

RIVEREAST

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Remaining Hopeful... East Hampton resident Rob Trahan, far right, is battling stage IV melanoma. The community is now banding together to raise money for him and his family. Trahan is shown with his wife Kim and sons Zack (left) and John at a UConn charity basketball game at Mohegan Sun. See related story on Page 12.

Teen Pleads Guilty In Fatal Crash

by Geeta Schrayter

The Hebron teen who was driving the pickup truck that crashed last August, killing a RHAM High School classmate, pled guilty last week to manslaughter.

Connor McKee, 18, admitted last Friday to driving drunk in the early morning hours of Aug. 6, 2013, after leaving a party he had attended the night before. McKee lost control of the truck he was driving and crashed into a tree; the crash claimed the life of Hebron resident Paige Houston, 17, one of the vehicle's three passengers.

McKee faces up to seven years in prison.

Initially, McKee was charged with first-degree manslaughter, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, as well as a slew of motor vehicle charges. (McKee had his license for approximately five months prior to the crash, and was thereby restricted from having passengers or driving between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.) However, the sentencing range was lowered, as the result of a plea agreement.

Tolland State Attorney Matt Gedansky explained this week, "In exchange for the plea, there's an agreement between the state and [McKee] that the sentencing range will be be-

tween four and seven years."

He added, "The facts were fairly uncontroversial here, so it was a matter of finding a sentencing range that all parties could agree to – which included the [Houston family's] input as well."

In McKee's arrest warrant affidavit, which Gedansky said was made open to the public because the case was transferred to adult court "due to the seriousness of the event," McKee was said to have exhibited "an extreme indifference to human life" by driving in violation of his limited license and while under the influence of alcohol.

According to the affidavit, McKee, who told police he'd consumed "a beer and a half" that night, had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .11 percent at the time of the crash. Under state law, an adult is considered legally intoxicated with a BAC of .08 or above; for anyone under 21, that number is .02 or higher.

The affidavit said McKee, who was driving a 2000 Toyota Tundra registered to his father, was traveling between 87 and 95 miles per hour on West Street in Hebron – a 35 m.p.h. road – and drove through a stop sign just before the

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Portland Residents Express Concerns Over Cell Tower

by John Tyczkowski

This week, the Portland Board of Selectmen held a public hearing on a proposed cell tower to be located at Collins Hill Road, accessed from the Quarry Ridge Golf Course at 9 Rose Hill Rd. – and the hearing drew many concerned citizens.

The board's usual meeting place, the Mary Flood Room in Portland Public Library, was filled with about 25 people who live in the area directly around the proposed tower site – including residents from Rose Hill Road, Collins Hill Road and upper Bartlett Street.

Residents, as well as members of the Board of Selectmen and Planning and Zoning Commission, can voice their concerns during this process. However, the Connecticut Siting Council will have the final say on the project.

The CSC – which, according to its website, ct.gov/csc, has jurisdiction in the state over the placement of power plants, power lines, telecommunications infrastructure and hazardous waste facilities – has the ability to select locations for the placement of the towers in Connecticut towns, both on public and private land.

Representatives from New Cingular Wireless PCS, an AT&T subsidiary that is applying for the tower, were also at the hearing, and offered an informational PowerPoint presentation.

According to the presentation, AT&T's policy is to use existing communications infrastructure wherever possible.

"They identify a need, and then they try to find an existing structure to fit that need," said Lucia Chiochio, an attorney from Cuddy &

Feder in White Plains, N.Y., and counsel to AT&T.

But in this case, she said, existing structures were not in the correct geographic position to provide needed coverage.

A topographical map from the presentation showed that the tower's positioning at Quarry Ridge, which stands at an elevation of around 300 feet, would allow it to project coverage down the hillside.

The map also showed proposed alternate sites, all existing Connecticut Light & Power structure points, which are all located on the east side of Quarry Ridge, in a valley.

However, "the radio frequency [RF] signals won't be able to penetrate and propagate through the area from those sites," Chiochio said. "That's a major reason behind selecting this specific site."

According to a series of maps displayed at the presentation, the proposed 85-foot tower would increase coverage over a large section of town.

Quarry Ridge Golf Course roughly borders this section to the east according to the maps, Route 66 borders it to the south, Sage Hollow Road to the north and Route 17 to the west.

A diagram of the tower complex showed that branches would be placed at regular intervals on the pole to create the illusion of a pine tree. Also present at the site would be a small equipment shed with a height of about 11 feet, a backup generator and a chain-link fence.

The complex would be placed within a 4.92-acre parcel of land separate from the golf course,



In this view from the street around 86 Fairway Dr. in Portland, an arrow points to the location of a cell phone tower proposed for a lot near Quarry Ridge Golf Course. According to All Points Technology, which provided the photo, this picture was taken from just over half a mile away from the site.

on a 50 foot by 50 foot bed accessible via a pre-existing 300 foot-long golf cart path on the golf course.

In addition, the presentation included photos containing computer-generated composites of the tower added in to show residents how

visible the tower would be from locations on Bartlett Street, Gildersleeve Road, Fairway Drive and Ames Hollow Road.

Chiochio also said AT&T "did their due diligence" regarding RF signal output and expo-

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Fatal Crash cont. from Front Page

crash. After traveling off the western side of the road and striking a mailbox, the vehicle "continued in a northeasterly direction for approximately 243 feet where it traveled across the southbound and northbound lanes," according to the affidavit.

The warrant added the truck then "traveled off of the eastern side of the roadway and collided into a large tree with its left side."

As a result of the collision, Houston was thrown from the back of the truck, where she was sitting without her seatbelt on, and struck a stone wall. She was pronounced dead at the scene, and a post-mortem examination determined her cause of death to be "multiple skull fractures due to blunt impact of head," according to the affidavit.

Along with Houston, riding with McKee that night were Andrew Burton, 17, and Zachary Trapp, 20 (although their names were later redacted due to their ages, Burton and Trapp were both listed in the accident report). According to the affidavit, both Burton and Trapp repeatedly asked McKee to slow down that night, but he didn't listen.

Burton told police he saw the speedometer was at 85 m.p.h. just before the accident, and he said he remembers McKee attempting to brake and losing control of the vehicle.

Trapp, meanwhile, was recorded as saying

he observed McKee "driving recklessly and fast" until he lost control of the truck. After the accident, Trapp added he and Burton were "freaking out" and fled the scene, the affidavit said. (McKee was unconscious in the pickup, as a result of the crash.)

The two were later found on property belonging to Marlborough resident Paul Sibiga, 50, who allegedly allowed his sons to host parties on property located in the woods across the street from their home at 66 North Parker Rd. The property, which the affidavit said was referred to as the "White House" due to a "long, narrow tent covered in white plastic containing couches and tables," was determined to be the location of a party that night where there were 28 underage individuals – including the four who left in the truck – drinking and using illicit drugs.

As a result of the investigation, Sibiga was also arrested and charged with 28 counts of first-degree reckless endangerment and 28 counts of permitting a minor to illegally possess liquor in their dwelling/private property. Sibiga appeared in court last Tuesday, Sept. 9, where he rejected a plea agreement. He now faces trial on the charges.

McKee meanwhile, is next due in court Jan. 8 for sentencing.

Cell Tower cont. from Front Page

sure rules.

Even at top output, with all channels running simultaneously and with all antennas aimed at the ground, Chiochio said the tower would produce only 12.36 percent of the federal RF exposure level limit.

Following the presentation, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield read a letter from the town engineer, which expressed concern over the fact that the additional paved surfaces involved with tower site construction could increase groundwater run-off down the hill and into residential properties.

"We would be opposed to any widening of the existing golf course cart path," the letter said.

At the same time, the town engineer's letter suggested that subsurface infiltration chambers be created at the site to allow run-off to be absorbed into the ground, and that crushed stone be used wherever possible at the site to increase absorbent surface area.

Bransfield also read from a petition submitted by 53 residents of Portland, most of which lived on Collins Hill Road, Rose Hill Road and upper Bartlett Street.

The petition listed several objections, such as the fact that the tower was a commercial development in a primarily residential neighborhood; the cell tower might cause a decline in property values due to its visibility and noise from maintenance; and the additional run-off and drainage problems that development could cause.

"The tower is incompatible with this section of the town's aesthetic," the petition read.

Also, the petition mentioned health concerns about long-term RF exposure, especially given the residential nature of the surrounding area.

"For the sake of the many children in the neighborhood, we should err on the side of caution with this development," the petition said.

* * *

Bransfield then transitioned the hearing into the public comment section, where residents in attendance had the opportunity to stand up and voice concerns directly to her and the AT&T representatives present.

Sharon Hoy, who lives on Rose Hill Road, focused her concerns on property devaluation and erosion on her property from existing drainage problems, which she said would only increase with tower development.

"This tower is not in an appropriate location," Hoy said, reading from a pre-prepared letter.

She also raised concerns about the visibility of the tower when the leaves were off the trees.

Michael Libertine, the project's visual consultant from All Points Technology, responded to Hoy.

"The trees in that area are all between 70 and 90 feet tall, so the tower, at 85 feet, would fit right in," he said. "And when the leaves fall off the surrounding deciduous trees, you might see a little more of the tower's conifer structure. We can't make it invisible, but we do our best to make it an unobtrusive presence."

