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Veterans of World War II gather during a cocktail reception held in their honor last weekend in Middle Haddam. Pierre and Margaret Faber organized this event for the fourth year in a row, with around 50 veterans and their families in attendance.

Greatest Generation Honored in Belltown

by John Tyczkowski

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimated in 2012 that around 600 veterans of the Second World War die every day, and that out of over 16 million veterans, only about 1.7 million remain.

But that's not stopping Pierre and Margaret Faber from going out of their way to honor every member of the Greatest Generation that they can find.

"The more you speak with them, the more you realize that they're living treasures; people who participated in one of the most significant events in world history," Pierre Faber said. "To be able to connect with them and have the opportunity to speak with them... it's truly a privilege to have them here."

The Fabers, for the fourth consecutive year, organized a get-together last Saturday evening for World War II veterans and their families. The event was held at the Fabers' Middle Haddam home, overlooking the Connecticut River.

They organized the first get-together in 2011, which unintentionally coincided with Tropical Storm Irene. Subsequent years have enjoyed better weather, as well as more attendees.

"It started out with 10 guys originally, and it picked up and grew from there," Faber said. "They told their friends and other people hear

about it, and now, we're up to close to 50 veterans, plus their families."

An unofficial headcount revealed that there were around 110 people in attendance.

Faber also said that while the get-together started out with vets from the the East Hampton-Middletown area, it's now grown to encompass veterans from Connecticut towns such as Madison, Old Lyme and Stonington. He also said that one veteran even came from as far away as Vernon, Vt.

The night involved a reception with music courtesy of the Hartford Jazz Orchestra, which had four WWII veterans as members, a group photo in front of an American flag, and dinner. As veterans walked in from the parking lot, two officers from East Hampton's VFW Fowler-Dix-Park Post 5095 saluted them.

These were the post's commander, Roger Anderson, and the post's surgeon, Lou Carillo. Both officers are veterans of the Vietnam War.

Carillo stressed the importance of the event the Fabers organized.

"It was the World War II veterans who really kickstarted what America's all about," Carillo said. "The mean age [among veterans] here is anywhere from 85 to 94, they're getting fewer every year, and it's getting rarer to be able to

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Sports Arena Coming to Colchester?

by Melissa Roberto

Currently before the Colchester Board of Selectmen is a tax-incentive application that, if approved, could lead to the construction of a large indoor sports facility in Colchester anticipated to be the first of its kind in the southeastern region of the state.

Thomas and Mary-Ellen Harper, husband and wife of Colchester, are proposing the Colchester Sports Arena, LLC, a 152,000-sq.-ft. indoor sports facility to be constructed at 175 Old Hebron Rd.

Town Planner Adam Turner said this week the proposal is in its beginning stages. It has begun with a Colchester Tax Incentive Program application, which the Harpers initially submitted to the Economic Development Commission, chaired by former selectman Jim Ford.

In a phone interview this week Ford explained developers apply for these applications to receive a "deferral or abatement of taxes" on a new building over a seven-year period, as state statute allows. The incentive program is used to "attract and hopefully allow businesses to

succeed in their initial start ups in Colchester," he continued.

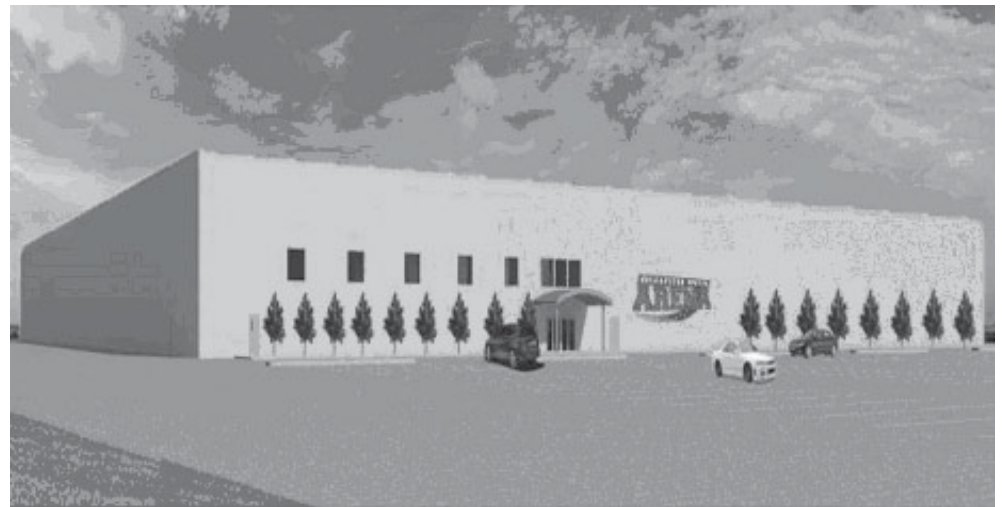
In terms of financing, Harper, who spoke at the Aug. 21 Board of Selectmen meeting, said the initial request was to defer 100 percent of taxes on the proposed building for the maximum seven years. The EDC, however, modified the level of tax abatement to 100 percent in the first four years, 75 percent in years five and six, and 50 percent in year seven.

The application with these changes received unanimous approval from the EDC, which forwarded it to the selectmen. The selectmen also commented positively on the proposal in last week's meeting, but postponed any action on it because two members (Rosemary Coyle and Bill Curran) were absent. The selectmen will likely take action on it at its next regular meeting on Sept. 4. Though it did not require action from the Board of Finance, on Aug. 20 the finance board came to a consensus that it supports the project and the tax incentive application. Should the selectmen approve the abatement application, it would go before voters at a town meeting, Ford said.

Ford stressed the tax abatement would only relieve taxes on the building; taxes on the land would still need to be paid.

"Right now there is a level of tax paid on that property. [The property owners] would continue to do that. The tax incentive is a deferral or abatement of taxes to the new building."

Ford also attended last week's selectmen



A large sports arena is proposed to be constructed on Old Hebron Road in Colchester. Above is a rendering of what the arena would look like from the outside.

meeting, at which he enthusiastically dubbed the proposal "a real winner."

"[It would be] a project that is going to give to Colchester a number of resources we cannot have and will be a benefit to our citizens, and in addition to that, a regional resource that's not available."

And then came out the specifics. Harper, president of Colchester Sports Arena, LLC, aside his wife Mary-Ellen, who would be its CEO, told the selectmen that the sports arena

is a "large" undertaking.

According to the sports arena report, the indoor sports facility would feature four indoor turf fields, a six-lane 200-meter indoor track with spring lanes, a concession stand, a full-service, sports-themed family restaurant, café, sporting goods store, and meeting rooms and office space.

The sports arena is estimated to create 15 full-time positions and 33 part-time positions

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Deadline Still Tuesday

Next Monday is Labor Day, and the *RiverEast* offices will be closed. However, the copy deadline for next week's issue is still Tuesday at noon. All letters to the editor and news releases must be submitted by that time. No exceptions will be made.

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talk with them.” Anderson said he was proud to participate in the event.

“This event falls in line with our theme at the VFW of honoring all veterans,” Anderson said. “This is one example of doing that, and this is our way or recognizing their efforts in the Second World War.”

Don Tedford, a member of the East Hampton VFW who served under General George Patton in the Third Army, and a friend of Pierre Faber’s, said the event has changed very much from that first 2011 gathering.

“The first time he did this, it was quite small and it was indoors,” Tedford said. “It was very formal.”

Tedford also said how Faber was interested in growing the event.

“He doesn’t seem to care how many veterans come and how big it gets,” Tedford said. “He always wants more people to come.”

Don Griffith of Middle Haddam was not only one of the original 10 who attended these get-togethers from the start, but was also the sole Coast Guard veteran in attendance.

Griffith said he spent four years in the Coast Guard and during that time he took part in 10 amphibious invasions. These included two in the European Theatre, at Casablanca and Sicily, and eight in the Pacific Theatre, including a landing at Leyte that helped clear the way for General Douglas MacArthur to return to the Philippines.

“I worked on an APA (attack) transport, which carried 36 invasion barges,” he said. “During invasions I was an engineer on the barges, and when we weren’t invading I was a machinist’s mate on the big ship.”

Griffith ended the war as a petty officer first class.

Madison native Charles Kalal, who served as a Navy Corpsman with the Marines in the Pacific, said this was his and his wife’s second year attending the get-together the Fabers organized.

“We got invited by the Fabers, they sent us a letter,” he said. “It’s awful nice of them to do this every year.”

Sports Arena cont. from Front Page

during the first two years of operation, the application furthers.

Within the arena will be a mezzanine, or a balcony, that would overlook the athletic fields and would house the restaurant. The restaurant is also anticipated to create jobs, as would a “walkup café,” which is proposed to be located on the main level of the arena.

The sports arena is proposed to stand at 175 Old Hebron Rd., adjacent to the Colchester Rec Complex. This location, the document describes, “is a natural fit for the land use that the town of Colchester has already established for this section of town.”

Those in support of the project also commented that its location would be prime, because it would not impact residential roads.

“One of the beauties of this facility is it will be accessed via arterial roads; it’s not going to be impacting neighborhoods or anything like that,” Ford told the selectmen.

Of course, the report shares why a sports arena has been proposed in the first place.

“At the present time, there is a shortage of athletic fields and gym space in Colchester,” it states. “Due to recent budget cuts, the maintenance of the fields and gyms that are available has created less-than-ideal playing conditions. There is simply not enough space available to meet the demands that are placed on these spaces by the school athletic teams and the recreational athletic leagues...”

Thus, those behind the project feel a sports arena would bring a solution to the town while also benefiting the greater community.

“[It is] positioned to be the largest of its kind in New England,” the document states. “While Colchester is the initial focus of the Colchester Sports Arena, LLC, the arena will serve all of southeastern Connecticut.”

It furthers the Colchester Sports Arena, LLC, will “fill the demand for additional and better quality athletic space by the athletes and their families in Colchester, and the surrounding communities.”

While the report explains soccer would be the arena’s primary focus, the facility is also going to provide space for a number of other sports, including track and field, field hockey, lacrosse, baseball and softball, and cheerleading.

Also included in the application is a number of ways the facilities could be used. They include: sports clinics, sports leagues, track and field meets, adult fitness classes, adult flag foot-

He said he was 17 when he dropped out of high school in 1942 shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and joined the Navy.

Kalal would go ashore with the Marines when needed, and said he employed the then-new battlefield medicine innovations of sulfonamide powder and penicillin.

