

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland

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Book Drive Thanks... On June 22, members of St. John Fisher parish in Marlborough gathered to celebrate the feast day of their patron saint. The event included a potluck luncheon and a book drive to benefit literacy programs, schools and charitable organizations in the Greater Hartford area. More than 650 books were collected and donated to St. Agnes Home, Adelbrook Behavioral and Developmental Services, Read to Grow, The House of Bread, Herbert T. Clark House, Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford and several others. Pictured above are young parishioners Sam, Tim and Matthew Bielaczyc. To learn about St. John Fisher community involvement, visit stjfchurch.org or call 860-295-0001.

Williams Death Puts Focus on Mental Health

by Geeta Schrayter

Last month, the world was stunned and saddened when comedian and actor Robin Williams died from an apparent suicide. The 63-year-old is known for a slew of performances in films such as *Good Morning, Vietnam!*, *Good Will Hunting* and *Dead Poets Society*; he treated patients with laughter in *Patch Adams*, became a female housekeeper in *Mrs. Doubtfire* and voiced a humorous genie in *Aladdin*. He played with science in *Flubber*, traveled to Neverland in *Hook*, and journeyed through the afterlife in *What Dreams May Come*.

He was found dead inside his California home Aug. 11.

Williams' death came as a shock, and in its wake, questions such as "why?" have been asked, as people wonder what led someone who made a living causing laughter to take his own life. In addition, Williams' death has heightened the conversation surrounding suicide and mental health – something former AHM Youth and Family Services Programs Director Mary Rose Meade said could be used as an opportunity to learn more about suicide prevention, mental illness, and the resources available locally.

"People can be helped when they are in periods of depression or mental crisis," she stated, "Especially because we have so many resources here in our community."

Among those resources are the offerings at AHM, which include, among other things, a Drug, Alcohol and Violence Prevention Task Force and the availability of counselors and social workers – including a social worker in each of the schools in Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia, who are present in addition to the schools' guidance counselor staff and psychologists.

"We want to make sure people understand they're never alone – there are resources right here in the community for them," explained AHM Executive Director Joel Rosenberg. "Our goal is to connect people with resources whether those are services we can provide directly, or just helping someone find the appropriate mental health services they may need."

AHM also oversees the Community Mental Health Fund, which was originally started by the Board of Missions at Gilead Congregational Church in Hebron in response to the school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Rosenberg said, "We want to make sure families have a better understanding of this new mental health fund we have set up specifically to help minimize some of the pressures some families are under right now when it comes to health care – in this case, mental health care."

This week Stephanie Haines, minister of missions and faith formation at the church, shared there was around \$27,000 in the fund.

"We are very proud," Haines said of the amount. "Families have access to, and use those short-term funds, which is wonderful."

There are both short-term and long-term visions for the fund: some of the contributions are set aside to assist families who, for example, can't afford the difference between the cost of a mental health service or medication and what their insurance covers. In addition, some of the contributions are invested, to ensure funds will continue to be available in the future.

"We do have ideas moving forward with what to do [in the long-term] with the fund, but mainly we want families who need it to use it," said Haines.

See Mental Health Page 2

Marlborough Selectmen Approve Sewer Expansion

by Melissa Roberto

Final approval is still two months away, but the Lake Terramuggus watershed area in Marlborough is one step closer to hooking up to a sewer system.

At its Tuesday night meeting, the Marlborough Board of Selectmen unanimously backed funding for Phase III of the town's sewer expansion project, and as a result, it will head to the Board of Finance next for consideration.

The sewer expansion project dates back to 2002, when the town authorized the spending of \$13 million to construct a sewer system, town officials recalled at public information sessions held in July and August on the project. The Water Pollution Control Authority split up the project into separate phases, with each phase covering a different section of town.

Phase I covered the town center and a portion of east Lake Terramuggus. Phase II, which is anticipated to be finished in a few weeks, will cover the east portion of the lake. The Marlborough Health Care Center on Stage Har-

bor Road also funded its own hook up to the town's sewer line, which was completed during the construction of Phase II.

Phase III is proposed to complete the sewer hookups along the watershed of Lake Terramuggus, which includes the completion of North Main Street from the intersection of Pettingill Road to Lake Road, as well as Lake Road, Culman Lane, Pettingill Road, Walker Lane, Lafayette Road and Roberts Road to the southern intersection with Sherwood Lane.

Phase III would impact 98 properties, and it would add approximately 105.25 equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) to the sewer system.

The third phase comes with a price tag of \$3.5 million. The selectmen's approval Tuesday allows for the appropriation and issuance of bonds in that amount. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has awarded the town funding assistance for the project, through the Connecticut Clean Water Fund. This allows for 25 percent of the

project's cost to be paid for by the state.

The remaining 75 percent of the project's cost would be paid for by the town through a long-term borrowing loan with a 2 percent interest rate for 20 years. That loan, with the interest included, totals \$3,218,936.

Forty percent of the town's portion is to be paid for by the users of the system. Each homeowner will be responsible for \$12,060, which amounts to an annual payment of \$603 for 20 years. In addition to the benefit assessment, users will also be responsible for paying an annual operation and maintenance fee – a fee that varies each year based on the usage of the system. This year's fee, Hughes used as an example, is \$432.

The remaining 60 percent the town is responsible for would be paid for through general taxes.

Due to the project's cost surpassing the 10 percent threshold of the 2013 Grand List value, Phase III needs to be approved at a referendum.

But before it can get there, the project and its associated cost needs to be approved by the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance will hold a special meeting for Monday, Sept. 22, to establish a public hearing to be held Thursday, Oct. 2. The hearing will be followed that night by a finance board vote on whether to approve or reject the project.

If approved, Phase III would then head to voters at a town meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 21. If approved at that town meeting, the project will advance to a final referendum on Election Day, Nov. 4, to be held in conjunction with the state elections.

Hughes was present at Tuesday night's selectmen meeting, where he gave an update on Phase II. He said all of the grinder pumps have been hooked up to the residents involved in the project. Also, the Marlborough Health Care Center has joined the system.

The town planner communicated the good

See Sewer Expansion Page 2

Mental Health cont. from Front Page

“We are absolutely blessed in this community to have such an active and vibrant youth and family services bureau,” she furthered, and added, “I think the faith community is also a resource because I think mind, body and also spirit is important.”