Chiochio also followed up on the drainage concerns, saying that AT&T would expand the golf cart path using gravel only to accommodate the needed equipment.

Ginny Quinn, a resident of Rose Hill Road, was concerned with the health implications of the 12.36 percent figure Chiochio had expressed earlier. She also wanted to know how that amount would expand if the tower was used to capacity with AT&T and four other carriers.

Dan Goulet, AT&T's consulting RF engineer from C Squared Systems in Auburn, N.H., said such a scenario would be unlikely.

"It is my strong opinion that five carriers will not go on that pole simultaneously," he said. "The thick treeline would also block signals and prevent them from propagating the further down carriers would go on the tower."

Goulet also said that the 12.36 percent figure was a maximum worst-case threshold, also unlikely in real-life tower operations.

The 12.36 percent RF exposure would occur "if you're standing at the bottom of the tower, with the antennas pointed directly at you," he said. "That doesn't happen."

Also at the meeting, Tom Nolan of Wildwood Road suggested that AT&T and the town could look into using state property near Engine Company No. 3 at a DEEP site located on Great Hill Road, which has a similar elevation.

* * *

Following the public hearing, the Board of Selectmen convened for an abbreviated version of their scheduled meeting.

The selectmen considered an appeal from Carlson Welding & Fabrication, which had been denied a building permit because they were looking to lease property at 80 Main St. from a landlord who owed back taxes to the town.

Bransfield said that the taxes owed were on the order of \$20,000.

Peter Bankowski of B&B Equipment, who owns the property in question, said he wanted to work with the town to fix this.

"I'm not trying to run away from the problem; I'm trying to rectify it," he said. "Whatever the town needs me to do, I will work with you any way I can."

He said that the economic downturn created cash flow problems for his property, since he's had a hard time finding tenants and keeping his property occupied.

Mary Dickerson, the town's economic development consultant, said Carlson Welding & Fabrication was a small business "superstar" and a success story, having achieved success through the state's Department of Economic and Community Development small business loan program.

"We don't want to lose a business that's been such a valuable contributor to the Town of Portland," she said.

Board member Kathy Richards said she agreed with Bankowski and Dickerson.

"We should let him create income to pay his taxes," she said, referring to allowing Carlson Welding to rent space from Bankowski. "It's helping him to get back on his feet, which helps business in town to get back on its feet."

Board member Fred Knous also echoed that sentiment, saying that he wanted Portland to be known as a "business-friendly" town.

The board unanimously approved Carlson Welding's appeal. This would allow the business to receive its building permit and continue operations in its new leased space and would allow Bankowski to generate the needed revenue to fulfill his tax obligations.

* * *

There will be a special joint meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 7:30 p.m., in the Portland High School cafeteria. The purpose will be to discuss business manager hiring and compensation procedures.

Marlborough Selectmen to Move Dispatch to Montville

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen approved a decision to go forward with consolidating their dispatch services to Montville Tuesday.

Called the KX-to-Montville consolidation, the board faced a tough decision since the plan does not result in immediate cost savings, but the move will avoid expensive updates to KX equipment around town.

Currently, Marlborough is joined with eight other towns to have their dispatch services for emergency personnel channel through the Colchester Emergency Communications Inc., or KX, which exists in a room at the Troop K headquarters on Old Hartford Road in Colchester. However KX's equipment is old and needs updating – an upgrade that would cost over \$700,000 (an amount that would be split up among the member towns).

On Tuesday, First Selectwoman Cathy Gaudinski, along with selectmen Denis Soucy and Dick Shea, voted to go forward with the consolidation contract, moving the dispatch to Montville.

"It's not cost savings initially, but adds stability to the dispatch centers," Gaudinski said. "If we don't consolidate, the cost would increase. KX needs to update their computer system and their CAD system, which is the way calls get recorded. It's a large capital expense. Moving to the new facility in Montville would mean that's already in place."

Marlborough currently pays \$47,567 for KX's services. That number, though, would jump for KX's equipment updates. The consolidation would cost Marlborough a projected \$54,889, which would decrease if more towns were to join the consolidation.

Another downfall to staying with KX, Gaudinski said, would be that KX's facilities could only take on one more "Hebron-sized town" (Hebron used to be one of KX's towns, but pulled out in 2013, moving its dispatch operations instead to an outfit in Tolland), but Montville could take on many more towns, de-

creasing operating costs per town.

Gaudinski went on to say there could be some savings through the consolidation; however, the town would not see those savings for another three to four years.

Gaudinski said there are no other options beyond staying in KX and heading to Montville. If the town were to start up its own dispatch operations, she said, "With our geography, we would have to build towers and add expense. The cost would go up either way."

Depending on how the contract process goes, Gaudinski said the town could be up and running with Montville by mid-October, with any equipment work on the towers occurring this fall to transfer the dispatch operations. The town will now enter into contract negotiations with Montville for a five-year contract for their services.

The board also approved to signing a notice of bid award to Trademark Contractors LLC out of Bristol for the water system project.

The town received eight bids and Trademark had the low bid, costing \$517,000. The bills went as high as more than \$1 million.

"There was quite a spread in terms of pricing," Gaudinski said. "We have had previous experience with Trademark for the South Main Street project."

Peter Hughes, director of planning and development for Marlborough, met with the state Department of Health to go over the bids and the project.

"At this point, we cannot sign the contract, but we can send a notice of award," Hughes said. "We need some signatures from the Department [of Health] before signing the contract."

However, Hughes said, the town did get approval for state funding for the project, which will total \$500,000. The Department of Health will now review the bid from Trademark and make sure it meets requirements. Once the department signs off on that, the town can sign the official contract which is expected to be a

10- to 15-day process.

With its acceptance of the low bid, the town has decided to not immediately connect 400 feet of School Drive running from the community room to Route 66 where the gate is. However they will be doing the intersection of Route 66 and North Main Street to Town Hall.

"We can always put School Drive back in," Hughes said. "We don't need it. We have connection to South Main Street already near the library. It just won't be a complete loop."

Hughes reassured the Board that during the winter, there will be no pipes or equipment left on the side of the roads. Hughes also said there would be three days or so of traffic issues at the school, however the school will be notified.

The project will begin in October and be completed next spring. Marlborough originally applied for the \$500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) back in 2012 for the 3,200-foot water system. The town will also be required by the state to work with the Connecticut Water Company, who will drill between two and three wells.

Regarding Phase 3 of the sewer project, the selectmen passed the use of a neutral statement to be listed with absentee ballots for the referendum. Hughes also updated the board on Phase 2, and told the selectmen the town has been finishing up the paving this week, and striping the streets and sealing the trenches. Hughes also said the town would be speaking with the health center about water conservation as their use is above normal.

The board also approved a portion of a \$300,000 grant for 31 Myrna Dr. through a Small Cities Grant to aid property improvements.

"We did the inspection and the house's roof leaks and it's clearly nothing but rafters," Hughes said. "It also has a 60 amp fuse box which is corroded and rusted. It's a danger. An elderly person lives in the home."

The loan was applied for earlier this year. The amount of the loan will be determined when the bid is approved, according to Gaudinski.

Hughes said it's something they need to do since the home is such a hazard. The board voted to waive equity limits and help the home. The loan is a zero percent loan which does not have to be paid until the home is sold.

Interested residents need to apply soon to the program since all bid awards must be completed by Dec. 31.

The board went on to pass the town's FEMA 2014-19 Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan after finding out that was why they were failing to qualify for FEMA grants.

"We couldn't apply for FEMA grants since we didn't have an updated, approved plan," Gaudinski said. "We can now apply for a grant for the town hall generator."

The new Marlborough Alerts system is also part of this plan and aids residents in time of natural disasters including storms. Residents can sign up through a link on the town website and select which of their devices they would like to receive notices through and what community news they would like to receive.

Gaudinski told the board Tuesday about all the social media and technology updates on the town website. The Marlborough Resident Trooper now has a Facebook page, and some matters for the town clerk, tax collector and town assessor are now available online, the first selectwoman said.

There will be a special Board of Finance meeting at 7 p.m. on Sept. 22 at the elementary school library concerning the sewer project. The next step for the project would be a public hearing.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

Andover Native to Appear in Primetime Pilot

by Geeta Schrayter

This Sunday, Andover native Scott Lindley will make his debut in a television series when CBS premieres the new drama *Madam Secretary*, about a female Secretary of State.

Lindley, 23, who grew up in town with his parents and two brothers, and simultaneously attended RHAM High School and the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, plays a character he describes as "a wannabe journalist" who gets thrown into a Syrian prison.

"Him and his brother get in way too far and over their heads and end up in prison," Lindley stated. "They sneak over the border and get captured."

Lindley said of the role, "It's a great little bit with a handful of scenes, and it was one of the most fun times I've had on set."

Filming involved two locations, he explained. One was in a private jet at a small private airport, which Lindley said was "part of the story that I guess will be revealed when the episode airs."

The other was on a prison set built in the basement of a cathedral not far from his apartment in New York City – something he called "incredible."

"Even the walls not dressed as a prison could be perceived as one given the right lighting," he shared, adding the set must have required "like a three-day build, and then I just got to walk on."