One memory he recounted was when he went ashore with the Marines near the end of the war at the Philippines.

“We made it there before MacArthur got back,” Kalal said. “I remember we said, ‘It’s OK now, Doug, you can come in now!’”

Kalal, whose rank at the end of the war was pharmacist’s mate third class, said he and those in his generation weren’t doing anything exceptional when they enlisted and fought for the U.S. and the Allies.

“It was just something we had to do,” he said. “You knew you just needed to do it.”

George Birner was the attendee who traveled the most distance to come to the event: over 100 miles from Vernon, Vt. This was his third year attending the get-together.

“They’ve sent me a letter every year,” he said. “They’ll never let me forget about going.”

Birner, who is originally from Connecticut, was drafted in 1943, and said his training and deployment were accelerated after the Ardennes Counteroffensive, or Battle of the Bulge, which lasted from December 1944 to January 1945.

He said he was then sent to Europe as part of the 99th Infantry Division, which had played a key role in several post-Normandy offensives, and participated in holding and crossing the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen in March of 1945.

“That bridge was the gateway for America to get to Hitler and end the war,” Birner said. “Actually, I didn’t realize it, but all the time I was walking around in that field near the bridge, German soldiers were there, but they couldn’t shoot me. They weren’t going to give their position away.”

He also said he remembered seeing a jet for the first time during one of the many German raids on the bridge.

“There were P-38s that were shooting at the German plane that had come to bomb the

ball, after school tutoring in the meeting rooms, birthday parties, dodge ball, emergency medical training, fire fighter candidate physical agility testing, meeting room rental, school vacation camps, walking programs, tournaments, special events such as concerts, expos, galas, etc., corporate events, team building events, track membership.

The report points out the biggest challenge of the project is “to secure financing.” The overall project is an \$11 million venture, with \$1 million covering the value of the land and \$10 million to construct and open its doors, the document explains.

However, Harper told the selectmen Thursday he and his wife “appreciate and respect” the decision of the EDC, and anticipates that due to the tax incentive the business could begin making profit in year four after its opening.

The Colchester Sports Arena president added, “If this is successful, I do believe the town will do very well with taxes.”

At Thursday’s meeting, the selectmen present all seemed on board with approving the tax incentive application. Selectman Kurt Frantzen said he “can’t think of a better location” for the sports arena, while Denise Mizla’s only voiced concern was getting enough information out to the public about it, should it go to a town meeting.

Soby told the Harpers, “You’re hearing support for this here.” He added, “We’ll be back in two weeks of full membership [of the board] and we’ll have this up on the agenda ready to go.”

Ford concluded the EDC “want[s] to see good things grow in Colchester” and stressed this would be one of those things.

Turner also commented positively on the proposal. He confirmed the town has had issues with ball fields and “not having enough capacity in terms of active recreation.” He said if developed, “It’s going to bring a lot of participants to Colchester. Those participants would not only use the facility but also would use local businesses for food and other service needs. It has a multiplier effect.”

Turner confirmed the current application relates to the tax abatement approval. If that approval is passed by the selectmen and at town meeting, the project would then move on to other town bodies, such as the Planning and Zoning Commission, for site development.



The 50 WWII vets posed for a picture in front of a giant American flag at last Saturday’s get-together.

bridge. The German plane flew right over to the bridge, dropped its bombs and missed,” Birner said. “I remember I thought it was strange, the plane had no propeller. But Hitler allowed his engineers to do whatever they wanted, and they developed the first jet aeroplane, and I learned later that’s what it was.”

Birner, 88, ended the war with the rank of private first class.

“That was after we proceeded all the way down along the Rhine River,” Birner said.

“That promotion was my reward,” he joked.

At the same time, Birner emphasized the role luck played in his living through the war.

“I was so fortunate to have been where I was and to have done what I did and still be here – and I’m not stopping any time soon,” he said.

Along those lines, Birner said he purchased a motor home that he plans to drive to Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

Midway through the event, Faber gave a short speech honoring the veterans and explaining why he started the get-together.

“A question I get all the time is ‘Why do this event, what’s behind it?’ America is a land of phenomenal opportunity, and I can tell you that as someone who wasn’t born here, who came here, and who is essentially living the American Dream,” he said. “There are a lot of reasons why that is, a lot of people responsible for that, but it was because of the enormous sacrifices and the incredible achievements that [veterans] achieved that we’re reaping the benefits of that to a very large extent.”

Faber, who was born in South Africa and became an American citizen in 2004, also discussed why he felt holding these get-togethers was so important.

“People say, ‘What do you get out of it?’ and to that I respond with a question: ‘If you had a chance to sit down and spend an afternoon with a bunch of veterans from the Revolutionary War, who wouldn’t take that opportunity?’” he told the veterans. “In terms of your significance, you were involved in one of the most important events of the history of the world.”

Kim Emmons, who was helping to serve the food at last Saturday’s event, said she decided

to volunteer this year because her sister attended last year with her father and had a positive experience.

“She just raved about it to me,” she said. “I thought to myself, volunteering here is the least I could do.”

Emmons also said that the Fabers were very generous in organizing the event.

“My sister gave me a letter and said, ‘If you know anyone else, let them know, invite them; [the Fabers] will provide transportation,’” Emmons said. “They do everything here, they’re amazing, and their event has a great reach.”

George Hunt, a third-year attendee, said that he heard about the event through the VFW in Old Lyme, where he lives. Hunt was in the Marines, and participated in the Pacific Theatre during the war.

Hunt said that he was sworn in as a Marine in January 1943.

“I had been in a Naval ROTC program in college,” he said. “But in December of 1942, I was allowed to resign, and I dropped out of college to become a private in the Marines.”

Then, Hunt said he spent about 15 months in the Pacific as a sergeant. This included spending four or five months on Guam before returning to the states after enrolling in officer candidate school.

“We couldn’t go to Iwo Jima, because our equipment didn’t pass the test,” Hunt said. “So I saw a notice on a coconut tree for OCS, so I put in for that.”

“I had a good war; they sent me to Princeton,” he joked.

Finally, after the war, Hunt finished college where he started, at Rochester Polytechnic Institute, attaining an engineering degree.

Ronald W. McCutcheon, a resident of East Hampton and Margaret Faber’s father, said that the event has only continued to expand over the years, and that he’s glad to have that trend continue.

“These vets are always very happy to come,” McCutcheon said. “And every one of them has a story to tell.”

Portland's Upcoming School Year Brings Promise

by John Tyczkowski

While students in many other towns have already headed back to school, in Portland it's a slightly different story.

After meeting new schools superintendent Phillip O'Reilly at a convocation ceremony on Monday, teachers closed out the week with a few days of professional development, before students head back to school the Tuesday after Labor Day.

"It's kind of different than what we had done in the past," Scott Giegerich, principal of Portland Middle School, said. "We had always used to have a three-, four-, five-day start, then the four-day weekend, then the four-day week."

In 2011, however, Tropical Storm Irene rocked the area, causing massive damage and forcing the start of school to be delayed until Sept. 6, the day after Labor Day. Teachers suddenly were given a few extra days to prepare; school was slated to start that year on Wednesday, Aug. 31.

"The teachers said, 'We like this!'" Giegerich said. "It turned out those extra days were a great way to get organized and analyze data."

After reverting to a pre-Labor Day opening for 2012, Portland schools went back to the day-after-Labor Day opening last year, and have adopted it again to start the 2014-15 year.

Giegerich said he's also hoping to hear back in coming weeks from the Department of Education about Portland Middle School's May National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence nomination in the high-performing schools category.

According to the department's website, the National Blue Ribbon Program was established in 1982 to recognize both high-performing schools in English and math, and for 'improving schools' which are closing an achievement gap between their advantaged and disadvantaged students.

All recipients, both public and private, of the award are then invited to Washington, D.C., for a ceremony with the Secretary of Education.

Over the entire length of the program, Portland's only Blue Ribbon School was Brownstone Intermediate School in 2011, according to Department of Education records.

"We've written 31 pages of reports," Giegerich said. "We should hear back in mid-September."

Also new this year is the expansion of a program that allows all required school forms to now be accessed online from the Portland Public Schools' website.

"I am proud of that, we've grown and evolved," Giegerich said. "Parents have provided feedback to say thank you and let us know how helpful it is."

In addition, a real-time online system that uses Google Docs to post and keep track of students' homework assignments will be debuted for grades seven, eight and nine.

"Once the teachers get in, they input their homework assignment, and there it is," Giegerich said. "Every single day, all homework is accessible for those students."

Giegerich said this initiative's goal is to teach students responsibility and accountability in getting their work done, as well as to provide homework to students who are out sick or who have unchangeable family commitments.

However, he said the online system is also a benefit for parents and teachers, since both groups are now on the same page about what daily homework assignments are.

"Teachers would say, 'Students aren't doing their homework' and parents would say 'Well, we don't know what it is they're supposed to be doing,'" said Giegerich. "This system is the way to fill that gap."

Giegerich said another important upcoming event for both PMS and the high school will be hosting Rachel's Challenge in September.

Named after Rachel Scott, the first victim of 1999's Columbine High School shootings, the program is based upon Scott's own writings, namely that "if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same," according to the Rachel's Challenge website, rachelschallenge.org.

Giegerich said that there will be separate two events, for grades six through eight and grades nine through 12, followed by a common community event on the evening of Sept. 23.

"It's a good way to give the kids a connection to an important event," Giegerich said.

In addition to PMS, Portland High School has no shortage of important events and initiatives for the coming school year either.

Number one on the list, according to Andrea Lavery, principal of PHS, is that the school's capstone project is coming to fruition after four years.

"This is the first year kids have to demonstrate 21st-century skills," Lavery said. "These include using technology and research tools



Several new initiatives will await students at Portland schools when they begin next Tuesday, Sept. 2.

effectively, demonstrating good communication skills and working with others effectively."

Lavery said that some projects she's seen among students include one who's writing a novel, and another who's composing music to be performed as part of the capstone project.

She also said many of the projects are community service-oriented, but it's ultimately up to the student.

"The project is pretty much self-paced and self-directed," Lavery said. "You can pick whatever your heart desires, and you have four years to do it."

In addition, the continuing adoption of Common Core Standards at both schools is an important part of the school year. During the professional development days this week, Lavery said teachers were focusing on how to implement the new state standards in English.