Haines also mentioned some things she’d like to see moving forward relating to mental health. These included a de-stigmatization workshop at the elementary school level so that, as the children grow up, mental health “doesn’t have that stigma it has had for many years.”

In addition, Haines shared “another wishful thinking kind of thing” is a mental health discussion panel with the surrounding communities. She also said she’d like to see more of the faith community trained in mental health first aid – and in other areas of town, that’s something which has already taken place.

Last year, Tom Steen, the executive director with the Capital Area Substance Abuse Council (CASAC) came to the area to hold training sessions in QPR, or “Question, Persuade and Refer.” QPR, he explained, is evidence based suicide prevention training. Through an hour-long session, individuals are taught how to recognize the warning signs of suicide and how to question, persuade and refer someone to help.

Steen became involved with mental health after his son committed suicide five years ago. After retiring from his work as the director of a YMCA, Steen decided to return to the work force and began working with the CASAC. A little over a year after he’d been there, he was approached and asked if he’d be interested in getting involved with suicide prevention.

He stated he “immediately said ‘yes,’” because of his personal connection to suicide.

Steen became a master trainer in QPR, and over the last couple of years, he’s trained over 3,000 “gatekeepers,” or individuals “in a position to recognize a crisis and the warning signs that someone may be contemplating suicide” according to the website qprinstitute.com.

Through AHM, QPR training was provided to different community members including first responders, school faculty, and juniors and seniors at the high school.

Steen furthered AHM “did a fine job, and a lot of people in that community, thanks to the agency, are now trained in QPR, and we can only hope now more of the community is aware of the issue of suicide.”

Steen called death by suicide “the most preventable death there is, but unfortunately one in six Americans have been affected by suicide in one form or another, so we need to do something about it.”

He added more people in Connecticut die by suicide than homicide, with, on average, a reported suicide in the state each day. And those suicides, he said, hit all age groups, from age 8 up into the 90s, with white men between the ages of 25-35 the ones most at risk.

Steen furthered there was more work to be done, but things were headed in the right direction.

“I just think we’re on the right track,” Steen said. “State leaders, community leaders, folks I’ve talked to, they’ve really begun to embrace the subject and are much less fearful of conversation.”

“When my son died there were no resources – my wife and I had to go out and find them,” he continued. “Now there’s much more stuff and if one is ready and wants [help], it’s there for them.”

* * *

Also stemming from the area is the work of the Jordan Matthew Porco Memorial Foundation. In 2011, Andover resident Marisa Giarnella-Porco lost her son Jordan after he

committed suicide during his freshman year of college.

In response, his family created a program to engage college students in conversations about suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

“We came up with ‘Fresh Check Days,’ and essentially, we are checking in with college students,” said Giarnella-Porco.

By the end of September, 17 Fresh Check Days will have been hosted in the state at various colleges, “so it’s caught on as kind of giving out the message that it’s important to take care of yourself and to take care of each other,” she stated.

The event, which consists of peer run informational booths and different activities, is “celebratory,” according to Giarnella-Porco.

“What we try to do is get information out about all different areas” she stated, such as depression screening and drug abuse screening, the warning signs someone is struggling with mental health issues and how to react, all in an engaging manner.

“The message is that it’s important to take care of yourself” she stated, “and to kind of reduce the stigmas and misconceptions around mental health, and encourage [students] to ask for help if they’re experiencing some type of stress.”

Giarnella-Porco said it was important for everyone to consider it their responsibility to know the warning signs of suicide, and to step in to assist someone when needed. She added it was also important people knew where to get help.

“There are a lot of great resources out there, even starting with a primary care physician – the resources are out there,” she stated. “There’s hope. There’s help available.”

Meade felt similarly.

“There is help. There’s professional help out there but we can also help start the conversation about mental illness and suicide prevention by just being present and alert with the people around us,” she stated, adding “we can all be a part of mental health and wellness.”

Rosenberg also shared those sentiments.

“There are resources out there,” he said. “You need to know where to find them - whether it’s an organization like ours [AHM], an info line [like 211] or other services across the state. It’s really important that we all make this information available and timely.”

He added, “What we never want to hear is, ‘I didn’t know help is available.’”

Along with getting information about the resources available out to the public, Meade, Steen, Haines, Giarnella-Porco and Rosenberg all agreed the conversation surrounding suicide and mental health and normalizing said conversation needs to continue, even after the headlines stop focusing on the Williams death.

“I just really hope that the tragedy of Robin Williams passing away can somehow be used to inspire the government – and society in general – to kind of take away the shame and fear of talking about mental health conditions,” Rosenberg concluded. “There is no shame, and we really need to start bringing issues into the forefront.”

* * *

Individuals in immediate danger should call 911. Those not in immediate danger but, rather, in crisis or looking for more information can dial the state infoline at 211. They can also contact AHM at 860-228-9488 or the Capital Area Substance Abuse Council at 860-286-9333. For information on QPR, visit qprinstitute.com. For information on Fresh Check Day, go to freshcheckday.com.

Other online resources include prevent-suicidect.org or nineoutoften.org. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can be reached at 1-800-273-8255.

Sewer Expansion cont. from Front Page

news that there have been no change orders in Phase II. A change order occurs if something unanticipated happens during construction, resulting in an extra expense. Therefore, Hughes said of the users of Phase II, “They’re happy.”

“It’s all running very smoothly,” he continued.

After the meeting, Hughes said he felt “very good” about the selectmen’s unanimous approval of Phase III, as did First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski.

“The Board of Selectmen support the project and look forward to providing information to the board of finance so that they can receive public input,” the first selectwoman said, “and we look forward to the Board of Finance’s support on this important project for the town.”

* * *

Local Girl Scout and Marlborough resident Hannah Paquette of Troop 65220 paid a visit to the board Tuesday night to inform the officials that she will be hosting a 5K run and information fair surrounding the theme of cancer awareness this Saturday, Sept. 6 at Blish Park in Marlborough.

Paquette has spearheaded the event as a part of her Gold Award project, which is the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. The 5K run, which can also be walked, will start and end at Lake Terramuggus. A fair will follow at the pavilion, where booths will be set up focusing on ovarian cancer, breast cancer, leukemia, melanoma and brain tumors.

