

RIVEREAST

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With Coleman Bros. Amusements' rides providing the customary backdrop, thousands attended the Portland Agricultural Fair last weekend. The more open grounds, as seen here, were due to a redesign of the tent and vendor layout, new this year.

Portland Fair Features Baseball Tribute

by John Tyczkowski

This weekend, a slow start on Friday turned into healthy fair attendance Saturday and Sunday for the 16th annual Portland Fair, which featured the usual fair accompaniments along with a few changes, new events and a tribute to some local baseball champions.

Speaking on this year's attendance Don Bascom, Portland Fair Committee president, said Friday "definitely suffered from the rain."

However, because that happened last year, the committee was prepared, which means the tractor pull that evening didn't have to be canceled as it was the year before.

"We covered the track so it would be usable, and we were able to have the tractor pull just fine," Bascom said. "People love that."

The fair's decision to have a covered, heated performance stage and beer garden also paid off Friday with the rain, he said.

This year's fair marked the first time the committee tried a new tent layout with performance stages, animal and craft tents and amusements at the periphery, and food, craft and service vendors in the middle.

"We had mixed reviews but it turned around," Bascom said. "In the beginning I had a lot of complaints from vendors but on Sunday, I had a lot of thumbs up."

In addition, Sunday's fashion show presented by Savvy Swap Consignment on Main Street, a new fixture this year, drew "quite a crowd," Bascom said.

"I was pleasantly surprised, I think we're

going to do that again next year," he said.

The Indian River Olde Time Lumberjack Show on Saturday and Sunday also proved to be a hit, and Bascom said the committee would like to have them return as well.

One of the highlights of this year's fair was a ceremony Saturday afternoon honoring the baseball players of American Legion Post 105's Rocky Hill-Cromwell-Portland (RCP) team.

This past season, both the junior and senior RCP Post 105 teams took home their respective state championships, the first double-championship win in the Post's history.

In addition, both teams were champions in their respective zones as well.

More than two dozen of the nearly 50 players across both teams attended the event, along with general manager Jay Hickey, junior coach Jim Nursick, senior coach TJ Grande, and their respective assistant coaching staffs.

The junior and senior coaches received plaques listing the championship wins, along with a photo of their respective team.

State and local politicians were also on hand for the ceremony, including state Rep. Christie Carpino, representing Portland and Cromwell; First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield; Cromwell Deputy Mayor Dick Newton; Deputy First Selectwoman Kathy Richards; and selectmen Ryan Curley and Carl Chudzik.

"On behalf of all the citizens of Cromwell, I want to say we're especially proud of this team,"

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Colchester Residents Remember Jenny Contois

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Concetta "Jenny" Contois' greatest love was the town of Colchester – and it was clear this week the town's residents will dearly miss the longtime first selectwoman.

Contois, 68, passed away Monday, Oct. 12, due to illness.

Contois grew up in East Hartford, then moved to Hebron. But in 1979 she settled in Colchester, and quickly delved into the town's political scene. From 1981-91, Contois served on the Board of Finance, establishing herself as a person of honesty and one who could bring people together. In 1991, she was elected first selectwoman and was re-elected every two years until 2007, when she left to work with Congressman Joe Courtney. She retired from Courtney's office in 2014.

A staunch Democrat, Contois was known for setting aside party lines for the good of Colchester, friends recalled this week.

"In many respects, the power of her personality and the strength of who she was allowed her to make things happen," longtime friend Ron Goldstein, current chairman of the Board of Education, said. "Like none other, she was able to get people in a room, talk things through, have a vigorous debate, strong disagreements,

but was able to reach a conclusion and walk out of the meeting with respect for each other.

"She crossed party lines all of the time," Goldstein added. "It was all in the interest of good government and doing what was right for Colchester and the community. Then, with Courtney, what was right for the district."

During Contois' time as first selectwoman, she led Colchester through its fastest growing period while maintaining the traditions and heritage of the town. She was also made president of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns and was a longtime member of the Democratic Town Committee. Contois was also first selectwoman when the town adopted its first town charter.

Also during her tenure, Contois oversaw the building of the current Town Hall, renovations and additions to Cragin Library, and renovations to the town's schools, including the building of Colchester Elementary School. She also established the police department and was made an honorary member of the Hayward Volunteer Fire Company.