"Students have to be proficient in three genres of writing by the time they graduate," she said. "There will be a big emphasis on versatility this year."

Lavery said a crucial part of phasing in the

new standards will kick off in December, when the school receives the results of last year's Smarter Balanced Assessment test.

"The test is specifically designed to support the implementation of the Common Core," Lavery said. "Once we have the results, we can continue to refine our curriculum."

Lavery said English and math classes at PHS have been brought in line with Common Core Standards courtesy of two years of work, but social studies and science classes need that testing data to proceed from the unofficial to the official stage.

However, Lavery said that overall, PHS isn't going to be rolling out many new programs, just concentrating on what's already been planned out.

"It's refining what we already have," Lavery said. "We're all so excited, and we think it's going to be a great year all around."

PMS will hold its annual back-to-school night Sept. 10, and PHS will hold its back-to-school night Sept. 11.

New Superintendent Ready to Get Started in Portland

by John Tyczkowski

This year's school year is new not only for its students and teachers, but also for its superintendent.

Philip O'Reilly recently joined the Portland public school system last week as the new superintendent. He said acclimating to the district keeps him as busy as one would imagine.

"The district doesn't stop while I'm researching it. I have to balance reaching out into the community and meeting people and understanding this community, while also managing this district," O'Reilly said. "You hit the ground running as a new superintendent. I feel like there's a lot of information for me to learn."

O'Reilly, a native of western Massachusetts, holds a doctorate of education from the University of Massachusetts, which is also where he received his bachelor's degree in elementary education from.

O'Reilly said he student-taught in Taos, N.M., and that he's worked in education since his first teaching job in 1981. He started teaching in Windsor, and then returned to western Massachusetts to work as a principal for nine years.

After that, he spent four years as principal of Center School in Sharon, before moving on to work as the superintendent of New Hartford public schools for nine more years.

He said one of his major focuses would be to continue and build upon the work of Sally E. Doyen, who was Portland's superintendent for the past nine years.

"Sally had done such a great job," O'Reilly said, "and it was enticing to me to continue the work she had already done with curriculum instruction, really focusing on teaching learning in very small community."

He also mentioned specifically her work in implementing the state and federal Common Core Standards in a local way.

"We have huge changes in our standards with the Common Core Standards, and Sally did a lot of work with the director of the curriculum to figure out how those standards play out with Portland's local curriculum," he said. "But the real work is the work that teachers do to make those standards their own in their classroom. That's what Sally had done, and that's what I wanted to continue. It sounds simple, to make standards your own, but it's huge."

Continuing Doyen's work with the Common Core is just one of many tasks that await O'Reilly in his new role as superintendent — a role he is very much looking forward to.

"I consider this my capstone to my career," he said. "I'm not climbing any ladders, I really wanted the new challenge of being a superintendent in a K-12 district."

He also said he is interested in seeing the town's Smarter Balanced Assessment data, which is to be released this winter. He said he was also cautious about how the results could be integrated into Portland's schools.

"One of the things I'm concerned about is overtesting," O'Reilly said. "We will have to determine how we use SBAC responses and how that merges with our local assessments, or whether we won't have to do our local assessments because the SBAC and its progressive nature allows us to put aside some of them."

O'Reilly said his view of making sure assessments aren't overused goes along with his broader philosophy of keeping the focus on students.

"We have become a country very much focused on assessments, and we need to remain

very much focused on the child," he said. "There's so much information about kids, but we're not applying it to the kids. We don't want to be all about data; we want to be about using data to help us do our work with kids."

O'Reilly also said one of his major focuses is the implementation of professional learning communities to encourage teacher collaboration. He said he began working on this focus in New Hartford schools nine years ago by bringing in Richard and Rebecca DuFour, educators who developed the concept, to train his staff.

"You may be better in teaching a certain format or lesson than me, but I may have a skill with a certain other type of lesson, and through that collaborative effort, you help me understand how you're successful, and I help you understand how I'm successful," he said. "Part of my focus in New Hartford, and what will continue to be my focus in Portland, is building teams."

In addition, O'Reilly said he wanted to let parents and students know that he has a transition plan in place to acclimate to Portland and the district consisting of a series of goals to meet over the next three to four months.

"The goals relate to learning and understanding this community, learning and understanding the schools and learning and understanding our families and students here in Portland. I have begun that process through a series of meet-and-greets with local people," he said. "By the first of the year, I'd like to report back to the Board of Education my recommendations for the ongoing needs and challenges as a town and as a district."

O'Reilly, who is married and has six kids ranging in age from 18 to 30, said he and his wife have relocated to Deep River temporarily,



Philip O'Reilly started Aug. 21 as the new superintendent of schools in Portland. He said he considers the new position "the capstone of my career."

and that his wife has been hired as a Spanish teacher in Regional School District 4, which covers Deep River, Essex and Chester.

"We really have jumped in with both feet. We're Litchfield County-ers, or we have been for the past 13 years, and we really want to understand life in Middlesex County," he said. "Many towns in Middlesex County have a rural nature. They're simple, wonderful places for families, and they all have their unique flavor to them."



Hundreds flocked to Blish Park last Sunday, Aug. 24, for the annual Marlborough Day event sponsored by the Marlborough Business Association. Attendees spent time under the sun visiting booths set up by local businesses, and to cool off, some took a dip in Lake Terramuggus. Photo on left by Melissa Roberto, photo on the right by Jane Boston.

Marlborough Day Draws a Record Crowd

by Melissa Roberto

Last week, one of the planners of Marlborough Day hinted the Aug. 24 event would be a day of “food, fun and frivolity” – and judging by what the record-breaking crowd in attendance had to say, it was.

Nearly 800 people stepped foot onto Blish Park last Sunday to take part in Marlborough Day festivities – the largest crowd the event has welcomed yet.

Marlborough Day is a tradition that started 25 years ago through the sponsorship of the town. It took a brief hiatus in the early 2000s, then the Marlborough Business Association (MBA) took the reins of the event, and has held it for the last eight years.

The association is comprised of area businesses, many of whom participate in the event each year. The businesses designate a spot on the grass to set up their booths and sponsor activities that take place throughout the day. This year there were 32 booths on site, which is four more than last year. In addition to an increase in vendors and in visitors, MBA Executive Jessica Olander said there was also an increase in activities.

Olander furthered weather, of course, plays a role in the outdoor event. This year’s backdrop was sunshine and blue skies, and the high-70 to low 80-degree temperatures meant there was no hesitation when it came to attendees taking a dip in Lake Terramuggus.

At least that’s what Virginia Mitchell and her daughter, Matylda Biskupski, 11, and son, Stan Biskupski, 8, all of Marlborough, decided to do. The three were wearing life vests when they stopped to talk to the *Rivereast*, just before plunging into the lake to participate in a kayaking lesson hosted by L.L. Bean Discovery Schools program, which was a new activity this year.

Mitchell said the family has come out to Marlborough Day “every single year” they’ve lived in town. Stan shared his favorite part of this year’s event was “probably” volunteering with his fellow Boy Scouts, which meant he was passing out free popcorn to passersby. Matylda shared her favorite part was hitting up the photo booth inside of the pavilion, where

participants could wear strange hats and outfits and pose with their friends. The photo booth was sponsored by Liberty Bank and Middlesex Hospital Rehabilitation Services & Hand Therapy.

The L.L. Bean Discovery Schools program offered both paddle boarding and kayaking lessons. One of the employees working at the station near the lake said the tent was getting “a lot of traffic, especially due to the post-lunch crowd.”

“We’re actually full for the courses we’re doing throughout the rest of the day,” the L.L. Bean instructor said at about 3 p.m. “Paddle boarding has been filling up very quickly. We definitely think today was a huge success.”

Another first this year was the arrival of the Marlborough Resident Trooper’s Office, which demonstrated seat belt safety through the use of a model called “The Convincer.” Olander coined this set up “a big draw” for families.

Other action taking place near the lake was the hose demonstrations hosted by the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department. Rescue Lieutenant Doug Knowlton said the fire fighters have done this for several years, but that each year it’s a hit.

“The kids have a great time with spraying the water and they get a chance to play with the fire hoses,” Knowlton said, adding there were about 10 local fire fighters in attendance throughout the day.

While almost every foot of the park featured some kind of activity, there were many families who set up camp by the lake for some relaxation. Laurie Strimaitis of Marlborough was one of those people, alongside her family members and neighbors, Rebecca Strimaitis, Lucie May, 8, Violette May, 10, and Caroline Soboleski, 10. The group was picnicking under a tree near the lake, and commented on what an enjoyable day it was.

“It’s a family weekend and a neighborly weekend!” said Laurie. “The MBA got a good day for it! It’s been very nice.”

Positive feedback was also voiced by those in front of and behind the booths on the grass.

The CT Rack Pack was a popular stop of the day for adults and kids alike. The booth had a frozen theme from selling snowcones to a stand-up cut out of *Frozen* characters Elsa, Anna and Olaf that kids stopped to take a picture with.

All of the money raised by the CT Rack Pack on Marlborough Day will go to the group’s participation in the Susan G. Komen three-day walk in Philadelphia, Pa., to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research.

Another tent visited by many was the Commission on Aging booth. The booth hosted a teacup raffle and altogether raised \$700 – a record for the group – that will go to the Marlborough food and fuel assistance banks.

“They did very well,” said resident Richard Denno who helped out at the booth. “I’m very proud. This is the most they’ve ever done in the three years they’ve done it.”

Another record broken on Sunday was the amount of proceeds gained from the MBA teacup raffle for its scholarship fund. Olander said the raffle raised over \$800. All of the prizes in the raffle had a value of \$75 or more.

“Every year in June we award several college scholarships to students [of Marlborough] pursuing careers in business,” she said.

But the contests didn’t stop there. One lucky Marlborough resident, John Mahon, entered the grand prize raffle and won, meaning he got to take home an LG 47-inch LED Smart TV.

In addition to buying raffle tickets, the only other thing attendees dished out money for was the food, which was not limited to ordinary fair food. In addition to cheeseburgers, hot dogs, French fries and fried dough were signature items that were new this year. Some came from Charles Williams and his Urban Gourmet truck. The truck sold fish tacos, chopped salad, shrimp hoagies and Philly cheesesteak sandwiches.

Marlborough Pizza & Restaurant was also new to the park this year, and successfully sold 76 pizzas. The desserts of the day were just as descriptive. Short Bus Catering offered \$2 scoops of ice cream, which varied in flavor from cereal milk, banana chocolate, salted caramel corn, Swedish Fish and blueberry lemonade

sorbet.