Lindley called himself one of the "smallest pieces of the puzzle" because so much went into the scenes – between the set, sounds and lights etc. – even before he arrived.

"There were all these logistics before [the acting] even began," he said.

Lindley said the prison scenes were "heavy" and the 14-hour filming day was "tough." He added the role was particularly challenging because it was the biggest budget production he'd ever done. One of the show's head producers is Morgan Freeman, "so you can tell

there's a lot of thought and a lot of money going into this," he said.

He continued, "You know when you're getting in front of the camera you have to deliver – but I guess that's why I went to school for [musical theater]: to deliver."

(After graduating high school, Lindley moved to New York City and attended Pace University for musical theater; he earned his degree last year.)

While Lindley's appearance in *Madam Secretary* is his first in a television show, it isn't the first time his face has been on TV. Over the years, he's done a handful of national commercials, including one with Selena Gomez for her clothing line, as well as a Foot Locker commercial with Cleveland Cavaliers point guard Kyrie Irving.

Lindley's interest in the arts stems, he said, from around fourth grade, when he was in a recital at Andover Elementary School.

"I did it and I enjoyed it," he said.

Lindley explained he started as a singer and attended voice lessons, which progressed to participating in musical theater shows, "and then it just kind of led from there into regular acting, but I'm still active in the musical theater world," he stated.

Over the years, Lindley has been in stage performances like *Cats* at GHAA and *Spring Awakening* in college – and the latter led him to acquiring his agent.

"Agents will come and sit at college shows to see if anyone catches their eye or would be a good fit," he explained.

And that's exactly how Teresa Wolf of Wolf Talent Group came upon him.

Wolf "saw the show and invited me to come and have an interview with her and the agency – so that's how I became a client of hers," he said.

Lindley now has a contract with both an agent and a manager.

"That's a good thing for me and right out of

the gate they got me a show at the Fulton Opera House in Lancaster, Pa.," he stated.

He spent two months in Pennsylvania performing in the quick-witted comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and it was after he returned to the Big Apple that he auditioned for, and landed the role on *Madam Secretary*, something he called "excellent."

Speaking on what he enjoys about acting, Lindley said it was the people. Although he admitted it was perhaps a "gross overgeneralization of the world," most people, he said, worked for a paycheck, not necessarily doing something they enjoy – but that wasn't the case with actors.

"What's great about acting is when you're on set or on location, there isn't anyone around you who isn't in love with what they're doing – they'd be insane to do it otherwise," Lindley laughed.

He added acting is "not really a safe path for your wallet – sometimes it's up, sometimes it's down – but man, when you're doing the work, that's what it's all about."

Regarding his hopes for the future, Lindley said, "What I would like to get is a regular role on a television show."

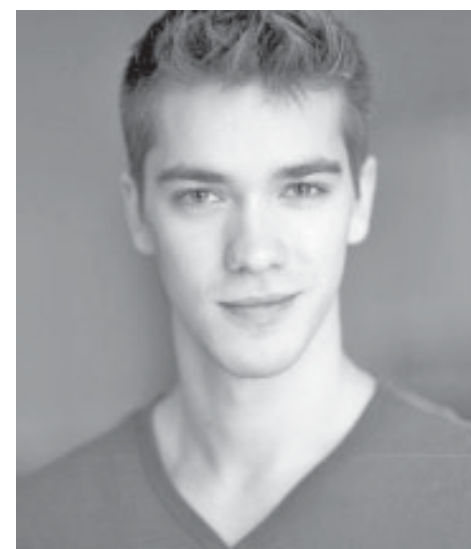
He called that opportunity "coveted," because "it's the perfect blend between a steady job, like an office job, and doing the thing that you love."

Lindley furthered, "Even a national tour of some theater production would be amazing."

But at the same time, he said, "I'm kind of taking [acting] as it comes."

Unless you're a highly-sought-after performer, Lindley stated, a day job is usually necessary for an actor. For him, that means bartending in the city.

"It's a good little job, it pays well, [and] I get to meet a lot of people," he stated, adding, "I'm ready to take opportunities as they come. I'm still young – I'm realistic with it."



Scott Lindley of Andover is appearing in the pilot episode of the new CBS drama *Madam Secretary* this Sunday.

To any kids looking to head down a path similar to Lindley's, he said it was important for them to know "patience is a big thing" – along with taking everything one step at a time.

"People," he said, "are trying to shoot for the finish line. People always say 'oh maybe one day you'll make it in acting,' but what does that even mean?"

If you're trying to act to become a celebrity, he furthered, "you're doing it for the wrong reasons. You should do it because you love doing it. Then, the rest will hopefully come with it."

Lindley concluded, "Be patient. And instead of looking at the finish line – because I don't even know that one exists – focus on each little bit, each little part."

Lindley's episode of *Madam Secretary* airs Sunday, Sept. 21, at 8:30 p.m., on CBS.

Portland School Board, Superintendent Talk Goals for New Year

by John Tyczkowski

A new schools superintendent and a new Board of Education chair began the process of setting goals for each other over the coming school year.

Superintendent Philip O'Reilly said he had been continuing the process of getting to know the town as part of the superintendent's transition plan he had discussed with board members previously.

"I've had the opportunity to address parents at the open house events, and I've had the opportunity to go into the classroom and watch teachers make presentations to the parents," O'Reilly said. "I think that's all been a great experience."

He also said that he had been attending a number of what he called "listen and learn sessions" with teachers, support staff, the Board of Education, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32nd District) and a number of community members.

"In the process I'm taking notes from every meeting," O'Reilly said to board members. "The thought is that I'm going to take these notes and collate some common themes, and then report back to you those common themes, which will become the basis of some future planning."

O'Reilly said he was "grateful to everyone" who has been involved in working with him so far during his transition.

O'Reilly talked about two temporary special education paraprofessional positions at Valley View School that had been created to assist in ongoing Individualized Education Program (IEP) efforts there.

"Right now it's temporary support for students at Valley View, and if that's a successful intervention, we'll continue, and if it isn't, we will not," he said.

IEPs are education plans tailored exactly to individual students, and are necessitated in special education situations. The plans are federally mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The meeting also covered the shared board/

superintendent goals that both parties had agreed to develop and work on cooperatively for the coming years.

Board of Education Chairwoman MaryAnne Rode compiled a document of individual board members' responses regarding what they felt was important to focus on.

"What we have here is a listing of goals and objectives sent in by several members of the board," Rode said. "What I was pleased to note is that there are a lot of common themes. However, this is a work in progress; thoughts that we need to put more structure around."

"But I think if we look at it closely, there are some very general goals and objectives that the board has laid out that I think we all have mentioned at one time or another," she continued.

A specific goal board member Chris Phelps brought up was to reform the old board objective process to be less task-based and more effective.

"It seems to me that over the years, the old format just devolved into tasks, and in some places said something like 'We'll continue doing this thing that is mandated by the state' as a goal," Phelps said. "That was like an airline saying, 'Our goal is to continue landing airplanes.'"

O'Reilly said he would like to see concrete metrics in place for these goals.

"It would be helpful if we set some measurable milestones," he said. "These goals are really great, and for the most part they are very much achievable over the period of a few years."

Rode said she agreed with O'Reilly.

"It's very important that there be checkpoints within each goal, that we can get a report from Phillip on, so we can also weigh in on them with our thoughts," she said.

Rode also said she found one of the goals referring to communication within the board was especially important to her.

"One of the reasons I joined the board was because I felt like there needed to be more communication between the board and the town as a whole," she said. "So I really liked the way

this goal was worded about internal and external communication. If we learn to communicate well within this board, then we can share that outwardly within the wider community and help people to understand what we do here."

Rode also said she was in favor of the board's goals of spending less time on operational issues in meetings and more time on student issues, and engaging in a "board education" process.

"There are things that we need to learn, that we could benefit from understanding more of," she said. "Each of us has an area of expertise we bring to the board, so knowledge sharing is very valuable."

O'Reilly also said that specifically, he would like to see more the reestablishment of regular subcommittees and regular subcommittee meetings added to the list as a measurable goal.

In addition, he discussed ways of measuring goals set by and shared between the superintendent and the board, well as self-assessments of board members' performance.

"What we did in New Hartford [where O'Reilly had previously been schools superintendent] was an evaluation of both the superintendent and the board based upon [Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents/Connecticut Association of Boards of Education] standards," O'Reilly said, referring to a packet of goals and evaluations provided at the meeting. "I believe it would work very well here too."

According to the packet, the superintendent would be evaluated in areas including educational leadership, organizational management, community and board of education relations, and personal and professional qualities and relationships.

The board member self-assessment contains areas of evaluation such as board members coming to meetings prepared, honoring non-unanimous decisions, sharing information equally and communicating respectfully even when in disagreement.

Overall, Rode said she was pleased with how

the goal- and objectives-setting was proceeding.

"I think we're all very much in sync regarding what we want to focus on," she said.

"And we have very lofty goals, so we'll never get bored," Rode joked.

Laura Webb, business manager for Portland Public Schools, delivered a financial report to the board.

"This time of year can be equated to a perfect storm. We're closing the '13-'14 fiscal year, trying to figure out where we're going to land for the '14-'15 year and we're actually starting the budget for the '15-'16 year," she said. "We've got about three plates up in the air at once as far as budgets go."