"What she's done for this town hasn't been repeated," James Noel, owner of Noel's Market, said. "She was definitely a leader. She had

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Jenny Contois (center) was heavily-involved in politics, and is seen here with state Rep. Linda Orange (left), the late state Sen. Eileen Daily (right) and the late U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy.

Portland Fair cont. from Front Page

Newton said. “Not only because they’re state champions, but because it was a three-town effort, and that’s great to see.”

In addition, Carpino presented the team and coaches with a citation from the General Assembly, signed by all the representatives and senators from the three town’s districts.

“I may only have two-thirds of this team” Carpino said, referring to Portland and Cromwell, “but I’m so proud of all of you and wish you all the best.”

“You are true champions both on and off the field, and you earned this,” she said to the players and coaches, pointing to their trophies.

Hickey, meanwhile, said he wanted to thank the fair committee for their recognition, and reiterated how momentous an occasion it was.

“We both won (the championships) at Palmer Field against a team from Stamford that draws from like eight high schools,” he said. “Everyone knows the size of Stamford. We came in as underdogs, but they went home in second place.”

He added “the best part is, these guys who start off as rivals are best friends forever after their summers playing together, and it’s a testament to the strength of the experience and what these coaches do,” he said.

Grande shared he was “very proud” of the team’s accomplishments this season.

“Hopefully we can do it again next year,” he said of the wins. “And Jay [Hickey] is right, it’s really all about the relationships the coaches and players form with each other.”

Nursick directed his remarks toward the championship teams.

“We scream and yell at you during the games, but you guys put together one hell of a program,” he said. “Perhaps the best in the state of Connecticut on the field this year.”

Aside from the ceremony Saturday afternoon, there were also plenty of other stand-bys that continued traditions the fair is well known for. These included amusements and rides from

Coleman Bros. of Middletown, and several contests including the scarecrow decorating contest and several produce, livestock and baking contests.

In addition, the agricultural spirit of the fair persisted with pony rides, dairy and beef cattle showings, an oxen pull and a small livestock tent where fairgoers could meet up with sheep, goats, chickens and rabbits.

Also, a full range of vendors served up everything from baked potatoes to fried dough, and fixtures such as the volunteer fire department’s famous fries returned.

Plenty of tents representing various businesses around the area could be found as well, offering everything from gutter cleanings to home solar panels, clothes and more.

In addition, both the Republican and Democratic town committees had booths at the fair, inviting fairgoers to stop by and chat with the candidates running for selectmen, the school board, town clerk and first selectman.

Bascom said though the numbers haven’t been tallied, he expects the fair met its expenses. Also, he said the total weekend draw appears to have fallen solidly in the 15,000-20,000 people range, the fair’s average.

Bascom said he credits a good part of that draw to the committee’s increased social media presence this year on Facebook, and its frequent radio ads.

“It was definitely a good fair this year,” he concluded.

* * *

Contest results and photos from this year’s fair can be viewed at portlandfair.com. More photos from the fair can be viewed on the Rivereast News Bulletin’s Facebook page at facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin.

Those interested in becoming involved with planning next year’s fair can attend Portland Fair Association meetings at the Grange Hall on Sage Hollow Road, held the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.



Members of the junior and senior American Legion Post 105 Rocky Hill-Cromwell-Portland baseball teams were recognized at this year’s Portland Fair, along with their coaching staffs and general manager, for winning their respective state championships this season.

Contois cont. from Front Page

a vision and drove things through. She wasn’t afraid to get the job done. She was political, but in the best sense of the word.”

Noel said in honor of Contois, he has nicknamed the small access street near his parking lot “J Way.”

Contois was also the founding member of the Colchester Learning Foundation and helped establish the Colchester Land Trust. She also aided in opening the fire museum and the Colchester Historical Society.

Election season, Goldstein said, was “a true testament to how she was respected by the community.”

“Her campaign signs simply said ‘Jenny’ with a big red star,” he recalled, “and everyone knew what it was.”

On a personal level, Goldstein said, he learned a “tremendous” amount from Contois and the way she led and handled situations.