“It was all delicious,” Olander said of the food and desserts.

And if that wasn’t enough to excite participants, the day wasn’t over until its many performers stopped singing. Starting at 11 a.m. until the day was done at 5 p.m., live entertainment existed in the pavilion. Local musicians Jim Ferguson, The Modern Riffs, Anam Cara, Seat of our Pants and Catch the Falling supplied the tunes.

The Jacqueline Roach School of Dance and Hot Stepz Dance Academy also performed dances for onlookers. And even beyond the pavilion, was the second annual *Marlborough Idol* contest. Winner Suzette Kuerbitz of Marlborough won a \$50 iTunes gift card “and bragging rights of course,” Olander laughed.

The MBA executive deemed the 2014 Marlborough Day a “tremendous success.” The most important aspect of it, she pointed out, “is that we got to showcase our local businesses.”

While the event sure seemed to please attendees, Olander stressed the day is created each year as “a way for local businesses to give back to the community.”

Olander thanked MBA President Scott Welch of SM Welch Remodeling, Craig Robinson of It’s So Ranunculus and Laura Hart of Heartwood Cabinetry, for their “hard” work, as well as the event photographer Greg Murphy and its emcee Steve Kistner for “keeping the schedule moving and acknowledging everyone.”

Olander pointed out Marlborough Day is usually a break-even event for the MBA – and not a profit-driven one.

“It was never intended to make money for the MBA,” she said. “It is simply a community give back.”

With another successful Marlborough Day under its belt, the MBA and Marlborough Day Committee will soon hand out surveys for vendors to think of new things to do and ways to bump up attendance. Although with this year’s numbers Olander laughed, “It does set high expectations for next year!”

Hebron Harvest Fair Returns Next Week

by Geeta Schrayter

This week the grounds that house the Hebron Harvest Fair were filled with plenty of noises – but it wasn't the sound of music, farm animals or fairgoers enjoying themselves as they chowed down on their favorite food, screamed in excitement on one of the roller coasters or laughed with friends.

Rather, it was the sound of crickets, bird chirps, and the chatter of maintenance workers as they prepped for next week. For it's then the grounds will come to life with the racket of a fair, as the 44th annual Hebron Harvest Festival gets underway.

The fair takes place next Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 4-7, and this year, the event, themed "Barn in the USA," is said to have "more of everything," from music, rides and food to thrills and excitement.

Speaking on the event this week, Fair Superintendent Adam Miclette said there would be some new groups and entertainment.

"The army band is coming in this year on Saturday which will be really nice," he stated regarding the United States Army Field Band, The Volunteers. "We're excited to have them."

In addition, Miclette shared the Country Music Showdown, a talent competition sponsored by the Farmer's Cow, will return for the second year. Also making an appearance are acts such as the country music duo Kari & Billy, who are back by popular demand; the modern country and pop/rock group the Coyote River Band; and Cover2Cover, who will perform hits from the '60s, '70s and '80s.

Then, on Sunday, the main stage will feature country music star Rodney Atkins who has had six number one hits since 2006, including "If You're Going Through Hell (Before the Devil Even Knows)," "These Are My People" and "Take A Back Road." He also performed the top 5 hit "Farmer's Daughter."

Along with musical performances, the fair, which is sponsored by the Hebron Lions Club, offers plenty of activities and events to entertain.

There are motorized events such as mechanical pulls, tractor and truck pulls and a demolition derby. And new this year, Miclette shared there would be lawn mower racing on Sunday.

"We have 10 classes with different types of mowers racing in a circle so that should be pretty neat," he said.

The currently empty animal barns will also

be filled with a variety of animals next week, including cows, oxen, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and rabbits; there will be livestock shows and livestock pulls, a goat and sheep obstacle course, a performance by the UConn equestrian drill team, and the return of the crowd-pleasing Dock Dogs.

A number of competitions will also occur, including baking contests for best citrus chiffon cake and two-crust apple pie; a quilt contest, and a photo contest.

Kid-friendly competitions can also be found, like searching for a needle in a haystack, a watermelon eating contest and a frog jumping competition.

In addition, there will be a number of free activities for kids and families such as a petting zoo and pony rides, balloon twisting, the singing and dancing vegetables of Melody Farm Follies, and Old McDonalds Farm Tent which includes a milk maker activity station and a chick hatchery.

Also sure to amuse will be the return of the carnival from Reithoffer Shows, bringing plenty of games and rides.

"We're expecting some new rides," Miclette stated, like a new roller coaster for kids called the Wacky Worm.

Altogether, around 40 rides for kids, families and those seeking a bit more of a thrill will beckon next week.

In addition, the fair will boast plenty to see in the craft and artisan buildings like paintings and photographs, jewelry and fabric crafts, homemade soaps and sugar scrubs. There will also be a range of vendors and exhibits in the Better Living Building and all throughout the fair touting a variety of wares – large and small – from key chains to getaways

Of course, the fair food that will be scattered about isn't to be overlooked either. Waiting to satiate any number of appetites will be traditional items like hamburgers and hot dogs, French fries and blooming onions, caramel apples and fried dough.

But dough won't be the only thing fried. Also hitting the oil will be various vegetables, Oreos, Twinkies, cheesecake, and brownies.

Other items people may want to line up for are baked potatoes, Italian sausage and the gobbler turkey sandwich that provides an early taste of Thanksgiving.

Then there's warm apple crisp, ice cream, cannolis, pizza, nachos, gyros, Thai food, tur-



At the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds this week things were empty, shuttered and mostly silent. But all that will change beginning next Thursday, Sept. 4, with the arrival of the 44th annual Hebron Harvest Festival.

key legs, and the list goes on.

Speaking on his hopes for the event, Miclette said, "I'm hoping that we get another four days of good weather and we can bring some good crowds in and continue to support the community and the Lions Club's charities – that's our goal and our hopes."

Hebron Town Manager Andrew Tierney felt similarly.

"A lot of people are starting to talk [about the fair] so we're hoping it will be well attended," he stated. "The Lions have done a great job with organizing the fair and all the activities that go along with it."

He concluded, "It's a great event in Hebron to showcase the town and I'm looking forward to it, and a great weekend with great weather."

The sounds of the 44th annual Hebron Harvest Fair will be heard starting 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4. The fair will run Thursday from 4-10 p.m.; Friday Sept. 5, noon-11 p.m.; Saturday Sept. 6, 9 a.m.-11 p.m.; and Sunday, Sept. 7, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

General admission is \$12 Thursday-Saturday and \$13 Sunday; seniors get in free before 4 p.m. Friday. Advance discount tickets are available online and at Ted's IGA in Hebron through Sept. 3.

For more information, a schedule or fairgrounds map, visit hebrontharvestfair.org.

Traffic Changes

There will be traffic alignment changes on Route 85 in Hebron during Hebron Harvest Fair Sept. 4-7.

At the entrance to the fairgrounds on Route 85, there will be a separate turn-only lane, and one go-straight lane. The set-up will be identical to what was in place last year.

There will also be appropriate signage on Route 85 letting motorists know of the changes.

Bacon Starts School Year with New Principal

by Melissa Roberto

Colchester high schoolers entered Bacon Academy's doors on Wednesday, and one week prior, so did their new interim principal, Donald Gates.

Gates will serve as the interim principal at the high school for the 2014-15 school year. He was hired last week following the departure of Mark Ambruso, who left Bacon Academy to assume the role of principal at Windham Technical High School.

Although Gates is new to the Colchester school district, he's familiar with the area. For 30 years Gates worked as the principal of Portland High School. He retired from his administrative career in 2006 – although it seems he's never truly retired.

"It's been my life," Gates said this week of being an administrator. "I've done this for a long time and I'd rather do this than just sit at home."

After retiring from Portland, Gates has since held several interim principal positions, just like his role in Colchester, in districts around the state. He has served as an interim principal

within the school districts of East Hampton, Middletown, Regional School District 4 (which covers Deep River, Essex and Chester) and Regional School District 13 (which covers Durham and Middlefield).

Gates' contract in Colchester runs until June 30, 2015, and the interim principal said he has goals for Bacon Academy in the next year. He explained, "My goal is to continue the school's growth on a positive note with respect to the district wide goals and objectives and school wide initiatives."

Also throughout the school year, Gates said, he wants to "connect with the kids."

"I want them to know I will support their programs so they don't feel they're going to be shortchanged because they lost their principal," he said. "I hope my experience and ideas will enlighten and make new suggestions for school teachers and personnel."

The seasoned principal said so far he feels Colchester is "a great school district." And after just a few days into his new position, on

Monday Gates said he had met with teachers and other administrators in Colchester, adding he was particularly impressed with the district's convocation held Monday.

"What impressed me most was the positive outlook that everyone seems to have with respect to returning to the district and being ready to work with the children k-12," he said.

Also, the principal said it's noticeable that the district receives support from its Board of Education. Asked how he'll approach hundreds of new faces on the first day of school, Gates said, "I don't walk by a student without speaking to them and it's my intention to be excited about their initiatives and to support them throughout the school year."

Gates' new colleagues expressed enthusiasm in his arrival.

"We are extremely fortunate to have an educator of Don's experience to help us through the transition this year and be part of the process of choosing a new principal this winter," Superintendent of Schools Jeffry Mathieu stated

in a press release. "Don also brings a wealth of knowledge in the area of the New England Association of School and Colleagues (NEASC) as he has chaired numerous visitation committees."

According to the release, Gates was the 1996 Connecticut State Principal of the Year and also the recipient of the CAS Citation Award, which the document describes as "the highest honor bestowed upon an administrator by the Connecticut Association of Schools."

In addition to his years helming various schools in the state, Bacon's new interim principal has also served as president/board of directors of the Connecticut Association of Schools and is the executive director of the Connecticut Association of National Honor Societies.

The bottom line, Gates concluded Monday, is that he is "happy to be here."

"I hope I can make a little difference throughout the year for the students and families associated with Bacon Academy," Gates said.



Residents enjoyed a fun-filled day at Burnt Hill Park last Saturday, Aug. 23, during the debut Hebron Day. The day was filled with games and activities, vendors and information booths, food and entertainment, including an African drumming performance (above left) and the opportunity to ride around the park in a horse drawn wagon.