Webb said the 2013-14 year was "pretty well closed-out already," with just one more routine audit and two final reports to go. She also said that the current fiscal year is still being evaluated, but was able to say that the Board of Education and the town locked in a low rate for diesel fuel for the rest of the year.

"It was a quick move, a quick decision that had to be made, because the window of opportunity was very small," she said. "It should save us some money for this year."

Regarding the 2015-16 year, Webb said the main challenge was planning a budget with outstanding negotiations on secretarial, contract paraprofessional and custodial contracts.

"We have three union contracts that are coming up for the '15-'16 year and are not negotiated yet," she said. "We're kind of guessing at where we'll fall with those."

However, Webb said that teachers', nurses' and administrators' contracts have all been negotiated successfully.

Rode also said a special joint meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education will take place Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 7:30 p.m., in the Portland High School cafeteria. The purpose will be to discuss business manager hiring and compensation procedures.

Hebron Board Approves New Administrator Contract

by Geeta Schrayter

Last week, the Board of Education voted to approve a three-year administrators' contract, which includes salary increases each year of the agreement.

The Administrators' Contract includes the principals at both elementary schools, the director of curriculum and technology, and the assistant principal for Hebron Elementary School.

Currently, the salaries for Amy Campbell, principal at HES, and Eric Brody, principal at Gilead Hill School, each stand at \$128,084 for the 2014-15 year. Under the new contract, that number will increase to \$131,927 next year, \$135,885 for the 2016-17 year, and \$139,962 in 2017-18.

Vonda Tencza, the director of curriculum and technology, currently makes \$108,047. Over the next three years that number will increase to \$111,288 in 2015-16, \$114,627 in 2016-17 and \$128,989 in 2017-18.

Finally, the current salary for HES Assistant Principal Joshua Martin is \$102,981; under the new contract he'll earn \$121,584 in 2015-16, \$125,232 in 2016-17, and \$128,989 in 2017-18.

Also allotted to the administrators is 25 vacation days. This number isn't a change from the current contract; however, up to eight vacation days each year can be carried over into the following fiscal year under the new contract, up from five days in the 2012-14 contract.

Regarding health insurance benefits, a change comes under the type of insurance that will be provided. Beginning July 1, 2015, the

contract states "the High Deductible/HSA Plan shall be the sole insurance plan for all administrators."

For coverage under the High Deductible/HSA plan, 16 percent of the premium costs will be paid by the administrator in the first and second year of the contract; that number increases to 16.5 percent in year three.

Under the current contract, the board provides health insurance coverage "under one of the health insurance plans provided for employees of the board." Currently, administrators are responsible for 19.5 percent of the premium costs of whichever plan they chose.

The contract was approved last Thursday, Sept. 11, at the end of the board meeting by a vote of 4-1-1 with Amy Lynch-Gracias against, and Carol Connolly abstaining.

Also at last Thursday's meeting, discussion was held regarding the transportation policy as the result of an incident Sept. 5 where a first grade student was dropped off at the wrong stop.

Superintendent of Schools Jeff Newton mentioned the possibility of changing the policy language so that it reads "students in kindergarten through second grade must have a parent or other responsible adult present at the bus stop in order for the child(ren) to be left off the bus. If there is no adult present, the student will be brought back to school for pick-up."

Newton explained, "Lots of districts have this [policy]. If they're real little guys, and no one's at home to meet them, they're just brought back to school, parents are called and someone

comes and picks them up, so they're not standing there alone."

However, discussion by the board revealed some more information needed to be gathered before the policy change occurred.

School board member Erica Bromley, for example, asked whether there had been any discussion about who the "responsible adult" could be.

Along the same lines, Ramon Bieri expressed concern as to what happens in a situation where a parent has a high school student watching their children after school, or kids who get off the bus with their older siblings – individuals who may not fall under the "parent or responsible adult" category.

Connolly added her own thoughts to the mix. She said she was happy to see something was being done, but felt the responsibility should be with the bus drivers.

"I feel there should be someone here [at the meeting] from the bus station," she said. "What is the responsibility of the bus driver? We are paying drivers, paying a company, [and] to me I just think – yeah, it's great to have a parent out there but why isn't there some accountability on the bus drivers?"

Lynch-Gracias added she'd like to see the board's lawyers look over the policy and suggested the change go to the policy committee.

"I understand it's a big issue but I don't think we should act hastily and enact something that's going to affect a lot of people without going into great detail and talking to parents," she stated.

In the end, the decision was made to acquire more information before making any changes. Newton said he'd talk with the bus company, as well as the board lawyer, and take the potential changes back to the policy committee. Newton also said he'd send a letter out to parents to update them on the transportation policy, something he did Sept. 12.

In the letter, he wrote, "We felt it was extremely important for our district to review the current transportation policy that is in place."

As a result of the discussion had at the meeting, Newton furthered, "It was determined that further investigation is required to identify the impact that a policy change of this nature would have on our families."

To that regard, Newton said the district's bus company First Student would be consulted to identify bus stops that would be potentially impacted by a policy change like the one suggested at the meeting. In addition, the policy committee will review and further discuss the new language at their next meeting.

Until then, he concluded, "We will work diligently with First Student to continue to review and discuss current driver practice as it relates to student drop off for our primary grade children. Your child's safety remains of utmost importance, and we appreciate your understanding and support as our district determines the best course of action regarding this matter."

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m., in the Gilead Hill School music room.

East Hampton Man ‘Hopeful’ Despite Melanoma Diagnosis

by John Tyczkowski

Rob Trahan has already had one brush with cancer.

“I had a mole on my scalp, and it changed appearance. A biopsy showed it was melanoma,” the East Hampton resident said. “So I had it removed.”

That was in 2009.

Then, this past October and November, Rob said he started feeling some persistent back pain and weakness.

“I worked outdoors as a land surveyor. It’s a rigorous job, out in all the elements,” Rob said. “I just figured that I was hurting from work.”

Rob, who just turned 40 this past January, said he’s always stayed very active, said that soon, his back pain started to interfere with his basketball coaching for East Hampton Parks and Recreation.

“I noticed it was something else because it became harder and harder for me to do normal things like coach,” he said. “Eventually I got diagnosed with Stage IV cancer, which is pretty severe, and usually terminal.”

Kim Trahan, his wife, said they were told this past March that it was the same type of cancer that Rob had sidestepped previously.

“They found a lump on the side of my husband’s neck, bigger than a golf ball,” she said. “They biopsied it and it came back as melanoma.”

Kim said that, specifically, the cancer has metastasized and has spread into Rob’s brain, lymph nodes, bones and other tissues.

This also included the vertebrae of his back, which explained his persistent and intense back pain, she said.

“It’s been the hardest thing of our lives,” she said. “We’ve dealt with this kind of thing before, but it’s never been so close to home.”

Rob said he has been receiving treatment through the Yale Cancer Center since April, and that the side effects create daily challenges for him.

“I’m on a treatment that involves taking pills daily to fight the tumors,” he said. “Physically, it’s debilitating, I haven’t driven since I was diagnosed, or been able to lift heavy things and sometimes I need help walking as well.”

Kim said that this treatment – BRAP pills, so named for the gene they target in the process of suppressing tumors – is the second treatment they tried.

“At first, they had him on a clinical trial of a new drug,” she said. “He lost 55 pounds and they had to stop the trial because he was losing too much weight.”

Still, even with this new treatment, “he’s been very sick; there are all sorts of side effects,” Kim said. “We’re taking it day-by-day for now. It’s definitely going to be a long road ahead. But we’re trying to keep our kids busy so they can live as normal a life as possible.”

Kim also said fellow East Hampton resident Jill Riegler, who has four children that Kim has nannied for the past five years, has been instrumental in helping Rob and the family.

“Jill talked to some families and they made us a ton of meals; we have a freezer full now,” Kim said. “She and her family are so generous and are unbelievable to us.”

Riegler, who said she’s known Kim for “at least” six years, said she started a fundraiser for the family when Kim had started talking to her in between nannying about what Rob was going through.

“Her family is so willing to give to other people and help,” she said. “I really wanted to reach out to other people in the community and give them the chance to help [the family] out.”

The fundraiser is chiefly managed through a page at giveforward.com, which as of press time recorded 50 separate donations that add up to equal \$5,150 of the \$10,000 goal.

“The Trahans are a fantastic family that are going through a very hard time,” Riegler said. “I knew people who know them would want to help if they knew what was going on.”

According to the fundraising page Riegler set up, donations have been coming in almost on a weekly basis since Aug. 2, and the page has been shared on Facebook more than 200 times.

The page also features a thank you note from Rob to visitors to the site.

“It’s humbling to receive help in this way, but it means so much to us,” he said in a note on the page. “We discovered how many good people there are out there.”

Rob said he has to work to keep his positive

air.

“It is hard to keep a good attitude all the time; that’s one of the hardest things for me to do,” Rob said. “But I really am hopeful. I try not to pay attention to the statistics, the probabilities and so forth. I rely on prayer, support, family and medicine, there have been a lot of advancements made in melanoma treatment.”

Kim said she deeply appreciates what the Rieglers are continuing to do.