“It was an honor and a privilege to work with her,” Goldstein said. “Her passion for Colchester and for working with people in an effort to move forward, that’s what I remember. It was never about being against or being personal; it was just about moving forward.”

Contois was also close friends with state Rep. Linda Orange (D-48th District), and Orange

stressed Contois was an “amazing person.”

“No issue was too big or too small to tackle whether it be in her personal life or her political life, she just dove right in,” Orange said. “She did the best she could, was truthful and honest and was very dedicated to whatever she did. She just loved the town, the town was basically part of her family.”

Orange said Contois was her longtime mentor – and “guiding light.”

“She was always there for me, as I was there for her,” Orange said. “Jenny was a driving force and she was just a real person in every way.”

Described as a “selfless” person, Orange said Contois played by the rules and was always looking to better the community she served.

The Board of Selectmen recently voted to name the town hall meeting rooms after Contois, and plaques will soon be installed to reflect the dedication.

The family will receive guests today, Oct. 16, from 4 to 7 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, Oct. 17 at 9 a.m. followed by burial in the new St. Andrew Cemetery. Contois’ full obituary is in this week’s *Rivereast*.

Marlborough Family, Friends Remember Beth Petroni

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Resident Beth Petroni was remembered this week as a woman of courage and devotion to her community.

Petroni, a former Board of Finance member, passed away Oct. 8 after battling pancreatic cancer for four years.

Petroni graduated from Ridgefield High School, going on to earn a political science degree from the University of Connecticut. She was most recently the director of IT for the Department of Children and Families.

"She was just such a special person and loved by so many here," Petroni's husband, Victor, said. "She was one of those true fighters. She was supposed to be gone in three to six months."

Cancer wasn't the only thing she fought. Victor said Beth was well-known in town for fighting for the people of Marlborough.

"What was so special about her was she managed to find people who needed help in town and would be there for them and help them with their pain," he said.

Petroni was a member of the Board of Finance for seven years, a past president of the Marlborough Junior Women's Club, part of the Board of Directors for the Marlborough Elementary Child Care Association (MECCA), and was an active member of the Democratic Town Committee.

"She was an ingrained part of the community," Victor Petroni said.

Evelyn Godbout, Lauren Cragg, Joe La Bella and current first selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski served with Petroni during her time on the Board of Finance – and all had kind words for their former colleague this week.

"Beth was a woman that was passionate about everything she set her mind to," Godbout

said. "She fought vehemently for what she thought was right. She volunteered in town and state politics as well as many community functions."

Cragg said Petroni always fought for what she believed in including family, education, the right to open debate and "truly life itself."

"She, her contributions, and [her] spirit will be sorely missed by her family and the Marlborough community," Cragg said.

Gaudinski said Petroni was truly dedicated to the community.

"We were on Board of Finance for several years and worked towards the betterment of Marlborough residents," Gaudinski said. "She was dedicated to the community and strongly believed in her convictions."

Along with working in the community, Petroni worked in technology for the state.

She was "an influential advisor to current Governor Dannel Malloy on technological strategies that have had a statewide impact," Godbout said. "It will continue to influence the statewide direction for years to come."

Regardless of whether a person agreed with one of Petroni's beliefs, Godbout said no one could argue that she was passionate about her opinions and "fought staunchly for what she believed was right."

La Bella agreed – saying it was a trait he found very impressive.

"She was always willing to stand up for what she believed in, regardless of if it was popular or not and regardless of if it aligned with the flavor of the day," La Bella said.

Petroni ultimately served on the finance board for nine years, before resigning in spring 2014 to focus on her health.

When she was first diagnosed with cancer,



In July 2013, Beth and Victor Petroni made the trip Beth always dreamed about, visiting Jackson Hole and the Grand Tetons in Wyoming. Victor remembers the trip fondly, saying it was an amazing place like no other in the world.

La Bella recalled, she fought it with the same strength she always had.

"The first thing she wished was just to have friends together for dinner," La Bella said. "Her fondest wish was to be surrounded by friends."

Those friends, Victor Petroni said, are what keeps him going now after her passing.

"Every woman in town is helping with food,"

he said. "They've been wonderful."

Godbout offered a simple final thought: "God bless you, Beth, and thank you for your service."