Sunshine and Blue Skies Welcome Inaugural Hebron Day

by Geeta Schrayter

Last Saturday provided a picturesque beginning for Hebron Day, with bright blue skies, fluffy clouds and endless sun shining down on the perfectly manicured grounds of Burnt Hill Park, where people mulled about enjoying the event.

From noon until 8 p.m. Aug. 23, a plethora of activities were set up at the park hoping to draw residents to, as Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan said last week, “get everybody together and celebrate the town.”

As the day got started, the Sunshine Singers, a choral group from the Russell Mercier Senior Center, sang tunes such as “Hello, Dolly!” from the musical of the same name. After their performance came to an end, African drumming started up, and later on, an open mic was scheduled, and the event was set to end with a concert by the acoustic band Gail Wade and Turning Point.

Nearby, vendors sold such items as pottery, hand-sewn products, flatware transformed into sculptures, Scentsy scents, dog biscuits, local honey and maple syrup, and chatted as they waited for attendees to arrive – and arrive they did; Josselyn Salafia, program director with the Parks and Recreation Department estimated about 300 people made an appearance throughout the day.

Along with vendors selling wares, groups such as AHM Youth and Family Services and the Hebron Women’s Club were present, as well as investors, political booths and more.

Also included in the day’s festivities were a number of games and activities. There were potato sack races, softball throws, water bucket relays, ring and balloon tosses. Kids could give hula-hooping a try, take a trip down the inflatable water slide, or tumble around inside the inflatable obstacle course; other activities throughout the day included a one mile fun run and a home run derby.

Horse rides were also available, and seemed to be a favorite as the event got underway, along with the horse-drawn wagon rides around the park, and the friendly calves anxious to receive attention and give sloppy kisses in return.

Tummy rumbles could also be satiated with hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries or ice cream.

It’s the latter Jady Nembhard and Olivia McCavanagh were enjoying as they sat on a large rock and talked. The two were set to start seventh grade at RHAM Middle School this past Wednesday, and were enjoying some final summer fun before the academics got underway.

“We want to do the wagon ride,” Nembhard shared, while her friend mentioned the bounce house as a possible destination.

The girls came with Nembhard’s mom Sonya, who also had her husband Ken Roy, their two sons Dante and Trevin – who she said enjoyed the water slide – and another friend in tow.

“It’s cute,” she said of Hebron Day. “I think it’s a nice event.”

Those thoughts were echoed by Amy McGuire-Knutsen, who came with her husband Paul and their two kids, Vander and Maja Grace.

McGuire-Knutsen explained the family was normally camping during that time, but since they were at home, “we figured, ‘Let’s go try it out!’”

“We were excited,” she furthered. “The town’s got to have stuff like this to bring people out year after year – it’s nice.”

The family had participated in hula hooping, face painting and paid a visit to the calves.

In addition, Vander liked the obstacle course while Maja Grace stated, “I really want to do the horse ride,” and that was where the family was headed next.

Those involved in putting the event together were happy with the outcome as well.

“It went great,” said Salafia. “There were a lot of people and it was a gorgeous day.”

Favorites, she said, seemed to be the inflatables, the games and the horse rides. She added there was “definitely” a plan to hold the event next year, with even more musical events, like participants from “Hebron’s Got Talent,” a popular event Parks and Rec. puts on in the fall.

“It all went really smoothly,” Salafia concluded about the day. “Setup was good, breakdown was good – everything actually ran really well.”

Parks and Recreation Director Rich Calarco felt similarly.

“I thought it went really well,” he said. “There was a lot of good support from the community for the first time [event], and really good support from different vendors and town agencies. So it was really good, and it’s like a solid foundation to build on.”

And that’s the plan for next year.

Calarco said the Parks and Recreation Commission had a meeting on Monday and discussed the event, and a review would be submitted from the commission’s Hebron Day subcommittee.

“They’ll be meeting for plans, so we’re definitely planning for next year and adding to it,” Calarco stated.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney hopes to see the event grow too.

“I think Hebron Day went great for the first one – it gave us a benchmark to work with, and we’re going to expand on that of course,” he stated.

Tierney said things such as the date would be re-examined for next year, since some families were still away on vacation. In addition, “we’re going to work with some more people – some had other ideas to improve it as well, so we’ll have the subcommittee look at that,” he stated.

But overall, Tierney concluded Hebron Day’s debut was “very good.”

“And I think it’s only going to get better,” he said.

New Dunkin’ Donuts, Gas Station Coming to Westchester

by Melissa Roberto

The Planning and Zoning Commission last week approved the development of a joint convenience store, gas station and coffee/sandwich shop on Loomis Road in the Westchester section of town.

The applicant is George Veneziano, owner of two other Dunkin’ Donuts in Colchester, Town Planner Adam Turner shared this week. Turner said the development includes a gas station, and will house a Dunkin’ Donuts, a sandwich shop that is likely to be Subway, and a convenience store all “under one roof.” The development will also include a drive-through window.

During the application process, Veneziano used Cumberland Farms as an example of what his proposal is similar to, Turner said.

Veneziano submitted the application to the town on April 2, which was received by the commission on April 16. The newly-approved plan calls for a 3,500-sq. ft. building to be constructed at 9 Loomis Rd., at the intersection of routes 16 and 149. Turner said the development will be “the first major investment in the Westchester area in several years.”

Behind the development are residential homes, Turner said. Residents from the area attended each of the four public hearings held on the proposal and shared “a lot” of concerns with the site development, the planner said. Turner said the commission took the public comments into consideration before making a decision.

“There are residential areas in the back [of the site location] and that’s why one of the main concerns of the commission was making sure it was buffered and landscaped,” Turner shared.

Therefore, the commission approved the site plan last week contingent on the developer meeting 15 conditions ranging from landscaping requirements down to the hours of operation of the businesses.

For example, the commission mandates a fence to be put up along the west boundary of the site, as well as planting along the southern boundary of the drive-through and along the 50-foot eastern border of the site.

Also, the commission mandates that all lights “other than the gasoline canopy and store” must

be shut off at 9 p.m. daily. The commission also authorizes the hours of operation of the businesses to be 5 a.m.-11 p.m. with no deliveries occurring before 9 a.m. The drive-through operation will also close at 9 p.m.

Turner seemed pleased with the progress of the application on Monday. He said Veneziano already “runs a quality business in Colchester.”

The planner continued, “The commission did a really good job in taking his site plan to the next level in terms of ensuring that it’ll be developed in a successful way.”

Since this is a private development, it is of no cost to the town, Turner noted; rather, he said, it’s another example of economic development in Colchester.

No Slow Start for New Board of Education Year in East Hampton

by John Tyczkowski

Just because the school year began this week doesn't mean the Board of Education was short of discussion points at its Monday meeting.

The board met in the EHHS library to review several issues pertinent to the coming school year, and began with the superintendent's report.

"Welcome back to the new school year; I just don't know where the summer went," schools superintendent Diane Dugas said.

Dugas mentioned how at the convocation for the new school year, she and school officials recognized Charlie Nichols and his local company, Nichols Bus Service, which celebrated its 70th anniversary this year.

"I don't think there were many people sitting [in that auditorium] who hadn't been touched by Charlie and a yellow school bus," she said.

Dugas said East Hampton will now be working with New Britain-based Dattco to provide transportation services to students.

"We've been working with them closely to assure a smooth transition," she said.

Dugas also mentioned there were new staff members to introduce at the next Board of Education meeting, including a new assistant principal at Memorial School, a new kindergarten teacher and a new half-time secretary at the middle school.

"We're off to a great start, and I'm looking forward to a great year," Dugas said.

Another important part of the meeting was discussing the implementation of Common Core Standards through the use of data obtained from last year's pilot Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) test.

The test results, which Dugas said should be reported to East Hampton Public Schools in December or January, are not an immediately useful metric on student performance.

"There will be two years (of SBACs) not counting toward data on student growth," Dugas said. "It's a field test."

Tim Van Tassel, the EHPS assistant superintendent, said the data to be received in December would not be crucial to curriculum changes.

"This past test was really testing of testing items," Van Tassel said. "In fact, (the state) told us that they're not even certain what (the data) is going to look like."

He also said that waiting for testing data will not be a serious problem, as the Common Core itself is a more useful tool, with its standards having been in place since 2010.

"We're focusing our curriculum writing on what it is our K-12 students need to know for Common Core Standards, it's not connected to the Smarter Balanced Assessment," Van Tassel said.

He also said that he wanted to work with the schools to develop their own standards and assessments of student performance that were independent of the SBACs.

"This independent assessment would be a way to gauge whether or not what we've developed is truly meeting students' needs," Van Tassel said. "We need to develop different levels of assessment beyond standardized testing."

Dugas said she was in agreement.

"The test is not part of curriculum. It's a state and federal-mandated measure and part of the Common Core, but it's not an end-all-be-all," Dugas said. "We would never want to base how our students are doing on just one form of assessment, we really want to base it upon multiple forms of assessment."

Parking at the high school was another agenda item discussed within the first half-hour of the meeting, as the renovation project at the school gets ready to start.

"EHHS is a community space, for many public events," Dugas said. "These renovations are going to affect a wide variety of activities. It's the polling place, the staging place for the Old Home Days; there's a lot there."

Dugas said that once renovations begin, parking will be significantly impacted. She said out of the 115 available spaces at the high school, about 80-90 spaces will be taken up by teachers and staff.

As a consequence, high school students will face some parking restrictions starting this fall.

"We're working on some options and solutions right now," Dugas said. "But juniors will not be able to drive to school after Nov. 1. We're also looking at what potential spaces seniors could have, and where those could be."

Dugas said she will communicate ideas to parents and students via a letter before groundbreaking begins.

The school board's acting secretary, Josh Piteo, mentioned that VFW Post 5095, located across the street from EHHS, could be an alternative that would allow students more parking flexibility.

"They do have a lot there with plenty of empty spaces during the day," Piteo said.

Dugas said that while a lot of secondary factors would need to be considered, such as crosswalks and crossing guards for students, and who would pick up the costs for that, she confirmed that talks to that end have already begun.

"We're absolutely exploring that, and there's a willingness to explore that with us," she said.

Director of Facilities Don Harwood also offered up a report, telling the board, "We want to enhance the town's schooling facilities."

"We want to make sure everyone has the right equipment, and that they're using their spaces effectively."

Harwood gave an overview of improvements made and outstanding issues present at Center School, Memorial School, the middle school and the high school. One change affecting two schools was that the schools' IT department,

formerly located at the high school, was relocated over the summer to Memorial School.