Paquette said each of the cancers has significance to her, and the fair will include information on cancer prevention and support groups.

Following the event, the Marlborough teen will put her findings together in a binder to present to her Girl Scout service unit “so they can run things like that in the future,” she explained.

The walk/run will start at 8:30 a.m.; registration is at 8. The information fair will run from 9 a.m.-noon.

“I’ve been spreading the word and putting flyers out, so hopefully we’ll get some traffic and people coming down, even just to visit for a couple minutes,” the Marlborough teen said.

* * *

The Board of Selectmen Tuesday also accepted the resignation of alternate member Lauren Cragg from the Board of Finance. Cragg submitted her resignation to the town clerk on Aug. 26.

Following Cragg’s resignation, the selectmen received an endorsement for Marlborough resident and local attorney Erik Young from the Democratic Town Committee. The board unanimously appointed Young to the seat. Reached for comment this week, Cragg, who is also chairwoman of the DTC, did not explain her reason for resigning, but said she supports new membership on the board.

“I believe new persons on the Board of Finance are important towards moving Marlborough towards a better fiscal future,” said Cragg.

Young’s term will expire in November 2015.

* * *

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Village Green Pizza in Marlborough Doubles in Size

by Melissa Roberto

Regular diners at Village Green Pizza Restaurant in Marlborough might be surprised the next time they step foot into their preferred pizza place, because starting today, the restaurant has doubled in size.

The Italian/Greek/American eatery that stands at 32 East Hampton Rd., or Route 66, is owned by Dimitrios Patetsos. Patetsos said his vision of the restaurant has always been to make his customers happy, which is the main reason he's added 1,200 square feet to his location.

"Customers were always telling us 'You have to expand, you have to expand,'" Patetsos said from inside of the restaurant this week.

And so, the Greek native decided this January to do just that.

In 1986, Patetsos arrived to the United States from the small island of Lemnos, Greece. Although the restaurant owner holds a five-year college degree, he admitted with a laugh, "My heart was always in cooking."

His arrival to the United States quickly made him aware of one thing: "This country gives a lot of opportunities to everybody. It doesn't matter where you come from; you just have to work hard."

Patetsos, an Enfield resident, began working at two pizza restaurants in the mid-80s, one in Enfield, and another in Westchester. Over the years he saved up money, and in 2010, assumed ownership of Village Green Pizza.

Ever since, Patetsos has come to work every day with the goal of offering "very good food, excellent service."

The owner brought to Marlborough an extensive menu that includes authentic Greek recipes from his birthplace, as well as American and Italian cuisine.

Up until now, Village Green Pizza Restaurant has offered a small seating area and full take-out service. Server Amy Wayland has worked at the restaurant for eight years, and said the restaurant's new digs bring an "exciting" change.

"It's not as packed in here for sure," Wayland, an East Hampton resident, shared. "We've had people in the past walk away because there hasn't been space to sit down, so it's just exciting to let everyone sit down and eat, and enjoy a meal."

And the meals sure do vary. For starters, Patetsos said his Greek-style pan pizza is the eatery's "number one" seller. The specialty pizzas vary from spinach and feta cheese, clam pizza, to chicken bacon ranch, and about a dozen more.

There are simple items like grilled cheese, and turkey clubs, to fresh fish and chicken cordon bleu sandwich offerings. There is spinach pie, and several special salads, to seafood and chicken entrees, gyros and souvlaki, and a number of pasta dishes.

"All of the seafood is fresh," Patetsos stressed. He added, "I brought a couple of old recipes here, like the meatballs, my meatloaf, and rice pudding."

Each night, Village Green also offers 10-12 dinner specials that aren't found on the menu. These include signature sautés, including the restaurant's popular dishes of chicken Marsala, chicken and broccoli alfredo and baked stuffed cod. Businesses in the area receive a fax of these specials daily.

The *Rivereast* stopped into the Route 66 restaurant this week, where employees could be seen putting on the finishing touches to the new addition. The addition includes several new tables and chairs that can be arranged to fit small or large parties of people. The restaurant also enhanced its handicapped access, to make it "100 percent" handicapped-accessible, Patetsos said.

While half of its interior is new, the business' customer service and large menu will not change, Patetsos said.

"From day one, I came here and told all the servers to make sure every single customer gets attention," the owner said. "I don't want anybody to be ignored. It doesn't matter if they



Village Green Pizza Restaurant just got a facelift. The business now includes an additional seating area which doubles the restaurant in size.

spend five dollars or 50 dollars, that's my strategy."

Patetsos said he's been appreciative of his staff, furthering the new addition to his restaurant and the business' success thus far "can't happen just by one person."

Coming to work in the Marlborough restaurant everyday is also enjoyable because of the "many regulars," the owner said.

"We know them by name," said Patetsos. "It makes you feel very good because you see the same customers over and over [and] that means we're doing something right."

Of course the longtime restaurant owner said change does come with a bit of apprehension

but with the bigger restaurant his goals will remain the same.

"My goal is to see it filled up and see everybody happy, and come back for more."

Village Green Pizza Restaurant stands within the Village Green Plaza, at 32 East Hampton Road, or Route 66. Its hours are Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. The restaurant can be reached at 860-295-1330. Readers are encouraged to also 'like' the restaurant on Facebook page by typing 'Village Green Pizza Restaurant' in the social network's search engine. You can also visit the business' website at villagegreenpizza.com.

Marlborough's DOT Facility to Receive Generator

by Melissa Roberto

The state Department of Transportation (DOT) facility in Marlborough will be receiving a standby generator in early 2015, according to a press release from 55th District state Representative Pam Sawyer's office.

The DOT announced in mid-August that its Office of Engineering is developing plans for the installation of standby generators on the sites of existing maintenance facilities around the state – one of which stands at 64 South Main St. in Marlborough.

The DOT informed Sawyer's office that the purpose of the project is to "provide 100 percent back-up power to the facilities," according to a DOT press release. The generator will be mounted on a pad and contained in a standard enclosure with a double-wall, diesel tank, the release furthers.

The project is entirely state-funded, Sawyer confirmed this week, meaning there are no federal grants being used to fund the project. The Marlborough generator is expected to cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

The state representative said this week she

is pleased there will be an enhancement to Marlborough's facility, especially when taking into account the state's pattern of power outages and winter storms in recent years.