There will be a celebration of Petroni's life on Nov. 5 from 5-7:30 p.m. at St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough. Her full obituary is published in this week's *Rivereast*.

Marlborough Board of Education Race Uncontested

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Candidates for the local Board of Education sat down with the *Rivereast* this week to discuss the challenges they see the boards facing and some of their goals if elected onto the boards.

Since the race is uncontested, candidates were not too nervous – and they all seemed to agree that budget is the biggest challenge the board will face.

Incumbent Republican Louise Concodello is getting ready to enter her sixth term on the education board. She has already served 20 years on the board.

"I enjoy it," Concodello said of why she continues. "I'm open to new ideas and it's for the children."

Concodello has been a licensed home daycare provider for the last 32 years and had children go through the school system. With her time on the board, Concodello said she saw the board go through the recession and the budget cuts necessary. Now the school is trying to put everything back into the budget that the school needs.

"Enrollment has gone down, but it doesn't mean costs go down," Concodello said. "We have to be very cautious on what we spend money on. We are doing what we need to help our children advance."

Concodello said she would like to continue making the school the best school it can be along with working as a team on the board no matter what party for the betterment of all of the children in town.

Republican Ruth Kelly, current chairwoman of the school board, is also running for another term. Kelly has been on the board for eight years and was a former teacher. She taught for 30 years, 25 of which were at Marlborough Elementary School.

"The board is facing the challenge of budgets because of RHAM," Kelly said. "That RHAM budget is going to affect the Marlborough budget in the upcoming years with the levy increasing. There's pressure on our board because the finance board cannot ask anything of RHAM."

The percentage of the RHAM budget Marlborough is responsible for is growing, because the number of Marlborough students is not decreasing as much as the numbers of Hebron and Andover students are.

Kelly said her goal is to keep taxes reasonable while also ensuring the highest quality of education possible for the students.

A new name on the Republican ticket, Patrick Pabouet, is also running for the board. Pabouet has lived in Marlborough for over

20 years and is retired from a career as a private detective and security consultant.

"Applying some business practices may keep our budget the way it is or even lower it," Pabouet said.

As to why he chose to run for the education board, Pabouet said he wanted to give something back after recently retiring.

"The school right now is great and I want to keep it running like that," Pabouet said. His son attended RHAM, but did not attend the local school.

Two incumbent Democrats are also looking for another term, Betty O'Brien and Judith Kaplan.

O'Brien is a former school psychologist who has served on the board for 12 years. She said she almost considered not running again, but decided she needed to a "little bit longer."

"There are a few things to take care of," O'Brien said. "The knowledge that 'oldies' on the board have is valuable."



Concodello



Kelly



Pabouet



O'Brien



Kaplan

O'Brien agreed the biggest problem is the budget with declining enrollment affecting everything else including programming and jobs.

"It's a real difficult one," O'Brien said. "You're affecting peoples' lives and the lives of the taxpayer. You have to be realistic and reasonable."

O'Brien also credited the board with staying apolitical and keeping the board about the kids, staff and the community.

Kaplan holds a degree in mental health law and education law and was an associate professor at Central Connecticut State University. She was appointed to the board in March 2013, replacing former member Corinne Chappelle.

Kaplan said she was proud of the board for putting all-day kindergarten in place for this school year and also having a principal, assistant principal and superintendent that are positive.

"We are very open and committed to the best education and environment for the school," Kaplan said.

Election Day is Nov. 3, and voting will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Dr.

Four To Vie for Portland Board of Education Spaces

by John Tyczkowski

Two Republicans and two Democrats are contenders in the race for spots on the Board of Education this year – and all four are getting in, as they're running unopposed.

Gisela Rice and Timothy Lavoy are the Republicans' picks, and are both running for their first terms.

Gisela Rice is a senior financial underwriter for national accounts at United Healthcare. She's lived in town for nearly a decade; she said she and her husband said they moved to Portland in large part due to the public schools, and the small-town feel.

In January, Rice was instrumental in founding Portland Unified Sports, a program that, like its state and national counterparts, allows special needs children to play sports alongside peer mentors.