“We’ve been real close to them for years,” she said. “Jill’s family has been great, very great to us.”

Rob said he also appreciates how the community has come together to help.

“We’ve seen a lot of family support, support from co-workers and community support,” Rob said. “We’re very grateful to everyone.”

Rob also said that he wanted to make sure he gave Kim “all the credit she was due” for how much she’s been doing.

“She’s done so much for us all throughout the ordeal, and she’s taken care of so many other people and responsibilities at the same time,” he said. “She’s really a savior to me.”

Those interested in making donations to the Trahan family can visit giveforward.com/fundraiser/q395/rob-trahan, or they can make them directly to the Trahan Family Benefit Trust Fund, c/o Liberty Bank, 2 West High St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

Algae Symptoms Reveal Deeper Causes of Lake Problems

by John Tyczkowski

Weather conditions in Connecticut have contributed largely to Lake Pocotopaug’s latest blue-green algae bloom, which began at the end of August.

“We’ve kind of had the perfect storm this year as far as algae blooms go,” John Moore, chairman of the all-volunteer Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, said. “It’s been hot, sunny and there’s been a lack of rain to help water circulate in the lake.”

But, Moore also said that such blooms are an annual occurrence at the lake. He said FoLP and the town have tried several unconventional ways of dealing with the algae, such as ultrasonic vibration devices that shake algae cell walls apart, and stocking the lake with wall-eye, in an effort to tip the lake’s internal mechanisms in favor of supporting fish populations over algae populations.

However, Moore said, while these approaches enjoyed degrees of success, they didn’t attack the root of the problem, which was that too much phosphorous, a key nutrient for plants found in many types of fertilizers, was washing into the lake.

“The real key is to focus on the housekeeping outside of the lake,” Moore said. “Then you’ll see things start to clear up.”

Moore’s analysis concurs with a 2013 report by George Knoecklein from Northeast Aquatic Research of Mansfield on steps to begin fixing the algae problem. Chief among them is stabilizing shoreline erosion to limit the amount of fertilizer-containing run-off that the lake receives from being surrounded by developed land.

According to the report, phosphorous is a key element which fuels algae growth. The algae mass rapidly increases, or ‘blooms.’ Eventually, the bloom dies, due to the decrease in sunlight beneath the water’s surface caused by increased algae mass.

At the same time, the increased algae mass depletes the water’s dissolved oxygen, which can lead to a die-off of fish and other non-algae life.

Eventually, the process can make the lake a dead zone, as the algae itself will also die off due to lack of nutrients or unfavorable seasonal conditions.

Even worse, a process known as internal loading usually follows. In this case, depleted oxygen levels near the lakebed allow any phosphorous locked up in nutrient-rich lakebed sediment to be released, which in turn can fuel more

algae blooms, which creates a cycle.

The town had previously tried alum treatments to combat this cycle. The first time, in 2000, an improper treatment application resulted in a major fish kill. The following alum treatment in 2001 worked successfully.

Moore said alum treatments work by adding aluminum sulfate to the water. This creates a reaction that results in the production of a compound that attracts phosphorous, drags it down to the bottom of the lake, and seals it in.

The phosphorous remains at the bottom of the lake, he said.

Joe Carbonell, a member of the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug and the town’s Conservation-Lake Commission, said that a case of dredging gone wrong shortly after the second alum treatment, which reduced its effectiveness, is a perfect example of why lake resident education and involvement is also crucial.

“Shortly after the second treatment, somebody was given a permit to dredge out 100 cubic yards, but they dredged over 1,000 cubic yards,” he said. “When they stirred up the blanket on the bottom of the lake, everything blanketed on top of the blanket, and it diminished its effectiveness.”

However, Moore said there are some frameworks in place for people to start actively helping the lake. One way, he said, is to get young people involved with basic scientific activities such as lake and watershed monitoring, under the guidance of the town limnologist.

“The town normally has to hire someone to do that monitoring, and it’s expensive. These kids want to do it as part of the high school environmental club,” he said. “It’s relevant experience for them, and they get involved firsthand in helping out the lake.”

Carbonell also said that the Dennis Griswold Scholarship is available for East Hampton High School students who want to pursue a career in environmental science and similar fields.

Griswold was one of the founding members of the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug.

“There’s already some good community involvement to help kids to become active with the lake,” he said.

In addition, Moore and Carbonell both said they were working to effectively muster and utilize the educational resources at their disposal to teach residents about watershed management in-depth.

Moore said a watershed is an area whose drainage flow is anchored to a particular body of water.



A view of Lake Pocotopaug from the eastern shore at Marlboro Road, with the Twin Islands visible at center. A 2013 report from Northeast Aquatic Research suggests that the best way to combat its ongoing algae problem is through effective watershed area management.

“For example, any water in the Lake Pocotopaug watershed drains into the lake, and any water within the Salmon River watershed drains into the Salmon River,” he said.

However, watersheds can and do overlap, meaning that if one watershed is managed properly, other watersheds, and their associated bodies of water, will also benefit, he said.

Part of the problem, according to a document FoLP provided, is that since so much surface area within the lake’s watershed has been developed and paved, run-off contains more dissolved particles than it would normally.

This results in excess phosphorous getting into the lake, because paved surfaces don’t absorb the excess nutrients in run-off like normal ground does.

Three key recommendations in the document include making sure that lawns and gardens contain absorbent surfaces as well as plants with especially absorbent roots to clear up run-off draining into the lake, limiting or eliminating phosphorous fertilizer use and being careful when working on seawalls to minimize the amount of material that falls into the lake.

Moore also stressed that the large size of the lake’s watershed in the town lends itself to wide community involvement.

“There’s around 350 waterfront resident buildings, some of which are condos,” he said. “And there are 1,170 homes in the lake’s watershed overall.”

“Everyone in the watershed should get involved. All these properties, even those not directly on or near the waterfront, affect the lake, because everything goes down stream, sooner or later,” he said.

Carbonell said he wanted to encourage people through letting them know that there are simple things they can do to help the lake.

“One group, even one person, can really make a difference and do something important,” Carbonell said.

For more information and to get involved, residents can visit the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug at its website, ehflp.org, its blog, ehflp.wordpress.com or its Facebook page, facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Lake-Pocotopaug/117233958564.

Short Tales from the Colchester Barber Shop

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

It's the stories that come through the doors that keep Cindy Prescott, owner of Colchester Barber Shop, snipping and shaving.

In any given day, Prescott, 53, sees between 12 and 25 people, each one sharing a unique story about the weather, their life or the good old days of Colchester.

At 9:30 a.m. Wednesday morning, Ron Pepin, 75, of Colchester, walked into the shop for his usual haircut. Before he knew it, Prescott and Pepin were discussing names and the historic days of barber shops.

"A barber shop is a good place for news, gossip and information," Pepin said.

Pepin has been going to Prescott's for a year now, after his sister, who was a hairdresser, passed away and so did the man who used to do his hair in Pepin's hometown of Griswold.

"He used to call up customers because he was so bored and lonely and liked people coming in to chat," Pepin said of the barber in Griswold. "He would tell people haircuts would be \$5 or even free if they just came in."

Prescott and Pepin also got to talking about names and nicknames.

"I had a school teacher who only believed in real names," Prescott said. "She thought 'Cindy' was a nickname so she always called me 'Cynthia.' I had two files [at the school]; one under 'Cindy' and one under 'Cynthia.'"

Prescott remembered one story fondly from a Colchester resident who remembered sledding through town back when there were only horses and buggies to get around.

"I wanted him to write a book," Prescott said. "He would sled from Halls Hill across Main Street and down Dr. Foote [Road]. They would use a horse to pull the sled back to the top. That had to be something. They didn't have to worry about traffic."

After Pepin departed, Butch Rebillard, 70, of Colchester, stopped in for his cut, chatting about his involvement in tractor shows and his family in Texas.

"I'm working part-time" driving a truck,

Rebillard said. "I'm done with retirement right now. Everything's too expensive nowadays."

Rebillard went on to say that he has the Durham Fair and the Portland Fair for his tractor races. He also mentioned an upcoming trip to Texas to see family.

In Texas, he said, people "work 5 a.m. to 10 a.m., break, and then again in the afternoon," Rebillard said, while drivers "go 85 m.p.h. until a cow jumps out in front of you."

When he visits, he said, his family members "want me to just sit in the house in the air conditioning, but I've seen all the John Wayne movies."

The conversation in the barber's chair never seems to flow. Prescott and her client may chat about one thing one moment and then change topics the next. It's a natural transition, involving anything the two wish to chat about. It's a therapeutic form of talk, with Prescott knowing her customers quite well and a sign saying no cell phones while in the chair lying against the mirror.

"You get people who talk about the weather, but I try and stay away from politics," Prescott said. "A lot of it is what's going on with their lives, be it birthdays, weddings or vacations. They also talk about the way things used to be. 'I remember when Colchester got its first streetlight.' 'This was all farmland.'"

As for Prescott, she recalled how her uncle used to skip school to go get ice, or when barber shops used to be a place to go play chess.

"Now it's a big hustle-bustle world," Prescott said. "A lot of barbers work until the day they die."