"What so many of us still remember [are] the terrible power outages and the problems that were associated with them in 2011 from those three big storms," Sawyer said. "This allows the DOT garages to be able to get up and running and to be able to have backup for any equipment that they would need that would need electricity in the time of an emergency. It certainly makes sense for our state to be prepared at each and every DOT facility."

The DOT expects the design plans of the project to be completed in January 2015, with work commencing shortly after. Other facilities receiving these generators are located in East Granby, Farmington, New Haven, New Milford, Southington, Stratford, Plainfield and Torrington. The total cost for all the sites is expected to be between \$500,000 and \$1 million.

Portland Board of Education Elects New Chair

by John Tyczkowski

It's a time of new beginnings for Portland schools – a new academic year, a new superintendent and, now, a new chair for the Board of Education.

Chris Phelps stepped down from his role as chairman at Tuesday night's meeting, and school board secretary MaryAnn Rode was elected to take his place. Board member Andrea Alfano was elected to secretary, to take Rode's place.

"I feel very good about it, and I'm excited," Rode said of her election. "It's going to be hard work, but I'm definitely excited."

Rode and Phelps had both served in their respective positions on the Board for the past six years.

"After six years as board chair, I felt it was time to give someone else the opportunity," Phelps said.

He also said that his stepping down coincided well with Philip O'Reilly's new appointment as superintendent of schools.

"With the new superintendent coming in, it seemed like the perfect time for a transition," Phelps said. "Having a new superintendent and a new chair at the same time allows

them to develop a good working relationship from the start."

Rode echoed the sentiment, saying that the simultaneous dual transition "will be very beneficial" to communication between the new superintendent and Board.

* * *

Also on Tuesday, the school board ratified the Portland Association of School Administrators contract after an executive session discussion, and also unanimously passed a revision to the language of the Portland Public Schools policy on automatic external defibrillators (AEDs).

Phelps said the AED policy needed to be changed because the old one only specified the presence of AEDs at three schools: Portland High School, Portland Middle School and Brownstone Intermediate School. Such devices will now be available at all public schools, he said.

Portland Public Schools received safety grant that went to covering the cost of their AEDs, Rode said.

Both items passed without contention, according to Phelps.

Andover Selectmen Consider Requiring Event Permits

by Geeta Schrayter

The Board of Selectmen Wednesday kicked around the idea of requiring a permit and application for anyone looking to hold a special event in town.

Discussion began as the result of the recently-held Hop River 5K road race, and concerns that were expressed relating to the organizer's plans. Vice First Selectman Jay Linddy said it wasn't until right before the race that the organizer stated he'd have people on the road directing traffic. He added residents of certain roads couldn't get out, and concluded, "We've got to have some sort of permit."

Selectwoman Cathy Desrosiers provided some sample permit applications from other towns, like Manchester, which ask for information on the proposed event including the anticipated attendance; anticipated road closures; whether there will be live music, food or alcohol; and whether fees or donations would be collected.

"It's something we do need to think about and decide on," she stated.

The day before the road race that took place

Aug. 9, a special meeting was held to address safety concerns and decide how to proceed. In the end, it was determined there would be adequate safety measures and the race was held. However, also at that meeting, Desrosiers said a goal was set to get discussion started on a potential permit and application for future events.

"We're just looking to coordinate [events] so everyone is on the same page," she stated.

Discussion on the potential permit will continue at a future meeting.

Also at the meeting, Desrosiers gave an update on the work being done to get an emergency shelter generator installed in the Andover Congregational Church through a state grant the town received.

She explained the grant fell short of the total cost by \$4,000 and a couple of options that had been examined to come up with the difference "have fallen through."

As a result, Desrosiers wondered if it would be possible to pay the \$4,000 from the town's non-recurring fund, which, according to the

treasurer's report provided at the meeting, has a fund balance of \$97,153.31.

Desrosiers mentioned the church is an asset to a town for different reasons, including its use as a day shelter and for housing the Andover Food Pantry.

"There's no funding and it is a benefit to the town. If the pantry wasn't held there, then where?" she stated.

First Selectman Bob Burbank said while he "personally wouldn't have a problem" using money from the non-recurring fund, "I would have a problem if it didn't go in front of voters because it is a church – but it is a town asset."

He said the legality of using the money should be examined, and then the possibility should be proposed during a budget season.

Conversation concluded with Desrosiers saying she'd contact state Sen. Steve Cassano, who Linddy said should come to a future meeting to talk about the grant.

During liaison reports, Selectwoman Elaine Buchardt also said the Andover Farmers Market, which got started this year, "is going great."

There are only two weeks left to the market, which takes place Fridays from 4-7 p.m. at the corner of Long Hill and Riverside Drive, but Buchardt said there are "definitely plans to have it next year again."

"The seed was planted and it took!" Linddy smiled.

Relating to the market, during public comment Cathy Palazzi, who is "Market Master" along with her husband Mike, invited the selectmen to the final market for the season, Friday Sept. 12.

"It will be the last hurrah for the farmers market," she stated, sharing candidates would be present vying for November votes, as well as some additional vendors including a booth by Democrats for 2014 which will be selling pies, as well as a booth selling Frank's Marinara Sauce.

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m. in the Andover town office building, 17 School Rd.

Elmcrest Hospital Site Plans Move Forward in Portland

by John Tyczkowski

Property development made up the core of the most prominent items on the Portland Board of Selectmen's agenda Wednesday night.

A new development occurred with the in-stasis Elmcrest Hospital site at the corner of Main and Marlborough streets, which has been in limbo for the past five years after the country's recession stalled plans for the proposed Portland TownPlace, a mix of residential and commercial space the town Planning and Zoning Commission gave the go-ahead to back in July 2009.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield announced that Portland had applied for and had been awarded a grant under the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation's Vibrant Communities Initiative.

The site is newly-eligible for this grant funding because in March 2012, six historic buildings at the Elmcrest Hospital site were added to the National Register of Historic Places.

"We requested this grant funding for the preparation of a market analysis and plan to revision an approved mixed-use development project," she said.

According to a letter from the trust Bransfield read at the meeting, the \$50,000 grant awarded to the town would be used for "a market analysis and plan to provide an economically viable alternative [to Portland TownPlace] for both the owner and developer to consider," which would include an emphasis on "responsible commercial development, including the adaptive re-use of the existing historic structures."