"We had to do that to make space for and to get ready for the renovations here (at the high school)," Harwood said.

Harwood also gave an update on the air handler at Memorial School, which had failed this past June, and which funding had been secured for in July. He said the town missed its maintenance window during the summer, and that due to safety restrictions, its repair would have to wait until December, as maintenance would require blocking the school's main entranceway.

"In the meantime we've put in three ACs to keep the place cool," Harwood said.

He also said that the facilities work at the high school was kept to a minimum level on purpose, due to the upcoming renovations.

"We've tried to do as minor work (at EHHS) as possible, because renovation dollars will take care of the rest," Harwood said. "We don't want to waste those."

Looking to the future, Harwood said that both strategic planning and preventative maintenance are key.

"We have aging roofs, parking lots and mechanical infrastructure. One thing that would benefit us is more proactive maintenance," he said. "And we need to have a long-term plan for town building use as well."

Dugas also discussed the results of the School Choice Survey, conducted last winter, which attempted to address why a growing number of students are leaving East Hampton Public Schools for magnet schools in the area.

"It wasn't a scientifically-put-together survey, but it was a simple survey of five questions to a variety of people to find out what we could do," Dugas said. "It was sent to all magnet choice families in grades Pre-K through 12, as well as all families in East Hampton with children in grades Pre-K through 12."

Dugas said parents were asked why they chose to stay in East Hampton schools or leave them, as well as what can East Hampton schools do to improve in order to either retain students or to attract them to come back.

According to the survey results document, there were 36 responders representing 50 out of 110 students attending magnet schools, and 301 responders representing 576 out of 1900 students attending East Hampton schools.

Also in the document, "Programs" was listed as the top reason parents moved their children to magnet schools by 69 percent of respondents, followed by "Curriculum" (69 percent) and "Opportunity" (66.6 percent). "Location" was listed as the overwhelming majority response (75 percent) for why parents chose to keep their children in East Hampton public schools.

Dugas said that there were some differences in what parents were looking for in schools. For example, magnet school respondents said East Hampton schools should improve STEM

offerings and their facilities, while respondents with students at East Hampton schools said they should support the arts and increase after-school activities, to name a few areas.

However, Dugas said she was happily surprised to see one key area match up between both sets of respondents.

"What I was glad to see is that all parents were concerned about rigor in the classroom," she said. "Rigor is something that's really emphasized in the Common Core, along with critical thinking and bringing that to a deeper level, and that's something we're really emphasizing in our teachers' professional development throughout the year."

The public comment section at the meeting's end brought two more concerns to the attention of the board.

High school substitute teacher Bob Hine brought up the idea of allowing substitute teachers an avenue for recourse and dialogue with the Board.

"Everybody else involved in the schools has some kind of relationship with the Board of Education. The teachers have a union, the support staff have a union. The subs just get told what's going to happen and what they have to do," Hine said. "There needs to be some way to address concerns outside of at meetings like this."

Hine also said that he had previously talked to the teachers' union, but he said they "didn't express much interest," and that's why he was approaching the Board with this concern.

"I just think there's some things the Board could do for the subs that haven't been done before or done yet," Hine said.

Resident Doug Lockhart also spoke, and expressed his displeasure at how East Hampton public schools were being handled in the 10 years he said he's lived in the town, citing how school budget requests have been repeatedly trimmed back each year from initial figures.

"I'm asking what you can do to improve your communication to (the Board of) Finance and to the people, so that you can get across your message about what you need for school, because our kids are suffering for it," Lockhart said. "You're not doing what's needed for a better education, and I'm telling you, there's a lot of kids who are thinking of leaving for the magnet schools, and my kid's looking at it right now."

Board of Education Chairman Kenneth Barber broke with board practice – the public comment portion is not supposed to be a dialogue between community members and board members – and responded to Lockhart.

"Your comments are well-spoken, and they have not fallen on deaf ears, the matter is already part of our discussion," Barber said. "We take this matter very seriously."

Second Round of East Hampton Town Manager Evaluations Inconclusive

by John Tyczkowski

Two closed-door executive session meetings have been held for the Town Council to evaluate Town Manager Michael Maniscalco, yet his fate is still undetermined.

The first session, held last week at East Hampton Public Library, lasted nearly an hour and a half. This week's session, held at Town Hall, lasted more than hour and 45 minutes. Neither of these sessions have drawn any definitive conclusions from councilors.

These closed Town Council meetings are part of the regular evaluation of the town manager's performance. Councilors must decide to retain the manager, with or without a raise, or to let him go.

Maniscalco said he's beginning his third year of a four-year town manager contract, which he began in July 2012, and has undergone two evaluations so far.

Council Chair Barbara Moore announced the inconclusive results of that evening's meeting just before adjournment, when the closed session ended. She said that there will be another

executive session meeting next Tuesday, Sept. 2, to continue the evaluations process.

"We're moving forward in a positive way," Moore said. "We expect that this whole evaluation process will not be just yearly, but that we'll be doing it more often, so we can talk to each other the way we did tonight. It was very informative for both Mike and for the council."

She also said the public can expect "some sort" of final vote on Tuesday.

"We're moving right along as well," Moore said. "This isn't going to take months."

During last week's session, Maniscalco waited outside in the hallway, but this time, the council invited him in to take part in the executive session.

Moore said that while this week's session was a dialogue between both political parties represented on the council, last week's executive session was more of a planning meeting.

"Last time we discussed all of the things that would be important to us, and the things we

knew would be important to Mike and that he would bring up," she said. "This time, we discussed that."

There were five residents of the town in attendance at this week's meeting who also waited in the hallway – including three high-profile Chatham Party members: Susan Weintraub, who chaired the Town Council when Maniscalco was hired, Kyle Dostaler, another former town councilor and Mary Ann Dostaler, who is currently on the town's Board of Finance.

Another of the residents present, Fran Klein, said she was displeased with the closed nature of the proceedings as the council adjourned their meeting.

"We have no idea what the documentation they are using is. We the people, who you all serve, have never been solicited for our input," Klein told Moore. "And we pay [Maniscalco's] salary."

Moore responded by saying the council is

properly performing its specified duties as elected representatives by conducting the evaluations each year.

Moore also said that both of the executive sessions up to this point have been productive.

"We went through several questions, and we have all answered them and we've discussed all of them with Mike," Moore said. "We've asked all the questions, on both sides and are all satisfied, and he will come back with his responses on Sept. 2. We'll have a final report then, and it will all be out in the public."

However, Moore emphasized that in their discussions so far, the council has found "nothing detrimental to [Maniscalco's] service."

"We all understand, and we all agree, that Mike's done a great job," she said.

Also, councilor Mark Philhower, who was present last week, was not present at this week's meeting. Moore said she expected him to be in attendance next week for the anticipated final vote.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I spent some time at my parents' house Monday night, and watched a bit of the Emmys with my folks. After the nominees of a particular category – I forget which one – were read, my dad turned to me and said, “There’s not a single show on normal television in there.”

And he was right; there wasn’t.

The times have been a-changing with the Emmys for a while now, and it was clearer this year than ever before: It’s tough to be a network show if you also want to bring home some Emmy gold.

The nominees for Best Drama at Monday’s Emmys were: *Breaking Bad*, *Downton Abbey*, *Game of Thrones*, *House of Cards*, *Mad Men* and *True Detective*. I can personally vouch for the quality of two of the shows, and have heard great things about the other four, but let’s look at the list: two shows aired on basic cable, two on premium cable and one not even on cable TV at all (*House of Cards* airs on the Netflix website). Only *Downton Abbey*, a PBS joint, airs on free, over-the-air TV. And there wasn’t a single show from the Big Four broadcast networks – ABC, CBS, NBC or Fox – in the bunch.

Non-network shows greatly dominated the acting categories for dramas as well – in fact, for the lead actor category (an award that went, quite deservedly, to *Breaking Bad*’s Bryan Cranston), all six nominees were on channels you have to pay to watch.

The networks fared a little better on the comedy side – for example, for best comedy series, both CBS’ *The Big Bang Theory* and ABC’s *Modern Family* received nominations, with *Modern Family* bringing home the gold – but even there, cable or Netflix shows tended to outnumber the network offerings in terms of nominations.

Again, not to say the cable shows didn’t deserve to be there. But it’s just gotten a little weird how they’ve come to completely dominate the Emmys the way they have.

Quality, original scripted programming – particularly on basic cable channels like AMC and FX – is a fairly new phenomenon. It used to be strictly the forte of the premium channels like HBO, and even then it didn’t really take off until *The Sopranos* and *Sex & the City* in the late ’90s. (Remember *Dream On* and *Arliss*?) Original shows on basic cable tended to be a rather rare breed, and, with occasional exceptions like AMC’s mid-’90s gem *Remember WENN*, generally not very memorable.

But, *The Sopranos* is often credited with ushering in a new golden age of TV drama, and that became evident not just on network TV (with shows like *24* and *Friday Night Lights*) but particularly on cable, where channels like the aforementioned FX and AMC, but also ones like USA and TNT, decided to invest lots of money in drama and (mostly in FX’s case) comedy works. And because it was cable, and not limited by censors in quite the same way broadcast networks are (and there were also fewer network executives running around offering notes), creators were in love, as they felt much more freedom.

The result of all this showed on the screen

– and before long, began to show at Emmy time too. The Emmys hadn’t always had the cable kids at the party; it wasn’t until 1988 that a cable program received any kind of Emmy nominations at all. In fact, from 1978 until 1997, cable shows had their own Emmys: the CableACE Awards, which honored cable series in the same types of categories the Emmys honored the broadcast networks in. After 1997, with cable series nominated in the Emmys on a consistent basis, the thought of a separate awards show for cable shows seemed silly.

And now, the pendulum’s swung in the complete opposite direction, with cable shows sometimes dominating the festivities so much the Emmys themselves resemble the CableACE Awards a little. In fact, at the start of Monday’s awards show, host Seth Meyers made this quip, to much laughter among those in the auditorium: “MTV aired the Video Music Awards last night. That’s right; MTV still has an award for music videos even though they no longer show music videos. That’s like network TV holding an awards show and giving all the trophies to cable and Netflix. That would be crazy. Why would they do that?”

Like I said, none of this is a bad thing. Just weird. With the dominance of cable shows in all of the major categories, it’s no shock if the broadcast networks feel a little underappreciated, as if they have to remind people that they’re not irrelevant.

