester and Jennifer Warren of Groton; seven grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a son, James Jr., and two sisters, Bernice “Bunny” Rice and Patty Doyer.

The family will receive guests from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service will be observed at 7 p.m. Burial will be private.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Kelly Pearl Jewel

Kelly Pearl Jewel, 53, of East Hampton passed away Friday, Aug. 15.

Kelly was predeceased by her mother Ruth Robinson. Kelly is survived by her husband Jonathan Jewel, her daughter Jillian Martell and future son-in-law Wayne Warwick; her grandchildren Caydence and Stone; her brother Jerry and sister Joyce and also numerous nieces and nephews and friends.

Kelly was a selfless, extraordinary soul. She was fiesty and kind. Her sense of humor was infinite, her vibe contagious. All that knew her adored her. Kelly’s love for her family was unparalleled and the pride she felt for her daughter and grandbabies was apparent to everyone she knew.

Kelly was passionate about her music. She had the voice of an angel. She was an accomplished local musician and the friendships she forged while playing in bands would last her a lifetime. Kelly’s vibrance and zest for life will forever be missed by all that were lucky enough to love her.

Calling hours at the Guillot Funeral Home, 75 South B. St., Taftville, were Thursday, Aug. 21. Burial was private.

Hebron

James Keegan Mellor

James “Jim” Keegan Mellor, 55, of Hebron, passed away suddenly Friday, Aug. 15, at the Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank, N.J.

Jim was born in Princeton, N.J., and lived in Boston, Mass., and Laconia, N.H., before moving to Hebron six years ago. He was general manager for the past 15 years at the U-Haul Moving and Storage Company in Columbia.

Jim was a graduate of Princeton High School and Northeastern University, Boston, Mass. He was an enthusiastic reader, enjoyed being with friends and was always ready to lend a helping hand. Jim was an avid sports fan of all the Boston teams. He especially loved the Red Sox and his beloved New England Patriots. But perhaps his favorite thing to do was to spend time with his family on Block Island and in Little Silver.

Jim was predeceased by his mother, Virginia Keegan Mellor. He is survived by his father, George L. Mellor and his partner Jean Kittridge of Block Island, R.I.; his brother, Ted Mellor and his wife Jennifer of Little Silver, N.J.; his three nieces, Mary, Sarah and Catherine and his aunts, uncles and cousins.

A visitation took place Tuesday, Aug. 19, with a funeral home service that day, at the John E. Day Funeral Home, 85 Riverside Ave., Red Bank, N.J.

Memorial donations may be made in Jim’s memory to: Block Island Health Center, Block Island Health Services, Block Island, RI 02807.

Please visit Jim’s memorial website at jhnedayfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Doris Mildred Phillips

Doris Mildred Phillips, 93, of East Hampton and Moodus, widow of the late Francis W. Phillips, died peacefully Sunday, Aug. 17, after a short stay at Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit. Born Jan. 24, 1921, in Newburyport, Mass., she was the daughter of the late George P. and Mildred M. (Kennett) Battles.

Doris was predeceased by her loving Aunt Margaret J. Neville of Hartford and Wethersfield, who raised her from early childhood.

Doris moved to East Hampton after her marriage to Francis and raised their family there. She is survived by her son Frank and his life partner Chad Fitzgerald of Pensacola, Fla., Paul and his life partner Edward Denson of Palm Springs, Calif., Bonnie Peterson and her husband James of East Hampton, John and his wife Gail of East Hampton, Tom and his wife Kathy of Coventry, and Jim and his wife Pat of Moodus with whom she made her home; eight grandchildren, Karen Hubner, Lori (Hubner) Haussermann, Michael Phillips, Steven Phillips, Richard Phillips, Matthew Phillips, Kevin Phillips, Sarah Phillips; and seven great-grandchildren, Madison, Taylor, Coen, Alyssa, Damien, Aiden and Ashley; and several nieces, nephews and in-laws. She also leaves her special friend and companion Arnold Lapiene.

Besides her parents, husband and aunt she was predeceased by her daughter Margaret (Peggy) Hubner and son-in-law Ray Hubner.

Doris worked for G. Fox and Aetna Insurance before she started her family and after the children were grown worked for Travelers Insurance and retired in 1981. She was very active in the local VFW, American Legion and with scouting, she was very civic minded. Doris was a communicant of St. Patrick Church for over 60 years before attending St. Johns Church in Middletown in recent years.

Family, Friends and Faith were fundamental in her life. Doris enjoyed life and lived it to the fullest. Though she didn’t always have that much she shared what she did have. Her last years were challenging as her memory failed her but her sense of humor and love for family and friends never waned.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held today, Aug. 22, at 11 a.m., at St. John Church, 19 St. Johns Square, Middletown. The Very Reverend Father Michael Phillippino will be the celebrant. Burial will follow in the State Veterans Cemetery, Bow Lane, Middletown. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Thursday evening, Aug. 21.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the VFW Post 5095 of East Hampton.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Dorothy Bates

Dorothy Bates (formerly TenEyck), 65, formerly of Portland, passed away Thursday, July 17, at her home, following a courageous battle with cancer. Born Aug. 24, 1948, in Phillipsburg, N.J., Dottie was the daughter of Alfred & Irene Bates. She spent her early childhood on her parents’ farm in New Jersey before moving to Portland.

Moving to Maine in 1976, she eventually settled in Freeport and became a respected child care provider. In addition to running her own business, Dottie managed the Freeport Before and After School Care program and was a member of the Freeport school board. After briefly moving to Middletown, she most recently retired to her parents’ home in Rockport, Maine.

Dottie is survived by her brother, William Bates of Statesville, N.C.; her children, Leah Russell and her husband Keith of Largo, Fla., Kristofer Johnson and his wife Guylene of South Pasadena, Calif.; and three loving grandchildren.

At Dottie’s request, no services were held. Arrangements are in the care of Burpee, Carpenter & Hutchins Funeral Home, 110 Limerock St., Rockland, Maine.

To share a memory or story with Dottie’s family, visit her Book of Memories at bchfh.com.