Bransfield said an example of re-using the historic buildings on-site in such a manner

might include office space.

Three of the six historic buildings on the site include the Erastus Brainerd Jr. House, dating from 1852, the John H. Sage House, constructed from 1829-1830 and the Hart/Jarvis House, built in 1884.

The Brainerd Jr. House and the Hart/Jarvis House are notable for being built upon brownstone foundations. Also, the inhabitants of each of those homes had strong ties to Portland's quarry industry.

Under the original Portland TownPlace plan, both of those houses would have been demolished and replaced with replicas.

Bransfield said the next step would be to assemble a team of property development experts to consult with the owner and developer and form a concrete plan.

"We did something similar with the quarries," Bransfield said. "And it worked very well."

STEAP grants were also on the selectmen's agenda, as Bransfield announced that Phase IV of the Brownstone Pavilions park project had been approved for a \$363,000 state grant.

According to Bransfield, \$275,000 of that grant would be used for construction, \$55,000 for engineering costs and the remaining \$33,000 for a contingency cost.

Bransfield also said that Phase IV of the project would include adding in water and sewage hookups at the Pavilions, ADA-compliant restrooms, and ADA-compliant parking lot and driveway, a band shell cover over the existing stage there and landscaping, grills and picnic tables.

She also said that with the approval of the funding, the timeline to completion of the Pavilions should be 15 months.

"Of course, all of this is subject to change based upon the final design and what the weather brings, but this is looking like the timeline we can expect," Bransfield said.

The selectmen adopted Phase IV of the development by a 7-0 vote.

In addition, Bransfield brought forward what she called a "running list" of projects in town eligible for Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) funding. Bransfield said applications for the state funds for the next fiscal year are due on Nov. 28, and that grant awardees will be notified on or before Jan. 30, 2015.

The running list included an extension to Portland's section of the Air Line Trail, new curbs on Main Street around the Route 66 intersection, improvements to parks around town, sewer extensions, and sidewalk extensions on East Main Street and sidewalk renovations elsewhere, and water main replacements and additions.

"All these items are up for consideration, and, as an ongoing project, we have to talk about how we want to fund all of these things," Bransfield said. "You can apply for multiple STEAP grants, but you have to prioritize."

Most notably included on the list was the development of a phased plan for the proposed Route 17 Recreational Park, based upon input from the selectmen and the project's committee.

Maniscalco Gets East Hampton Council Approval, 2 Percent Raise

by John Tyczkowski

Tuesday night's special meeting of the East Hampton Town Council ended in town manager Michael Maniscalco receiving unanimous approval from councilors.

After nearly an hour and a half of executive session, councilors decided to raise Maniscalco's salary by 2 percent retroactively to July 1, which was the start of his third year as town manager. His annual salary is now \$119,544.

The council also voted unanimously to increase his car allowance, which is used for expenses such as gas, repairs and insurance, from \$350 a month to \$500 a month.

According to the official evaluation summary the council signed and provided, and which Maniscalco accepted, the council found that Maniscalco met or exceeded their expectations in the areas of outreach to surrounding towns and to state government, and availability and communication to the press and media.

The council said in the summary that Maniscalco "is dedicated to our town and his job and is available 24/7 to us and our residents. We are proud of his representation in the community and throughout the region. His understanding and knowledge of state and local laws keeps us informed and he keeps the best interests of the town in mind."

However, the council also said Maniscalco

should work on interacting more consistently with staff to "improve their performance," and should also work more closely with the Town Council when preparing the annual budget to "create a smoother process with more understanding."

Another recommendation in the summary was that "in order to better understand and work with the town staff," Maniscalco should allow the council "the ability to discuss matters and concerns with them."

Traditionally in a town council-town manager form of government, the town manager administrates town staff directly, while the council creates town policy and does not have direct interaction with town staff in day-to-day matters.

Council chairwoman Barbara Moore said the evaluation process went smoothly overall this year.

"I think it really went better than expected," Moore said. "I'm pleased we came to a consensus so quickly, and the town should be pleased. We want to continue to work cooperatively with Mike."

Moore stressed the summary component of the evaluation had been completed within the 30-day period suggested in Maniscalco's contract, and that he has until Sept. 23 to prepare a response to the council's summary.

This is Maniscalco's second performance evaluation, which Moore said was to let him know where he's doing well, and to make constructive suggestions for improvement in other areas. She said his employment status is not a part of the performance evaluations.

The council also noted that they planned to have more frequent evaluations for Maniscalco from this point forward.

"As part of the evaluation summary, the Town Council discussed meeting quarterly with the town manager, to continually review and reflect on his performance throughout the next year," councilor Kevin Reich said. "We think it's going to allow greater communication between the Town Council and the town manager."

According to a document the council provided at the meeting, Maniscalco's evaluation began this past July, following the conclusion of his second year, with councilors filling out evaluation forms covering nine performance areas.

These included "personal skills, professional skills, relations with members of the Town Council, policy execution, reporting, public relations, staffing, fiscal management and community."

The council also provided a copy of the town manager evaluation criteria they used. Accord-

ing to the criteria, Maniscalco was scored on a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) in each of the areas listed above.

The criteria also contained sections for written comments on the town manager's strengths, weaknesses along with "constructive suggestions," an "other comments" section and a section for councilors to suggest "goals and objectives for the new evaluation period."

According to the criteria, the town manager's numerical score was an average determined by dividing the total sum of all numerical ratings by 31, the total number of questions.

The document further explained that the council's August meetings were for the councilors to meet and discuss their individual scores and comments, which involved including the town manager in discussions as well.

This week's final special meeting was to discuss all aspects of the evaluation, finalize any changes council members may have discussed and reach a consensus on the evaluation, according to the document.

"I'm very appreciative of the Town Council's time and effort that went into doing this evaluation," Maniscalco said. "It was very apparent that they were very thoughtful and that their number one interest, just like mine, is to better the town of East Hampton."

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It comes with the territory, I know, but I couldn't help but chuckle these past few weeks at the vitriol being lobbed at President Obama for – gasp! – taking a vacation. You saw him attacked for his vacationing ways in the letters pages of last week's *Rivereast*, and you've likely heard critics far and wide slamming him for heading to Martha's Vineyard in August, like a – gasp (again)! – human being.