"We started at eight kids in January, and currently we have 95 students, peers and volunteers for the fall season," Rice said. "It's very impressive how much it's grown, and it's a great cause, to make sure all kids are included."

Rice has two children in the Portland school system as well, and taken together, those reasons help explain why she's running, she said.

"I'm running for the Board of Education because I care about the children and their parents, the educators and the district and the future of the Portland schools," she said. "And through Portland Unified Sports, I became actively involved in the wider town community as well."

Toward that end, one of Rice's goals if elected would be to further the communication between the schools and the wider town com-



Rice

munity.

"That is crucial; we need to build strong community partnerships to ensure our entire community is pushing in one direction," she said. "Overall, I want to help everyone get involved in making this the best town we can, and strengthening our schools is a big part of that."

One example Rice pointed to the large turnout Portland Unified Sports enjoyed at a fundraiser walkathon at Valley View Elementary.

"It was an outstanding show of support from the community, and I want to bring that to all the schools," she said.

Rice also serves as the Inclusion Liaison for Special Education Students on the Valley View PTO.

Timothy Lavoy is a 12-year resident of Portland, and, prior to retiring last spring, worked as a supervisor and manager for the state's Department of Developmental Services.

"I managed programs for adults and children with developmental disabilities who lived in homes," he said. "That included adult foster care, licens[ing] private community members to have them live in their homes, and overall case management."

In particular, Lavoy also received training on how to work effectively with groups to achieve optimal outcomes.

"I see my background in management and public services, and human services in particular, as something that would be very helpful on the Board of Education," he said.

Lavoy also holds a bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in public administration from Central Connecticut State University.



Lavoy

In addition, Lavoy said he's "got skin in the game," as he has children in the schools, one at the middle school and one at the high school. And his youngest started in first grade in Portland, so he's familiar with each of Portland's schools, he added.

Regarding challenges he sees facing the schools, Lavoy said it's crucial the board continue to develop its relationship with Philip B. O'Reilly, who became superintendent of schools last August.

Another priority is integrating Common Core standards successfully into the curriculum, and helping students to achieve on their mandated Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium tests.

"Overall though, I see the main challenge as ensuring the taxpayers' dollars are being spent wisely toward the best goal – educating our kids and preparing them to be successful," Lavoy said.

Lavoy added how he would work toward tackling those challenges would begin with listening and understanding "the depths of each issue fully."

"Once I got peoples' points of view I'd work to ensure the best outcomes and best value from what we receive," he said. "If elected, I'm going to give it the time and the effort necessary to be successful in representing the community members on the board."

Out of the two Democrats, one is seeking a seat and the other is seeking reelection.

MaryAnne Rode, has been on the school board since 2004, and is currently its chair. She works as the director of human resources for UNAPEN, a software development and IT services company in Meriden.

Rode also has two children in the schools: a senior and a junior.

"My desire from the beginning was to improve the communication between Board of Education and the community," she said. "Now I have a good understanding of the board's goals and responsibilities, and I want to pass that along."



Rode

And having the whole town be more in tune with the board's goals can only benefit Portland, Rode said.

"Beyond [being] a great school system for its own sake, a great school system draws people to the town," she said. "And the more people who live in the town, the more it flourishes in terms of taxes and growth."

There have been several markers of those strong schools during Rode's tenure on the board – including two Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Awards, Brownstone Intermediate in 2011 and the middle school in 2014. There have also been renovations and improvements to several of the district's schools.

If re-elected, Rode said, "The board would like to focus on continuing to address how to best utilize our facilities, to work on curriculum development and how to maximize the use of technology."

She also said she hopes to help keep school budgets "reasonable," as she feels they've been every year of her board tenure. She admits part of the struggle is keeping those budgets so in the face of increasing state mandates.

"We have to become very creative in our approaches to those initiatives," she said. "We can't just keep adding to our budget, and we know that," Rode said.

However, Rode said she felt "the district is very well positioned to accomplish its goals despite the challenges."

"We've produced stellar students who've gone on to great colleges and who have gone on to do great things," she added. "We want to keep that up."

Jim Tripp is a former president of the Brownstone Quorum, and is still actively involved with that organization. He's also an alternate on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Tripp did not respond to multiple phone calls requesting an interview.