Prescott began in the industry at a shop in Niantic before going to the Hair Barn in Colchester which she later bought in 1985. Her business was there until 1994 when she moved it into her home on Old Hartford Road.

"People have told me stories about this house and the man who built it, who was a plumber," Prescott said. "I was friends with one of his daughters growing up."

The Colchester Barber Shop not only has



Cindy Prescott, owner of the Colchester Barber Shop, cuts the hair of Colchester resident Ron Pepin Wednesday while chatting about classic barber shops.

plenty of parking and no stairs, but a plethora of barber shop memorabilia that Prescott has collected over the years. One of her favorite pieces is a set of Mickey and Minnie Mouse as barbers which landed strangely in her lap.

"My husband brought them home one day and I said 'I've seen those before,'" Prescott said. "He said, 'You couldn't have; they are one of a kind, hand-painted pieces,' but I had. Sure enough, he bought them from the man who bought the shop in Niantic where I used to work. I have pictures from my days in Niantic with them in the background."

Right now, Prescott said she isn't ready to

retire.

"Lots of people have been with me since the early '90s," Prescott said. "Lots of years and lots of people. Barbers are hard to find, but they're coming back. You never know what each day will bring."

The Colchester Barber Shop takes appointments by phone, though walk-ins are welcome. The shop, which is located at 486 Old Hartford Rd. is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursdays, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; and Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon. To make an appointment, call 860-537-4547.

Activity Bracelets Look to Bridge Colchester's 57 Fest Gap

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Attendees of this year's 10th annual 57 Fest will see a new addition to the festival – and it's not something festival organizers are thrilled about adding.

After a \$7,000 deficit in the budget for the event, Colchester Parks and Recreation chose to add a \$5 bracelet for unlimited access to a number of youth activities including laser tag, the bounce house, the "double trouble" slide, car racing, a photo booth, an obstacle course and spin art, among others.

"Event day in its entirety costs approximately \$20,000 which includes the fireworks, band, activities and required staff to run the event in accordance with safety guidelines," Anita Pizzutiello, recreation supervisor for Parks and Recreation, said. "At this time, we have secured \$13,000 in sponsorships from local businesses, vendor fees and other various forms of revenue related to the event."

However, in previous years, Colchester's general fund has supported the event by paying for the payroll for town employees, including police and fire among others. This year that was cut from the town budget.

"This year the event itself is not supported by any tax dollars," Pizzutiello said. "Through the years, various businesses in town and throughout Connecticut have graciously supported the festival through sponsorships and donations. Yet each year, it has been more difficult to cover all the expenses."

After reviewing a multitude of options, Parks and Recreation decided on the bracelet to help cover the \$7,000 deficit.

"In previous years, attendance has been approximately 4,000 to 5,000 people," Pizzutiello said. "If 1,400 of those people are children and each purchase a \$5 bracelet, we will meet our goal."

Last year's event boasted an attendance of nearly 4,500 people, a few hundred more than the previous year. The event also had great weather with clear skies, which organizers hope for again.

The bracelets will be sold only at the event, at three different information booths. Cash or check will be accepted.

Although the 57 Fest is charging for the bracelets, entrance to the festival is still free, along with other activities provided by community booths in the concourse area, the concert and the fireworks.

"The response has been positive," Pizzutiello said. "The community enjoys the event so much they are very willing to support it by purchasing the bracelet."

Pizzutiello went on to say that if the committee had not introduced the bracelet, the youth activities would have had to be eliminated which is something they did not want to do. Last year, many of the families that went to the festival said some of the bounce houses and

other activities were actually their favorite part of the event. Without initiating the bracelet cost, none of that would have been able to happen this year.

"We hope that next year the town budget can once again support this event in some way and that businesses and those attending will sponsor or make a donation to keep this event going," Pizzutiello said.

Pizzutiello said the committee realizes, however, that it is becoming increasingly difficult to pass the town budget and they don't anticipate support through the general fund since there are more urgent concerns that need the funding.

This year's festival also celebrates the 10th year of 57 Fest; the event was first held in 2005, to celebrate Colchester being ranked 57th on the "100 Best Places to Live" list by CNN and *Money Magazine*. Since then, it has been a town staple in September to celebrate Colchester – and focus on health and being an active community.

Health and Physical Education teacher Don Levine from Colchester Elementary School will host an afternoon of free timed quarter mile to mile races on the Bacon Academy track during the 57 Fest.

Food offered at the event will include New England Soft Serve, Colchester Lions Club

fried dough, hamburgers and hot dogs, Agave Canteen Mexican cuisine, IGottaQ barbecue brisket, tri tips and pulled pork along with Uncle D's Blazin' Barbecue chicken, ribs and pulled pork.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the event, there will be a special ground show added to the fireworks display by Zambelli Fireworks. Parks and Recreation suggests any of the open ball fields for viewing.

57 Fest kicks off on Sept. 27 at 4 p.m. and runs until 8:30 p.m. at the Colchester Recreation Complex. The Michael Cleary Band will take the stage at 6 p.m. and the fireworks begin at 8 p.m. The band will be celebrating their 23rd year making music with their specialty in groove, funk and rock with a twist. There will also be performances by the Bacon Academy Dance Team, Bacon Academy Cheer, Alyson's School of Dance and Doreen's Dance Center.

Limited parking will be available at the recreation complex and free shuttles will be run from the Jack Jackter Intermediate School. The rain date for the event is Sunday, Sept. 28.

Donations and sponsorship opportunities are still being accepted and interested people can call the Parks and Recreation Department at 860-537-7297 or email parcsandrec@colchesterct.gov.

Marlborough Police News

9:15: Victor Awosika, 30, of 86 Sherman St., Springfield, Mass., was arrested and charged with DWI, operating without a license, reckless driving above 85 m.p.h. and possession of a controlled substance, police said.

Portland Police News

9:12: Shawn Wolak, 48, of 5 Colchester Ave., East Hampton, was charged with conspiracy to commit/possession of fireworks, Portland Police said.

Colchester PZC Reviews Plan of Conservation and Development

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

After reviewing the first half of the draft of the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, the Planning and Zoning Commission Wednesday identified its priorities for conservation.

The Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) is meant to help guide the future of the town by looking at where the town is today and how things are going, evaluating what could happen in the future, selecting outcomes, and recommending policies and programs to help accomplish the vision of the plan. The plan also is used to establish the language needed for some grant programs and other community initiatives.

Overall, the plan hopes to establish strong centers in Colchester and a secondary center in Westchester, keep residential and economic centers near the village center and keep everything else rural.

The draft was presented by Glen Chalder of Planimetrics and after public comment earlier this year, prioritized conserving open space, farms, natural resources and enhancing town character.

The goals for the draft included: protecting water needs; having a green infrastructure and low impact development; preserving more open space; doing more for greenways and linear

open space; focusing on open space because it has environmental, character and fiscal benefits; having an open space fund; devoting more attention to preserving farmland; the fact that agriculture is part of Colchester's heritage and has character and fiscal benefits; striving to maintain a town and country balance; remaining rural, but with some commercial benefits; adding a review process so architecture keeps the town's character; and maintaining property.

The original plan, drawn up in 2001, focused on growth management, while this plan is more about preservation, character issues and open spaces. The commission stated that priorities in the community have changed since the original plan.

However, while discussing the draft, commission members identified a few places for continued study including what to do with the Westchester section of town, and also how to budget for open space acquisition while making sure residents understand why open space acquisition is important.

While discussing Westchester, the commission decided to leave the plan open for future opportunities for the area. Members said they did not want to close off the opportunity of having Westchester classified as a village district; however, they needed more study to really de-

cide what to do.

Town Planner Adam Turner agreed Westchester would benefit from more study.

"Westchester was one of the parts of the plan that didn't get done," Turner said.

Westchester was characterized at the meeting as unfriendly to pedestrians with its lack of sidewalks. In the POCD, places need to be connected, not just developed, so that it will entice people to walk from place to place.

The commission members stressed how this plan will aid the town in the future to help decide what they want. They expressed a concern that up until now, the town has just tagged along with a developer's idea while they should have an idea of what the town wants before the developer steps in.

Concerning land acquisition, Andrew George, president of the Colchester Land Trust, pointed out that, up until now, the land acquisition fund for the town has been only \$5,000, which barely buys any land.

The commission said in response that the problem has been communication with residents about why open space acquisition is important. The consensus among commission members and other town officials present was that citizens need to understand the meaning behind the dollar number before they will agree

to spend it. Numbers are misleading sometimes, the commission said, and the problem is not only communicating to the voter why it's important, but getting people to vote since only one in four people vote.

The POCD also stresses the importance of keeping character with commercial outlets. To do this concerning design, the commission is looking into possibly having a design review board or regulations about design that would aid architects in understanding what the town is looking for in their buildings.

The commission ended with discussing blight and tree trimming and how to keep the town from being cut down too much by electrical companies and finding the balance between safety and character.

The plan's process began in May after public comment on understanding what is important to residents and has gone through multiple drafts since then.

The next step for the draft will be the commission reviewing the development half during its meeting on Oct. 15. After that, the draft will go to a public information meeting for the town as a whole to gather comments from the community and to address issues. The plan is to have the public meeting sometime during November.