It's almost like a rite of passage for presidents to get criticized for taking vacations; Dwight D. Eisenhower, for example, was routinely slammed by his Democrat critics for playing golf. (One particular attack was this joke: "Do you mind if the president plays through? The Russians just bombed New York.") But, while Obama may expect the criticism for his vacations, that doesn't make it right – especially when his vacation days don't even come close to those of his immediate predecessor.

Obama recently returned from a 15-day family vacation to Martha's Vineyard. Up until that trip, according to factcheck.org, Obama had taken 125 full or partial vacation days during his time in office. At the same point in his presidency, President George W. Bush had logged 407 full or partial vacation days.

Don't see Obama's conservative opponents bringing *that* up, do ya?

Now, the criticism being hurled at Obama isn't so much over the *idea* that he took a vacation, but that he continued to take it despite the various events that occurred during that period – the horrifying beheading of an American journalist, the continued protests in Ferguson, Mo., even the funeral for Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, the only general officer killed in Afghanistan.

But when you're president – especially these days – is there *ever* a time to get away from it all and take a vacation? It sure doesn't seem like there is one. An infamous video clip of President Bush from 2002 shows reporters asking him on the golf course about a recent suicide bombing in Israel. Bush pointedly says, "We must stop the terror. I call upon all nations to stop these terrorist killers." Bush follows that up with, "Thank you. Now watch this drive."

Plus, these critics are assuming Obama – or any of the presidents before him who dared to take vacation – never does any actual work while on vacation. And that simply isn't the case. During his most recent vacation, Obama issued several presidential statements, and even returned to the White House for two days. During his presidency, Bush officials – not his critics, mind you; his *officials* – called his ranch in Crawford, Texas, the "Western White House," to stress the fact that Bush did a lot of work during his so-called vacations.

As CBS News White House correspondent Mark Knoller, who has covered every president since Gerald Ford, recently told factcheck.org, "I have long held the view that a U.S. president is never really on vacation. The job – and its awesome powers and responsibilities – is his wherever he is and whatever he's doing."

And, again, Obama's taken less than half of the vacation days Bush took up until this point. (Bush wound up with 533.) He's also on pace to finish less than President Reagan's 390.

So, not only are attacks on Obama's vacation time unnecessary, they're also unfair. That won't prevent the attacks from continuing, of course; Dick Cheney, who knows full well how many vacation days Bush logged, recently told Fox News, "Every day, we find new evidence that [Obama would] rather be on the golf course than he would be dealing with the crisis that's developing rapidly in the Middle East." And attacks on vacationing presidents will doubtlessly continue with the next commander-in-chief.

But maybe everyone should take a page out of President Harry Truman's playbook. The man was no fan of Eisenhower, but defended Ike's right to hit the links.

"To criticize the president ... because he plays a game of golf is unfair and picayunish," Truman said. "He has the same right to relax from the heavy burdens of office as any other man."

* * *

While the online version of the story has since been amended, I couldn't help but get a chuckle when I came across a letter to the editor in last week's *Hartford Courant* by Marlborough First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski, referencing the paper's special "Our Towns" section, published in the April

24 issue. The section listed interesting facts and trivia for all of Connecticut's 169 towns – well, almost all of them. As Gaudinski noted in her letter, Marlborough was the only one of the state's municipalities to be left on the sidelines.

Gaudinski filled the void by presenting some of Marlborough's, as she described them, "fascinating facts." Among them: the Marlborough Tavern once entertained presidents James Monroe and Andrew Jackson – and the tavern itself, it's speculated, may have been part of the Underground Railroad. Also, Mary Hall, a Marlborough native, was Connecticut's first female attorney.

In short, Marlborough's got some history to share. That the *Courant* inadvertently overlooked the town was a little surprising – but also, frankly, kind of fitting.

The daily papers in the area have, over the years, cut back on their coverage of the *Rivereast* towns (moves which, by the way, I do understand, and sympathize with. Dwindling ad revenue and slashed staffs means there's simply less news coverage to go around these days). But at least, for example, the *Middletown Press* still pays attention to Portland and East Hampton. The *Journal Inquirer* does the same for Hebron and Andover. And the *Norwich Bulletin* still occasionally tosses a reporter Colchester's way. The coverage may not be as in-depth as it once was, but at least the papers are there, on occasion.

But Marlborough – and this has been the case for several years, by the way – is basically ignored by any other media outlet but us. And there are things here that go on that deserve to be reported on – which we do, and, if I do say so myself, we do a darn fine job of it.

While the *Courant*, like the TV stations, seem to only pay attention to the *Rivereast* towns these days when a scandal breaks (heck, the East Hampton Town Hall was even depicted in a *Courant* editorial cartoon during the whole Reimondo-O'Keefe brouhaha a few years back), leaving Marlborough out of its "Our Towns" list was kind of surprising – seeing as it was the only one omitted.

But, I've been in this business long enough to know that oversights happen, and, to their credit, the *Courant* did fix the situation; like I said earlier, if you access "Our Towns" online now, you will see facts listed for Marlborough (such as "Sadler's Ordinary was a popular rest stop for Colonial-era travelers.")

I'm sure, though, Gaudinski and others in town would've liked it if the paper had gotten it right the first time.

* * *

I've got some sad personnel news to pass along. After nearly two years with the *Rivereast*, reporter Melissa Roberto is moving on. This is her last issue.

To say Melissa's done a good job during her time here would be an understatement. Her beat – the Colchester/Marlborough one – is particularly news-heavy, and Melissa has covered a lot of interesting, sometimes controversial stories over the past two years. She's handled them all well.

Melissa's a great writer – writing that has only gotten better during her time with the *Rivereast* – but more than that, she's a great reporter. She's not afraid to delve in to an issue, tear it apart and find the truth. And, as her desk is right next to mine, I've heard her on the phone with people. She doesn't back down. If someone's giving her crap, she won't take it; she'll stand her ground – and will always do so politely and professionally.

Melissa's earned herself fans in her towns; I've gotten many phone calls and emails during her time here from folks in Marlborough and Colchester, praising her for the reporting she did and the stories she wrote. Those kinds of comments are among an editor's very favorite – you never get tired of hearing them.