Voting will take place Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Waverly Center at 7 Waverly Ave.



Tripp

Six Candidates Seek RHAM Seats

by Geeta Schrayter

Six candidates are vying for seats on the RHAM Board of Education this year – including three incumbents and three newcomers.

Hebron Democrat Amy D'Amaddio, Republican Tom Tremont and Marlborough Republican Carole Shea are each looking to retain their seats on the board.

D'Amaddio has lived in Hebron for the past 14 years with her husband and three children. She received a bachelor's degree in human development and family relations and has been employed as a juvenile probation officer for nearly 20 years.

D'Amaddio had previously shared with the *Rivereast* that she's running for another term because "I continue to have a passion for advocating for the kids in this community and there is still lots to be done. I've learned a lot in the first term and think that with a second term we can continue to make positive changes to the district."

She added, "I have a lot of experience and passion and know about what's going on in the district at this point and I'm very motivated to move the district in a positive direction for our kids so they can be competitive in the global market."

Meanwhile, Shea is running for a full term on the board after joining last December following the resignation of Dieter Zimmer. Previously, Shea was on the Marlborough Board of Education for five and a half years.



D'Amaddio



Shea

"There was the opportunity to make a change and go into an area I'm very familiar with," Shea said regarding her decision to join the RHAM board.

A certified K-12 teacher, Shea previously taught high school art in Ellington for eight years. She has also worked in interior design for large commercial buildings, including schools, hospitals, banks and municipal buildings, and said her work with various facilities led her to volunteer to be on the Facilities Subcommittee for RHAM. Facilities and capital projects, she explained, are some of the challenges the board is currently facing.

In addition, Shea mentioned technology as an area she'd like to see grow at the schools.

"It's important because when they graduate they need those skills in the workplace and college," Shea said. "It's important for kids to know how to do things other than be a gamer or cruise the Web."

Tremont couldn't be reached for comment, but said during the last election he believes having common sense, a willingness to speak out, present your opinions, be yourself and "take any heat if necessary" are all qualities of a successful candidate.

Looking to join the board for the first time is Hebron Democrat William Malitsky, Marlborough Republican Sue Rapelye and Marlborough Democrat Lestie Gonzalez.

Malitsky has lived in Hebron for 17 years with his wife and two daughters, who are both currently students at RHAM High School.

Malitsky graduated with a degree in political science from Southern Connecticut State University, after which he said he got into politics working for two Democratic Speakers of the House of Representatives. He also served as the director of government relations for the

Connecticut State Dental Society before becoming associated with a Hartford lobbying group. Malitsky currently works at the Hartford law firm Halloran & Sage Government Affairs, where he's been for 11 and a half years.

Speaking on his decision to run for the RHAM board Malitsky said this week, "I've always worked with government officials, but never having been one myself I figured I have a lot of expertise in dealing with different situations. I just wanted to kind of bring that knowledge and history [to the board] to see if I can benefit the towns of Hebron, Andover and Marlborough and make the school system the best we can for our kids."

Malitsky added he planned to work to try and bring the board together.

"I'd like to bring my ability to get people to listen to each other's concerns and make decisions better for the school as a whole instead of maybe some individual agenda ... if that's possible," he stated. "I'm running as a Democrat but I definitely don't have a closed mind to anyone else's political ideas or concepts. I always find the best solution is always found somewhere in the middle of both."

Malitsky concluded, "The purpose of running is to be a representative [for residents]. It's not to accomplish x, y and z. I want to listen to voters in the three towns and if they have concerns, I have an open door policy; I will be their eyes and ears on the board and vote to try to make sure that their voices are heard."

Another Marlborough resident looking to join the RHAM board is Republican Sue Rapelye. Rapelye currently serves on the Marlborough Board of Education and would



Malitsky

continue to do so if elected to the RHAM board.

"As a parent of four children, I believe that today's children are our future," Rapelye said. "I believe that as a parent myself, it's my responsibility to stay actively involved in my children's education. It is my goal to further expand my involvement with the education of not only my children, but the children of our community and make a positive difference."

Rapelye has a bachelor's degree in accounting and works at the financial services and technology company Fiserv, as a director and program manager. Rapelye said this professional background would be a strong asset to the board.