State, Town Police Investigating Assault at Horse Farm

by John Tyczkowski

East Hampton police are working with detectives from the state police's Major Crime Squad on an ongoing investigation into an alleged assault that occurred this week at White Birch Horse Farm, located at 183 White Birch Road.

According to a release from state police, a 58-year-old female, Lisa Rader, sustained multiple injuries during the early morning on Wednesday and was transported in serious

condition to St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.

State police detectives have collected both physical and forensic evidence from the scene, have conducted interviews and are continuing to assist East Hampton police in the investigation, according to the release.

State police request that anyone with information or knowledge about the incident contact them at 860-896-3230; all calls will be kept confidential, police said.

East Hampton Police News

8/28: Richard Wellman, 21, of 131 Hog Hill Rd., and four juveniles of East Hampton were each arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief and conspiracy to commit third-degree criminal mischief, East Hampton Police said.

8/30: Jacob Wood, 20, of 54 Long Crossing Rd., was in a one-car motor vehicle accident on Young Street, police said. Wood was issued a summons for evading responsibility, failure to drive right and breach of peace, police said.

8/30: Paige K. Post, 36, of 103 Park Ave., was issued a summons for DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

9/3: Arleigh Streich, 55, who police said they have no certain address for, was arrested and charged with first-degree criminal trespass and second-degree breach of peace, police said.

9/4: Scott Minor, 50, of 85 N. Main St., and Derrie Cordeiro, 54, also of 85 N. Main St., were involved in a two car motor vehicle accident on the access road of Edgemere Condominiums, located at 85 N. Main St. Minor was

issued a summons for unsafe backing and for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

9/5: Matthew J. France, 20, of 1 Country Place Rd., Colchester, was issued a ticket for possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, police said.

9/6: Joyce L. Crocker, 72, of 24 Hilltop Rd., East Hampton was involved in a motor vehicle accident with a parked car. Crocker was issued a summons for unsafe backing and DUI, police said.

9/9: Troy McIntosh, 32, of 28 Main St., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle without a license, police said.

9/9: Alex Banning, 21, of 28 Main St., was issued a summons for misuse of plates, operating a motor vehicle without a license and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle.

9/10: Alexis Sypek, 20, of 225 West High St., was arrested for two counts of second-degree failure to appear, police said.

Colchester Police News

9/11: Colchester Police reported that a resident on Mill Hill Road reported a burglary at around 1:48 p.m. Upon police arrival, the residents reported the following stolen from a safe that was pried open inside the residence: \$2,200 in cash, a yellow gold ring with a black onyx diamond, silver bracelet with named charms, a gold rope bracelet, an older woman's gray wallet containing old family photographs, and several prescription medications. Anyone with any information is to call Officer Bryan Kowalsky of Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.

9/11: State Police said Christopher Putty, 28, of 1631 Chestnut Dr., Colchester, was arrested and charged with first-degree failure to appear.

9/14: Colchester Police said they are investigating a reported violation of a restraining order that occurred on Old Hartford Road in Colchester. This case is an open investigation.

9/14: Catherine Chisholm, 49, of 10 Fernwood Dr., Bolton, was transported to the Marlborough Clinic with injuries to her arm and leg after police said she lost control of her car on Bull Hill Road in Colchester at 11:47 a.m. She was issued a verbal warning for making an improper turn.

9/15: State Police said Richard Bouscher, 53, of 34 Gilman Rd., Gilman, was arrested and charged with third-degree larceny.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Baseball's a funny game.

As a Mets fan, I was positively thrilled Monday night to see rookie pitcher Jacob deGrom strike out the first eight Miami Marlins he faced. Yes, eight. That set the all-time Met record (and the Mets have had a lot of great pitchers over the years, such as Seaver and Gooden), but also tied the Major League one.

It was a great feat – the Mets' PR team has really been pushing "deGrominant" this year whenever deGrom has one of his fantastic starts, and what he did Monday really was deGrominant – and I'm sure deGrom, and Mets fans everywhere, would've loved to see him hit consecutive strikeout number nine. Alas, it wasn't meant to be, as the ninth batter smacked a clean single to right.

So who broke up the historical run? Was it one of the team's power hitters? Or maybe a high-quality singles hitter, someone who knows his way around a good pitcher?

Nope – it was the pitcher. A guy who, going into Monday's action, had collected just two hits this season. A guy who, even after going 1-for-2 at the dish Monday, is hitting a mere .167 on the season.

Of course he'd be the one to break up the strikeouts.

Still, though, a fantastic outing by deGrom, who has been talked about a lot lately as a possible Rookie of the Year candidate – and I hope he gets it.

Speaking of baseball, former RHAM Sachem star A.J. Pollock is back with the Diamondbacks – and is making a strong close to his season.

Pollock, you may recall, was putting together a fantastic season when, on the last day of May, he was hit by a pitch, breaking his hand. At the time, he had the ninth-highest batting average, seventh-highest slugging percentage and eighth-highest OPS (slugging plus on-base percentage) in the National League. And all that was on top of some sterling defense.

So I felt real bad for him to see all that success he was enjoying come to a screeching halt. The broken hand required surgery, and Pollock was out of commission for several weeks. His DL stint finally ended Sept. 2 – and the 26-year-old, I'm happy to say, appears to be picking right up where he left off.

Entering Tuesday night's action, Pollock has gone 11-for-38, with a homer, seven RBI,

seven runs scored and four stolen bases. In fact, he was just picked up again in my fantasy baseball league – by the team with the best record in the league, whose owner clearly knows his stuff.

I'm sure Pollock's wishing the baseball season didn't have to end next week. But hopefully he can continue to build on this, and have a fantastic – and this time, injury-free – 2015.

The other day, an item floated across my email inbox from the office of state Rep. Christie Carpino. Carpino, who represents Portland and Cromwell, said the state's Program Review and Investigations (PRI) committee will have a public hearing Wednesday, Oct. 1, in Hartford, on her proposal to examine the operations of the Connecticut State Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill.

Carpino, who serves as ranking member of the PRI committee, pushed for the study after, the emailed news release said, "months of inquiries and concerns" voiced to her from constituents.

The Oct. 1 public hearing will be held in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford at 2 p.m. Carpino plans to tour the facility in the near future and speak to residents personally.

The PRI committee, Carpino's news release said, will examine the current delivery of services by at the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs to ensure its residential services are delivered fairly and adequately. They will also assess processes for admitting, discharging and transferring residents, as well as resolving residents' complaints and implementing conduct rules, will be highlighted.

"I have heard from veterans across Connecticut who want their voices heard on their treatment at the Veterans Home," Carpino said. "This public hearing will be their opportunity to express their concerns and suggestions. Our veterans have given so much and we have an obligation help them when they are in need. They were there for us and we need to be there for them."

It sounds like a public hearing that would be of interest to any veteran in the area – not just vets from Portland and Cromwell. So vets may want to swing by the LOB Oct. 1.

Also, anyone interested in submitting written testimony or contacting Carpino can do so at Christie.carpino@housegop.ct.gov.

See you next week.

Obituaries

Portland

Catherine M. Nordquist

Catherine Machie Nordquist of Portland, beloved wife of Eric Nordquist of 48 years, passed away peacefully Monday, Sept. 1, at her home. She was born in Manchester Feb. 27, 1945, to the late M. Edward and Catherine (Carlin) Machie.

She is survived by her daughter, Kimberly Ben Ali and husband Ahmed Ben Ali of Middletown; daughter Lynn Nordquist of Portland; and her grandson Jonathan Nordquist of Portland, who was the light of her life.

She was predeceased by her sister, Mary Arel, and brother, Dennis Machie.

Catherine graduated from Hartford High School in 1963. She worked at Travelers and then United Healthcare, before retiring. She loved to travel and made it to Hawaii, which was her dream trip. She belonged to the Women of the Moose for over 20 years and was proud to have been able to achieve the degrees of College of Regents and Star Recorder. She also was a member of the Ladies Guild at Zion Lutheran Church.

A memorial service celebrating her life will be held Saturday, Sept. 20, at 11 a.m., at Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland, CT 06480.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Catherine's name to Middlesex Hospital Homecare - Hospice and Palliative Care, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Portland

Darren James McGann

Darren James McGann of Portland accepted the Lord's invitation to join him in his heavenly kingdom, to be freed from his pain and suffering on Saturday, Sept. 13. Born in Hartford on Oct. 21, 1968, he is the son of Edward McGann of Portland and the late Carol McGann.

Darren grew up in Portland and graduated from Portland High School in 1986. He worked for the Town of Cromwell Parks and Rec. Department for many years. He enjoyed the simple pleasures of life; fishing, riding his motorcycle, playing his drums and listening to country music.

Darren will be dearly missed by his dad, his son, Ryan McGann, his sister, Debbie and her husband, Mark, his sister, Donna, his brother, David and his wife, Sherry, his fiancée, Debbie and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and friends.

The Lord has you in his loving arms; we will carry you in our hearts forever.

Relatives and friends called Thursday, Sept. 18, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial was private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Darren's name may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Colchester

Edward J. Beierle

Edward J. Beierle Jr., 86, of Norwich, died Saturday, Aug. 30. Ed, son of Helma (Larson) Beierle and Edward J. Beierle Sr., passed away at Harrington Court in Colchester.