And she's been a terrific team player too. As I wrote here a couple weeks ago, due to personal reasons and unforeseen circumstances, I've had to spend more time out of the office this year than I have in years past, and Melissa's always helped to make sure the ball never got dropped, that things kept moving the way they should. And she always did so with a smile on her face; she's energetic, funny, and was just a real pleasure to have in the office.

And now she's moving on. I wish her nothing but the best – as do all of us here at the *Rivereast* – but I know she'll find success wherever she goes; she's too good of a worker not to.

* * *

See you next week.

East Hampton Police News

8/23: Alfred A. Paradis, 34, of 14 Barbara Ave., East Hampton was issued a summons for shoplifting (sixth-degree larceny), East Hampton Police said.

8/25: Nolasco Teofilo, 23, of 397 Poplar St., New Haven was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle without a license, misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

8/27: Jean Sebastian Hains, 19, of 126 Lake Dr., East Hampton was arrested for impairing morals of a minor, police said.

Hebron Police News

8/26: State Police said Eva Szpak, 31, of 365 West Rd., Bolton, was arrested and charged with violation of probation.

8/29: State Police said Steven D. Keith, 45, of 57 Millstream Rd., Amston, was arrested and charged with failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple-lane highway and DUI.

Colchester Police News

8/25: Colchester Police said Douglas Wilson, 51, of 77 Scenic View Dr., Deep River, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear, DWI and failure to obey traffic control signals.

8/27: Colchester Police said a resident of Charles Lane in Storrs reported that sometime between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. his vehicle was keyed while it was parked in the parking lot behind CVS located at 119 South Main St. in Colchester. This case is currently under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact Officer Eric Watrous at 860-537-7270.

8/28: Colchester Police said a stolen U-Haul tow dolly was recovered in the Colchester Cemetery on Cemetery Road. The trailer was stolen from a U-Haul dealer in Hamden, police said. After police recovered the dolly, they brought it to Browning and Lee Hardware Store,

Marlborough Police News

8/25: State Police said Joseph Paul Hager, 21, of 64 Lillibridge Rd., Plainfield, was arrested on a PRAWN warrant for the charge of violation of probation.

8/26: State Police said Sang Sang, 44, of 39 Cliff St., Norwich, was arrested and charged with DUI, speeding and failure to carry license.

8/31: State Police said Walesca M. Salgado, 35, of 76 George St., Bristol, was arrested and charged with DUI, speeding and failure to stop on right for emergency vehicles.

Andover Police News

8/6: State Police said Niall Geoghegan, 21, of 60 Route 87, was arrested and charged with interfering with an officer.

8/24: State Police said Christopher Giarnella, 23, of 20 Bear Swamp Rd., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer.

which is the authorized U-Haul dealer in town.

8/29: State Police said Francisco Falcon, 35, of 112 South Whitney St., Hartford, was arrested on an outstanding arrest warrant for the charges of possession of dangerous weapons, breach of peace and threatening. Police said Falcon's arrest warrant comes from the Hartford Police Department but he was arrested after coming to Troop K to pick up found items that belonged to him. Falcon was transported to Hartford Police Department for processing.

8/29: State Police said Sophia Torres, 30, of 110 Kane St., Apt. D1, West Hartford, was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order.

9/1: State Police said Nicolas Rivera, 42, of 37 Wellswood Rd., Hebron, was arrested on two outstanding arrest warrants, both for the charge of violation of probation.

Obituaries

Colchester

Thomas Nixon

Thomas Nixon of Colchester passed away suddenly Saturday, Aug. 9, in Brunswick, Maine.

He leaves his wife Eileen, daughter Kathryn, son Matthew (Jessica), grandson Noah, as well as mother Mildred, brother Ed (Carol) and sister-in-law Diane (Roy).

He was a UPS retiree.

A memorial celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

Colchester

James Kenneth Porter

James Kenneth Porter, 67, of Colchester, beloved husband of Nancy (Edwards) Porter, passed away surrounded by his family on Thursday, Aug. 28. Born Nov. 7, 1946 in Norwich, he was a son of the late Leonard and Pauline (Kubit) Porter.

Jim was a member of Teamsters Locals 677 and 493, and worked as a professional truck driver for over 30 years with New Penn, from which he retired in 1998. Jim was also a former member of the Colchester-Hayward Volunteer Fire Department.

In addition to his loving wife of 46 years, he leaves two children and their spouses, Kevin and Pam Porter of Middletown and Christie and Brian Bradway of Stafford Springs; a grandson, Andrew Bradway; three siblings and their spouses, Joe and Marion Gamertsfelder of Amarillo, Texas, Louise and Ray Griswold of Wilmington, N.C., and Scott and Tammy Porter of Hebron; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by his brother, Danny Porter.

Calling hours were held Monday, Sept. 1, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Guests assembled Tuesday morning, Sept. 2, at the funeral home before a chapel service. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers and as a tribute to Jim's memory, those who are able are asked to give the gift of life by donating blood through the American Red Cross, redcrossblood.org.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Portland

Nicholas R. Nicholson Sr.

Nicholas R. Nicholson Sr., 79, of Portland, husband of Cynthia (Aucoin) Nicholson passed away Monday, Sept. 1, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the son of the late Samuel and Mabel (Emery) Nicholson.

Born Sept. 19, 1934, in Newark, N.J., he lived early on in Middletown and then resided in Portland for the past 42 years. He worked for the Town of Glastonbury as a police officer retiring after 20 years, then worked for the Rocky Hill Veterans Home in Rocky Hill and then for Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown. He was also a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, having served during Korea.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Nicholas Nicholson Jr. of Wallingford, a daughter, Lisa Nicholson of Portland, and a granddaughter, Lyndsee. He also is survived by his son from a previous marriage, Troy Nicholson.

Services will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Disabled American Veterans P.O. Box 14301 Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301.

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



Portland

Michael A. Rossitto

Michael A. Rossitto, 63, of Portland, husband of Donna (Wing) Rossitto, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 2, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the son of the late Salvatore A. and Fayetta Rossitto.

Born Nov. 17, 1950, in Windham, he was a lifelong resident of Portland. He was self-employed and was owner and operator of F&W Caterers in Portland. He was a member of the Masons, and was a member of the Church of St. Mary in Portland.