That’s why Monday, despite AMC’s *Breaking Bad* cleaning up – and deservedly so – at just about everything, was seen as something of a victory for the networks. In addition to *Modern Family*’s win, the networks saw comedy wins in the best lead actor (Jim Parsons of *The Big Bang Theory*) and best supporting actor (Ty Burrell of *Modern Family*) categories, and a drama win as well, when *The Good Wife*’s Julianna Margulies brought home a statue for best lead actress. She also appeared to take a shot at cable shows while accepting her award, saying her show’s writers “never cease to amaze me, with 22 episodes a year.” (Cable series tend to have short, 13-episode seasons, compared to the 22-episode ones network shows typically put out.)

I’m guessing cable will continue to dominate nominations come Emmy time. Splitting up the categories (i.e., “Best Drama – Network” and “Best Drama – Cable”), in addition to adding much length to the telecast, would result in both categories carrying less panache than they do now.

The obvious solution, of course, is for the networks to simply create better shows, and not rely so much on reality shows and *CSI* and *NCIS* spinoffs to fill up their lineups. And while that certainly wouldn’t help the “too many good shows, not enough slots” problem the Emmys experienced this year (resulting in the shutting out of critical broadcast darlings like *Parks & Recreation* and *Parenthood*), if the result is better programming all around – well, I don’t think anyone will complain.

* * *

See you next week.

East Hampton Police News

8/12: William Vincent Depietro, 24, of 225 West High St., was arrested and charged with interfering with police and possession of drug paraphernalia, East Hampton Police said.

8/12: Police said Daniel M. McKeller, 30, of 20 South Main St.; Leticia Serwaa, 53, of 11 Sever St., Worcester, Mass.; and Anna Bonville, 72, of 19 Buckboard Ln., Marlborough, were involved in a motor vehicle collision in the Stop & Shop parking lot. McKeller was issued a summons for traveling too fast for conditions and failure to carry registration and insurance, police added.

8/13: Theresa M. Maynard, 63, of Gov. Bill O’Neill Dr., A3, was issued a summons for shoplifting (sixth-degree larceny), police said.

Colchester Police News

8/18: State Police said Monica Piette, 30, of 164 Norwich Ave., turned herself in at Troop K for two active PRAWN warrants for second-degree failure to appear.

8/19: Colchester Police are investigating the vandalism of a house under construction on Nutmeg Circle. The vandalism occurred between 8/18 and 8/19, police said. Anybody with information is asked to contact the Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.

8/21: Colchester Police said Dwayne Shippee, 39, of 330 Chestnut Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and

8/16: Brian Petrucelli, 43, of 32 Oakum Dock Rd., turned himself in pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest and was charged with second-degree harassment and disorderly conduct, police said.

8/16: Dennis P. Donovan, 51, of 11 Sturbridge Rd., Marlborough, was issued a summons for passing in a no-passing zone, misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

8/19: Ashley Marie Gilberto, 26, of 32 Hubbard Rd., Glastonbury, was arrested and charged with violation of a restraining order, second-degree harassment and second-degree threatening, police said.

disorderly conduct.

8/22: Colchester Police said Colleen Gosselin, 48, of 3 Thompson Rd., Franklin, was arrested and charged with DUI, drinking while driving and failure to drive upon the right.

8/23: Colchester Police said Robert Garrand, 34, of 132 Gill St., was arrested and charged with criminal violation of a restraining order.

8/24: State Police said Antonio Incontro, 37, of 110 Gilead St., was arrested and charged with DUI, operating a motor vehicle with no insurance, evading responsibility, and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

Hebron Police News

8/19: State Police said Nancy K. Casula, 52, of 40 Seaview Terrace, Guilford, was traveling south on Route 85 when her vehicle veered off the right side of the road, striking a mailbox. Casula’s vehicle then traveled into a wooded area where it struck a tree and came to a rest. Police said Casula was transported by the Hebron Fire Department to Marlborough Clinic for complaints of pain.

8/19: State Police said Jorge Castro, 38, of 162 Wall St., was arrested on two active PRAWN warrants for violation of probation.

8/21: State Police said at approximately 6:15 p.m. troopers were called to a residence on Teichert Lane to investigate the theft of land-

scaping equipment. Police said the missing items included an unlocked, enclosed trailer and the bed of a dump truck. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Trooper Michael Hamel at 860-896-3200.

8/23: State Police said at approximately 8 p.m. a vehicle driven by John Thomas Kuenzig, 17, of 237 Baxter Rd., Mansfield, was traveling on Route 66 in the area of Buck Road when he failed to make a proper left turn, exited the road and struck a tree. Police said Kuenzig and his passenger, Ian C. Minearo, 17, of 575 Chaffeeville Rd., Storrs, were transported to Marlborough Clinic because they were minors.

Andover Police News

8/19: State Police said Billy McNamara, 40, of 43 Times Farm Rd., was arrested and charged with criminal trespassing, interfering with an officer and public disturbance.

8/25: State Police said Christopher Giarnella, 23, of 20 Bear Swamp Rd., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer.

Marlborough Police News

8/22: State Police said Julia Rivera, 27, of 91 Reed Ave., West Hartford, was arrested and charged on two PRAWN warrants for the charge of second-degree failure to appear.

Obituaries

Cobalt

Geneva P. Sheltry

Geneva P. Sheltry, 91, of Cobalt and formerly of Hebron, widow of the late Maynard M. Sheltry, passed away Thursday, Aug. 21. Born in Calais, Maine, she was a daughter of the late Elmer and Rita (Lind) Graham.

Mrs. Sheltry was a registered nurse supervisor for 25 years and had worked for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft.

On Feb. 12, 1955, she and Maynard wed and shared 52 years of marriage before he predeceased her on Sept. 11, 2007.

She will be laid to rest with her late husband at the Jacksonville Cemetery, East Machias, Maine.

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Colchester

Sheila Ann Justin

Sheila Ann (Warden) Justin, 61, of Colchester, passed away Saturday, Aug. 23, at Hartford Hospital after a sudden illness. Born April 5, 1953, in Providence, R.I., she was a daughter of Barbara Warden of Colchester and the late George F. Warden.

She was a proud veteran, having served with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Sheila worked in the deli department at Stop and Shop in Colchester for many years. She loved dogs, horses and was an animal protection advocate. Most importantly, she will be remembered as a devoted and loving daughter, sister and friend.

In addition to her mother, she leaves six sisters and their families, Susan Standish, with whom she made her home, Donna Schwab of Colchester, Brenda Tyszka of Hartford, Cheryl Kelly of Woodbury, Debra Warden of East Hampton, Barbara A. Warden of Colchester; her "bro" John McGuire of Colchester and numerous extended family members and friends.

Family and friends attended calling hours Wednesday, Aug. 27, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial was private.

Donations in her memory may be made to the ASPCA - aspca.org or 1-800-628-0028.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Amston

Rose Randazzo

Rose (Faucetta) Randazzo, 79, of Amston and formerly of Syosset, Long Island, N.Y., beloved wife of Paul for 57 years, passed away peacefully at home Saturday, Aug. 23. Born Oct. 12, 1934, in Brooklyn, N.Y., she was a daughter of the Gasper and Lena (Cocuzza) Faucetta.

Rose had worked for the GEICO Insurance Co. for many years before her retirement, and was also a partner in the family business, Randazzo Yacht Mechanics. Her greatest joy and priority throughout her life was found in caring for her family. After retiring to Connecticut in 2002, she had been active with the Hebron Seniors and enjoyed reading and needlepoint in her spare time.

In addition to her loving husband, she leaves five children (and their spouses), Anthony (Diane) Randazzo of Amityville, Long Island, N.Y., Kathy (Drew) Hund of Hebron, Rosanne (Richard) Cortez of Tampa, Fla., Paul (Sara) Randazzo, Jr. of Hebron and Stephen Randazzo of Scottsdale, Ariz.; five grandchildren, Drew, Sabrina, Vicky, Sara and Angelina; two siblings, Peter Faucetta of Woodstock, Ga., and Gaetana Speciale of Massapequa, Long Island, N.Y.; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Visitation was held Monday, Aug. 25, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral services assembled at the funeral home Tuesday, Aug. 26, followed by the liturgy, celebrated that morning at Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Don D. McKelvey

Don D. McKelvey, formerly of Marlborough, passed away Friday, Aug. 22. Born in East Hartford in 1941, son of the late Jacob McKelvey and Lauretta McKelvey. Don was a former employee of the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, retiring in 1999.

He leaves his wife, Linda Kittredge McKelvey of Winsted; daughters, Arlene McKelvey of Marlborough and Laura McKelvey of Preston; granddaughters Alexandria, Abbey, Sabrina and Katrina; brothers, Jan (Barbara) McKelvey of Colchester and Barry (Bette) McKelvey of East Hartford.

Burial in Linwood Cemetery in Colchester is private. There are no calling hours.

Montano-Shea Funeral Home, 922 Main St., Winsted, has care of the arrangements.

Visit an online guestbook at Montano-shea.com.

Hebron

Maria DeMasi

Maria DeMasi, 75, of Hebron, a retired virologist and science teacher who will be remembered for her dedication to her work and her faith, died Saturday in Middlesex Medical Center, Marlborough.

Born Maria Tonna in Manhattan, N.Y., she grew up in Midland Beach. She moved to Silver Lake in 1964 and lived there until 1999, when she relocated to Hebron.

Mrs. DeMasi earned bachelor's degrees in education and biology from St. John's University, Queens, and received her master's degree in biology from Wagner College, Grymes Hill.

She was a virologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan and the Institute for Basic Research, Willowbrook, where her research in ALS and other autonomic diseases earned a U.S. patent.

Mrs. DeMasi also taught science for more than 25 years at Catholic schools on Staten Island including Assumption School, New Brighton; St. Thomas School, Pleasant Plains, and St. Joseph By-the-Sea High School, Huguenot, from which she retired.

She was a devout Catholic and a member of the Third Order of St. Francis. Mrs. DeMasi was a parishioner of Our Lady of Good Counsel R.C. Church, on Staten Island for many years prior to moving to Connecticut to be near her grandchildren. She was a member of St. Columba R.C. Church in Columbia when she passed.

Mrs. DeMasi especially cherished time spent with her family. She enjoyed people and counseled many. "She loved wide and deep."