He is survived by his children and their families John Beierle of Norwich; Caroline and Bob Thurston of Colchester; Allison Barry of Andover, N.H.; and his grandchildren, Charles, Alicia, Kevin and Adam.

Ed had a lifelong passion for photography. When residing in Colchester, he worked as a movie projectionist and as a local freelance wedding photographer. He retired as a photographer at NUSC.

From a spiritual experience in 1973, Ed became aware of a "greater wisdom"; creating for him an absolute faith in and love for God, which assuredly gave him peace in his final hours.

In lieu of flowers, brighten someone's day with a random act of kindness.

Portland

James P. Melia

James P. Melia, 71, of Portland, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 17, at home. He was the son of the late Thomas and Eunice (McCloud) Melia.

Born on March 4, 1943, in Waterbury, he lived in Newport, R.I., and resided in Portland for the last 11 years. He was a 1962 graduate of Crosby High School in Waterbury and was in the U.S. Army, stationed in Fort Benning, Ga., from Oct. 18, 1963, to Oct. 15, 1965. He also worked in real estate sales for many years, until his retirement.

He leaves his brother, Thomas Melia, and his wife, Linda, of Portland; a sister, Marjorie Roberts of Berlin; and many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends may call Sunday, Sept. 21, from 3-5 p.m., at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Portland Food Bank, 33 East Main St., Portland, CT. 06480.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Andover

Robert J. Coulombe

Robert J. "Bob" Coulombe, 87, a resident of Andover for 61 years, beloved husband for 63 years of Florence F. (Rottino) Coulombe, passed away peacefully Thursday, Sept. 11, at Manchester Memorial Hospital. He was born in Lowell, Mass., on Feb. 27, 1927, the son of Arthur and Florina (LeFebvre) Coulombe.

Robert was a United States Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the South Pacific. He continued to serve in the Naval Reserves until 1954. Robert and Florence enjoyed snowmobiling, camping and traveling. Bob also enjoyed canoeing the Allagash. He was a member of the VFW of Willimantic and the Andover Senior Young at Heart Club. He retired from Chandler Evans in 1992 after 42 years of dedicated service.

Besides his loving wife Florence, Robert leaves six godchildren, Penny Nigro, Deb Fagan, Kevin Powers, Greg Symonds, Keith Murray, and John Rottino; a very special aunt Lucy Palmer; his cousin, who was like a sister to him, Carol Bernier; sisters-in-law Fran Cafro and Gloria Bouchard and her husband Andy; a brother-in-law Dan Rottino and his wife Kathy. He also leaves many cousins, nieces, nephews, and so many dear friends.

He was predeceased by a goddaughter, Sandra Rottino, and a brother-in-law, Anthony Rottino and his wife Edith.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, Sept. 16, in the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill. Burial with military honors followed in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. Family and friends called at the funeral home Monday, Sept. 15.

Those wishing may make a donation in lieu of flowers to the Andover Fire Department, 11 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232.

Colchester

Theodore A. Blackmer

Theodore A. "Ted" Blackmer, 78, of Lebanon, formerly of Norwich, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 12, at the Harrington Court GHC Center in Colchester.

He was born Jan. 9, 1936, in Norwich, and attended local schools. Ted enjoyed working on the family farm as a young man and later enlisted in the U.S. Army. Ted worked as a professional truck driver for many years.

Funeral services were held privately.

Care of arrangements was entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Colchester

Ronald Charles Domian

Ronald Charles Domian, 68, of East Windsor, beloved husband for 20 years of Sharon (Higgins) Domian, passed away peacefully Thursday, Sept. 11, at his home. Born in Hartford Sept. 28, 1945, son of the late Frank and Isabel (Brazaitis) Domian, he was raised in East Granby and had lived in Tariffville and Colchester before moving to East Windsor 12 years ago.

After graduating from Suffield High School with the Class of 1963, Ronald enlisted in the U.S. Army and served during the Vietnam War until his honorable discharge in 1967. Ronald returned to Connecticut and took a position with A&P Supermarket in the retail grocery business, where he worked for over 42 years until his retirement as an assistant manager.

An avid sports fan, Ron especially loved watching the Boston Red Sox and the UConn men's and women's basketball teams. In his spare time, he enjoyed gardening, going to tag sales, playing cribbage, and most of all spending time with his grandchildren.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Bryan Domian and his wife Kristin of Englewood, Fla.; a daughter, Elizabeth Domian Gunther and her husband Marc of Edinburg, Va.; three stepchildren, Robin Arguello and her husband Raul of Wallkill, N.Y., Paul Shorey of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Tim O'Leary of Cold Spring, N.Y.; 12 beautiful grandchildren, Samuel, Ryan, Adam, Maxwell, Jason, and Karis Gunther, Addyson and Kathryn Domian, Michael Arguello, Alexis and Madison Miket, and Aizea Higashi Shorey.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Frances (Plona) Domian; and two brothers, Robert Domin and Paul Domin.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Pauline Taylor, who visited Ron daily. They would also like to thank everyone who has prayed for Ron in this trying time. He will be greatly missed by many.

His family received friends Friday, Sept. 12, at the Hayes-Huling & Carmon Funeral Home, 364 Salmon Brook St., Granby. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, Sept. 13, at St. Bernard Church, 7 Maple St., in the Tariffville section of Simsbury. Burial followed in St. Bernard Cemetery, Tariffville.

For online condolences, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Scott A. Fichera Sr.

Scott A. Fichera Sr., 51, of Danielson, formerly of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Sept. 4. Scott was born May 19, 1963, in New Haven, son of Angelo and Dorothy (Sinclair) Fichera.

Besides his parents, Scott is also survived by his sons, Scott A. Fichera Jr. and his fiancée, Stephanie Culver, Angelo "AJ" Fichera and his fiancée, Samantha McBrearty; and their mother Debbie Bonito; his beautiful granddaughter Gianna Fichera; his brother, Stephen Fichera of Texas; and his sisters, Dawn Fichera of Connecticut and Sandi Fichera-Thomas of Texas. He is also survived by his aunts, uncles, and cousins, several nieces and nephews, and many, many friends.

Scott loved his family. He served on the Colchester Fire Department for years. He enjoyed watching wrestling and was an avid Boston Red Sox and Dallas Cowboys fan. Scott truly will be missed.

Relatives and friends joined the family for calling hours at Tolland Memorial Funeral Home, 375 Merrow Rd. (Route 195), Tolland, CT 06084 Saturday, Sept. 13, with a memorial service that evening.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Scott's name to the Colchester Hayward Fire Dept., 52 Old Hartford Road, Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit pietrasfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Gordon W. Miller

Gordon W. Miller, 91, of East Hartford, formerly of Marlborough and Tolland, died peacefully Sunday, Sept. 14, at his home, with his family at his side. Gordon was the beloved husband of Barbara, and the late Elizabeth Miller.

Born July 10, 1923 in Rockville, son of the late Edward W. and Elsie (Ballantyne) Miller, he grew up in Rockville and graduated from the former Manchester Trade School. Gordon served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II with the rank of 1st lieutenant as a pilot for Troop Transport planes. He then began a long and successful career as a skilled carpenter, woodworker and cabinet maker. He retired from Peerless Woodworking Co. after more than 40 years with the company.

Once retired, he ventured out fulltime in his Recreational Vehicle and traveled cross country, his favorite location being the southwestern United States and the Big Bend National Park area. He was an avid hiker and enjoyed hiking until he was 82 years old.

In addition to his loving wife, he is survived by three children, Gordon R. Miller and his wife Carol of Herndon, Va., Sheila Sharp and her husband Donald of Shelburne, Vt., Ronald E. Miller and his wife Julie of Tobyhanna, Pa., along with seven grandchildren, Carol, Linda, Rebecca, Carrie, David, Eric and Mary, and 11 great-grandchildren. Other survivors include Barbara's daughter, Melissa Knox, and granddaughter, Kaitlyn.

He was predeceased by his grandson, Gordon J. Miller, and two brothers, Irwin Miller and Russell Miller.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to his caregivers, Mary, Veta and Heather, as well as the staff of the Visiting Nurse and Health Services in Vernon.

Funeral services will be held today, Sept. 19, at 11 a.m., at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Burial with military honors will follow at the Marlboro Cemetery in Marlborough. Calling hours were held Thursday, Sept. 18, at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the National Parks Foundation, 12001 Eye St. NW, Suite 550B, Washington, DC 20005.

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

Portland

Marguerite Haydon

Marguerite "Peggy" (Barry) Haydon, 83, of Portland, formerly of Barbara Road, Middletown, and Delray Beach, Fla., beloved wife of Louis Haydon, died Friday, Sept. 12, at Middlesex Hospital.

She was born in Middletown, the daughter of the late Frank and Eleanor (Petersen) Barry. She retired as the bookkeeper for MacAndrews Restaurant, Middletown.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her daughter, Debra Sullivan of Portland; her brother, Larry Kowalski and his wife Blanche of South Carolina; her grandchildren, Robyn Sullivan and Barry Sullivan and his wife Micky; and a great-grandson, Brady.

She was predeceased by her son, Robert "Bobby" Haydon.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Sept. 18, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Burial will be at the convenience of her family. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home Thursday, prior to the services.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.