Michael valued his family and career, as well as his lifelong friends and those he met along the way. He was highly respected and with his wealth of knowledge mentored many. He was trustworthy and honest, and when he gave his word, he never failed to follow through.

Besides his wife, he leaves his daughters, Michelle Engel and her husband, Joseph, Anastasia Rossitto and Rebecca Otlowski and her husband, Michael all of Portland; sisters, Nora Brady of Gibsonton, Fla., Maggie Rossitto and Mary Taylor both of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Services will be private and at the convenience of the family. A memorial service will be held in November.

Because Michael was an avid supporter of his community, in lieu of flowers, please make donations to Portland Truck Pullers Mud Bog Portland Truck Pullers, 112 Old Marlborough Turnpike Portland, CT 06480.

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

Andover

Joseph R. Robinson

Joseph R. Robinson, 53, of Andover, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 26. He was the husband of Robin Weir Robinson, a decorator with the former Paul's Paint and currently John Boyle Decorating.

Joe was born April 15, 1961. He graduated from Rocky Hill High School. For over 20 years, Joe took great pride in his employment with St. James Church and School, as well as Assumption Church and School in Manchester.

Joe loved the outdoors. He was an avid fisherman, who especially loved ice fishing. He went so far as to invent an automatic jigging tip-up pole. Joe was a devoted NASCAR fan who enjoyed watching races with family and friends. He was also part of the Robinson Racing Team and videotaped their many championships, both in New England and nationally.

Joe was a talented and creative person who could make or fix anything. Above all, Joe was a good man with a gentle and kind spirit. He was a loving husband, father, son, brother, uncle and friend.

In addition to his wife of 20 years, Joe is survived by his loving children; Amitee, Anthony and Adam Robinson, all of Andover. Also surviving are his mother, Phyllis (Gates) Wallace, and her husband Jeffrey, of Manchester; his brother, Bob Robinson and his wife Kerry, and their children Joseph, Jason and Jordan, all of South Windsor; and his brother, Sean O'Brien, and his wife Sandra Mella O'Brien, of Manchester. Joe will also be missed by his aunt and uncle, Barbara and Richard Gates, of Enfield and his brother-in-law, Walter Weir, of Andover, and many other loving relatives and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Church of the Assumption, 29 Adams St. South, Manchester. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Memorial donations may be made to the Memorial Fund for Joe Robinson's children c/o Webster Bank, 1041 Main St., Manchester, CT 06040.



Colchester

Thelma Stone-Magun

Thelma "Tommie" (Goldberg) Stone-Magun, 96, of Allentown, Pa., formerly of West Hartford and Colchester, passed away Monday, Sept. 1. Born Nov. 13, 1917, in Willimantic, she was the daughter of Daniel "Zaydel" and Rose Luchnick Goldberg of Colchester.

Tommie grew up in Colchester, attending public schools and graduating from Bacon Academy where she was a member/starter on the 1935 Girls Basketball State Championship Team. She then attended the University of New Hampshire where she received her B.A. in education. She continued her education, receiving her masters from Columbia University School of Education and her sixth-year certificate from the University of Connecticut.

Her accomplishments in the field of education were well-known.

Throughout her long career, she held positions such as teacher, assistant principal, principal and interim superintendent in the Colchester Public Schools system. Her first teaching position was at the North Westchester Elementary School, followed by the Dublin School, Central School and Halls Hill Elementary School.

Tommie was a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, wife, sister and daughter who took great pleasure and pride in being a successful teacher/administrator who always loved teaching her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husbands, Attorney Louis R. Stone and Dr. Benjamin Magun, and a brother Bernard, Goldberg.

She is survived by her two children, Elissa Shedroff and her husband Steven of Allentown, Pa., and Elliot Stone and his wife Sheila of Glastonbury; grandchildren, Marc Shedroff and his wife Tracy, Joshua Shedroff and his wife Monica, Zachary Stone, Rachel Stone and Erika Stone; and four great-grandchildren Ryan, Kaitlyn, Benjamin and Theo Shedroff. She is also survived by four siblings, Belle Rosenblum, Ada Leff, Harold Goldberg, Nathan Goldberg and thirteen nieces and nephews.

Services were held gravesite at the Colchester Jewish Aid Cemetery located on Gillette Lane, Colchester, on Thursday, Sept. 4. A period of mourning (Shiva) was observed Thursday, Sept. 4, and will also be observed Saturday, Sept. 6, at 7:45 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 7, at 7 p.m., at the home of Elliot and Sheila Stone, 227 Chestnut Hill Rd., Glastonbury.

Donations in memory of Tommie can be made to the American Heart Association or the charity of your choice.

Portland

John Arthur Holloway Jr.

John Arthur Holloway Jr., 70, passed away peacefully in Rockledge, Fla., surrounded by his loving family, on Thursday, July 17, after a long illness. He was born in Hartford and graduated from Portland High School.

After a 20-year career in the United States Navy, he received a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Hartford, and resided in Newington for many years. John belonged to the Connecticut Street Rod Association and built a 1927 Model T-roadster.

A member of the Middlesex Yacht Club since 1992, he taught Power Squadron (boating) classes for years. Although disabled, he piloted his yacht from Connecticut to Florida, accompanied by his wife, Elaine, a good friend, Ron Sherwood, and a dear cousin, Bill West. John and Elaine made their home in Florida, most recently in Indian River Colony Club (Viera).

Survivors include his beloved wife of 45 years, Elaine C. (Ippolito) Holloway; a daughter Lynda A. Reindel; two sons, Kenneth A. Holloway and Bruce A. Holloway; three grandchildren, Ryan MacQuarrie, Adam Reindel and Alyssa Reindel; a sister and brother-in-law, Susan and John Enkler; a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, MaryAnn and William Pilotte; an aunt, Eleanor West. He also leaves behind several, cousins, nieces, and nephews and many close friends.

He was predeceased by his parents, Lucille Isaacson Robarge and John Arthur Holloway.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Sept. 6, at 11 a.m., at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St. (Route 85), Hebron. Interment with military honors will be in the Garden of Remembrance, adjacent to the church, immediately following the service.

Donations in his memory may be made to ASPCA, 424 E. 92nd St., New York, NY 10128-6804 or to a charity of your choice.