Surviving are her daughter and son-in-law, Jeanine and John Marcin, of Marlborough; her daughter Dr. Noelle DeMasi of White Plains, N.Y.; her brother, Dr. Edgar Tonna of Long Island, N.Y. and seven grandchildren.

The funeral will be held by the Harmon Home for Funerals, West Brighton, Staten Island, N.Y., with a Mass in Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. Burial will follow in St. Peter's Cemetery, also West Brighton.

Portland

Roseann Sharon McBrien

Roseann Sharon (Hills) McBrien, 66, of Portland, wife of Thomas McBrien, passed away peacefully Sunday, Aug. 24, at Middlesex Hospital Weiss Hospice Unit. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Ed and Sadie (Walden) Hills.

Roseann lived in Portland for 42 years, was employed as a health care worker and truly loved being home with her family.

Along with her husband, Tom, Roseann is survived by a son, Edward McBrien of Portland; a brother, Ed Hills III of Middletown; and a sister, Ellen Johnson of Middletown.

There will be no funeral service and burial will be at the convenience of the family. Family and friends called Thursday, Aug. 28, at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Roseann's memory may be made to the charity of choice.

To share memories or send condolences, visit doolittlefuneralservice.com.

East Hampton

Amelia Peterson

Amelia "Millie" (Larson) Peterson, 97, of East Hampton, widow of Walter Peterson died Tuesday, Aug. 26, at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by her loving family. Born March 5, 1917, in East Hampton, she was the daughter of the late Ruth Anderson Larson. Millie, as she was affectionately known, was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and a 70-year member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Millie was a member of the East Hampton Senior center where she enjoyed playing bingo, exercising, crafts, crocheting, line-dancing. She made teddy bears for cancer patients at Middlesex Hospital, knitted hats for newborn babies and prayer shawls for the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. She especially enjoyed going on trips with her friends at the senior center. She had worked at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford in the assembly and test divisions and later at the Middletown office in the test division.

Millie is survived by her son Robert Peterson and his wife Margaret of Ormond Beach, Fla.; her daughter, Ruth Cooke of East Hampton; four grandchildren, Ronald Cooke of East Hampton, Robin Karrey of Kennebunk, Maine, Steven Peterson of Niantic, Kamey Cavanaugh and her husband Thomas of East Hampton; two great-grandchildren, Bailee Lynn and Emilee Rae Aherns of East Hampton; many cousins; and three very special friends, Gladys Yeager, Donna Lindstrom and Susan Moody all of East Hampton.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Joan Eleanor Peterson.

Millie's family would like to thank the staff of Middlesex Hospice for the wonderful and compassionate care they gave her.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Aug. 30, at 11 a.m., in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton, with the Rev. Beth Anderson officiating. Burial will follow in Lake View Cemetery. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, today, Aug. 29, from 6-8 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 31, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Olga Plecan Krukowski

Olga Plecan Krukowski of Colchester passed away Tuesday, Aug. 26. She was the daughter of the late Joseph Plecan and Mary Dzuma Plecan. She was born March 23, 1923, in Elizabeth, N.J., and was the beloved wife of the late Joseph Krukowski.

Olga is survived by her son Joseph Krukowski and his wife Jennifer, and two grandchildren, Joey Christie and Erica Krukowski.

She was preceded in death by her two brothers, Walter and Michael Plecan.

Olga was a supervisor at Pratt & Whitney before retiring. She was an avid fan of the New York Yankees and UConn Huskies men's and women's basketball. Olga also loved the ocean, mainly time spent enjoying Misquamicut Beach in Rhode Island.

Calling hours will be 9 a.m. today, Aug. 29, at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, with a 10 a.m. service at the funeral home, followed by a burial in Linwood cemetery in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks the donations be made in Olga's name to the charity of your choice.

Marlborough

Steven K. Fuller

On Sunday, Aug. 24, Steven K. Fuller passed, after a brief battle with cancer. Steven was born April 13, 1963. He worked as a cook in several restaurants; most recently Georgia's in Hebron. He was a charter member of SAL Post 197.

He was predeceased by his father, Richard A. Fuller, his mother, Muriel R. Fuller and his sister, Sharon Magri.

Steven is survived by his brother, Joel Fuller, and his sisters, Kathleen Stein and Diane Cavender of Marlborough. He leaves behind a close nephew, Zachary Fuller, as well as several nieces and nephews and his golden retriever, Jackson.

All are invited to a celebration of life luncheon from 1-4 p.m. at the American Legion Hall Post 197 in Marlborough on Saturday, Aug. 30.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Protectors of Animals.

Colchester

Andrew F. Turano, M.D.

Andrew F. Turano, M.D., of Colchester, beloved husband of Diane (Schondorf) Turano for 50 years, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 19, at his home, with family by his side. Born in New York City Sept. 24, 1926, he was the son of the late Andrew and Esther (Vitale) Turano, who both arrived here from Italy before marriage.

Dr. Turano was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Navy as an electronics technician in the Pacific Theater from 1945-1946. After attending public schools, including Queens College in New York City, he obtained an M.D. degree at New York University College of Medicine. He served a year of internship at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, and returned to New York City to complete his training for certification in pediatrics at N.Y.U.

Dr. Turano opened his office in Middletown in 1954, and obtained board certification in pediatrics and became a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. While at Middlesex Hospital, he served as president of the medical staff and as chairman of the department of pediatrics, during which time he introduced the "Share The Care" program, allowing mothers to remain in the hospital with their sick children at all times and assisting in their care. He also allowed La Leche League certified teachers to make rounds in the hospital assisting mothers in the art of breastfeeding. Dr. Turano organized the pediatric practice group in Middletown, Middlesex Pediatrics, which grew to have four physicians and two Pediatric nurse practitioners.

He retired from pediatric practice in 1991 and was a medical director at Aetna Insurance Company for four years. Upon his change in career he gravitated to the collection and restoration of antique pewter. Dr. Turano joined the Pewter Collector's Club of America, and published numerous articles in their bulletin, primarily on the subject of Connecticut pewter and pewterers. He also had a lifelong passion for writing poetry, painting, photography and listening to classical music and was an avid collector.

Upon retirement he enjoyed maintaining his house and grounds and the company of his wife and family whom he deeply loved.

Along with his loving wife, Diane, Dr. Turano is survived by his five children, Andrew Turano, Peter Turano, Lisa Turano Lento, Paul Turano and his wife, Alexandra Huff and Amy Turano Thurber and her husband, Frederick; and three grandchildren, Benjamin Thurber and twins, Della and Julian Turano.

A private graveside service will be held in Westchester Center Cemetery. Family and friends called Monday, Aug. 25, at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dr. Turano's memory to Middlesex Hospital Weiss Hospice Unit, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or send condolences, visit doolittlefuneralservice.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 received guests Tuesday, Aug. 26, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service was observed that evening. Burial was private.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Janice McCormick

Janice McCormick of Portland passed away Tuesday, Aug. 26, at the hospice unit at Middlesex Hospital. Born Nov. 11, 1933, in Hartford, she was predeceased by her husband of 56 years, John McCormick.

She is survived by her daughters, Allyson and Laurie, their husbands Bill and Michael, grandchildren Carly and Kellen, and her great-grandson, Dylan. She is also survived by her sister, Marge Platt, and her brother John Tracy and his wife Pat, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Janice graduated from CCSU and taught kindergarten for over 30 years in Cromwell. Janice enjoyed spending time with her family and friends at the beach in both Rhode Island and Florida, going out to lunch, and traveling. Her recent travels included going to Italy, Greece, Turkey, Panama, Costa Rica, and San Diego.

Janice was beloved by many and had friends for over 50 years that she enjoyed having lunch with on a regular basis.

A memorial service to celebrate her life was held Thursday, Aug. 28, at the First Congregational Church of Portland, 554 Main St., Portland, with the Rev. Jane Hawken presiding.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the First Congregational Church of Portland or the First Congregational Church of Haddam.

Portland

James A. Quigley

James A. Quigley, 77, of Ocala, Fla., passed away peacefully Wednesday, Aug. 20, after a long illness, surrounded by his family. Jim was born in Hartford Sept. 11, 1936, the oldest son of Bernard and Frances (Foley) Quigley.

At a young age Jim moved to his mother's hometown where he attended school, graduating from Portland High School in 1954. The Milwaukee Braves organization gave him a bonus to sign a contract to play baseball as a pitcher in their farm system. His manager at that time was Hank Aaron. He played semi-pro baseball for five years with the Braves.

After leaving baseball, Jim spent most of his years supervising the erection of high-voltage power transmission lines in North America and Saudi Arabia. When he returned from Saudi Arabia, Commonwealth Electric hired him as President of their Trans Power Division in Denver, Colorado. He retired in 2000. After his retirement, Jim worked with his brother, Terry Quigley, at Terry's Electric of Kissimmee, Fla. He was well-respected by everyone who knew him.

Jim loved sports, especially baseball and golf. He was an avid golfer with a (7) handicap. He was inducted in the Portland Sports Hall of Fame in 1997 for his achievements in baseball. He also loved to travel and spend time with his family.

Jim was preceded in death by his father, Bernard Quigley, and his mother, Frances (Foley) Quigley.

Jim is survived by his wife, Constance (Kulyk) Quigley with whom he was married for 22 years and a son, Terry (Debbie) of Minneapolis, Minn., and a daughter, Maureen (Mark) Frazier of Boston, Mass. He is further survived by step-children Brian Steadman of Orlando, Fla., Michele (Michael) Haugland of Ocala, and Justin (Paula) Steadman of Apopka, Fla.; his brother, B. Terence (Jeanne) Quigley of Kissimmee, Fla.; a sister, Jo Betty Handley of Kissimmee, Fla.; and grandchildren SSgt Ryan Skelton of Ft. Jackson, S.C., Jack and Kaitlin Quigley of Manchester, N.H., Josh and Matthew Traub of Minneapolis, Minn., Rebecca Haugland of Ocala, Elaina Steadman of Orlando, Fla., and many nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were held Sunday, Aug. 24, at Roberts Funeral Homes' Bruce Chapel East, 2739 SE Maricamp Road in Ocala, Fla. A Mass of Christian Burial was said at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church, 10670 SE Maricamp Rd., Ocala, Fla., on Monday, Aug. 25, officiated by the Rev. Fr. Felicio Baybay. Burial was private.

To view and sign an online guestbook, visit robertsfuneralhomes.com.