Like Shea, Rapelye said she believes technology plays a key role in student success.

"Because of my passion, dedication and commitment to children in the Region 8 school system, I'm excited at having the opportunity to truly listen to the opinions, concerns and ideas of our community," Rapelye said.

Also, Marlborough resident Lestie Gonzalez will be on the ballot as a Democrat for the RHAM board; however, the *Rivereast* has been unable to contact him for any of the articles regarding the elections.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3. Hebron residents can vote for two of their town's three RHAM candidates, and Marlborough residents can do the same. Voting takes place in Hebron from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.; and in Marlborough from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Dr.



Rapelye

Eight Contend for Four East Hampton School Board Seats

by John Tyczkowski

Three Republican challengers are vying for seats on the Board of Education alongside two Democrats, while three incumbents – two Democrats and one Chatham Party member – are hoping to retain their slots on the board.

Of those eight, however, only four will be elected come Nov. 3.

Republican challengers are Erika Bonaccorso, Jarod Bushey and Mike Rose.

Bonaccorso works for the Department of Public Health's Women, Infants and Children program. Before, she worked with the Department of Children and Families, and at UConn Medical Center's neonatal unit.

"All the jobs I've held have been based around children, and I have a passion for helping them," said Bonaccorso, who has lived in town for three years.

She said her priorities if elected include adding classes to teach computer and technology skills, updating the district's computers and increasing extracurricular offerings.

Also, she said another priority would be to solicit feedback from taxpayers – parents and non-parents.

"A lot of people in town have great ideas, and a lot have frustrations," she said. "I'll talk to anyone, listen to them, write down what they have to say and talk to the board about it."

Bonaccorso also said transparency would mark her tenure if elected.

"If elected I would like everyone to have my phone number and my email address so they can get a hold of me," she said. "I have nothing to hide and I always tell the truth; the truth is necessary."

Bushey is a four-year resident, and has been a mechanical engineer at Sikorsky Aircraft for the past decade. He said a priority for him if elected to the board would be saving money while improving the schools.

"I'm going to be a strong advocate for families and children, but we have to look at the whole community," he said. "I don't want to improve the schools while overburdening working families and seniors."

To that end, he said the board needs a process by which increases each year are justified.

"I would be a person on the board who would demand and request proof, but be reasonable," Bushey said. "Sometimes increased spending is necessary and appropriate to give our students' education more value."

And that could include closing Center School and moving students to a new Memorial School wing, Bushey said.

"That would allow us to improve our students' experience with a newer, safer environment, and would let the town use Center School as a resource for other projects the town desperately needs," he said.

Rose has lived in town for more than a decade, and is a labor lawyer at a Hartford law firm with government clients.

In addition, Rose said he's "got a good handle on budgets," from previous work with the New Hampshire state senate on its budget.

Rose said he wants "to make sure what we're doing with our dollars is providing the finest education we can."

He said his budgeting approach would be human resources-focused, to make sure the right employees are doing the right jobs.

"Large amounts of expenses are made up by professional administrators," he said. "And they're absolutely necessary. But the key is to make sure that every line item you spend on, you're spending in the most efficient way."

For example, Rose said, if a paraprofessional can do a task instead of a teacher, they should do it.

Along those lines, he said the district should create a comprehensive plan "years out" in concert with the unions that would clearly define employees' duties, while adhering to labor laws.

New Democrats are Deborah Battit and Ray Krupa.

Battit is a lifelong town resident, and works as a communications manager at the Hartford Foundation for Giving. She has been with the foundation for 11 years, in roles including strategic planning and different aspects of grants.

"I've developed a good knowledge base on education, but I also recognize there's a lot to learn," she said.

She is also a product of the town school system, has children in the school system, and her parents were teachers in town.

While Battit said she supports budgets that will "prepare young people for productive adulthood," she said she also understands the concerns of the senior, retired and fixed-income population in keeping their homes.

Battit said, she wants to "open communication between the board and the greater community and help people understand the board's challenges and assets."

"The role of the board is to be the liaison between the town and the schools, and to communicate openly and respectfully, to allow everyone to be informed decision-makers," she said.



Battit



Krupa

Krupa is a semi-retired contractor, former board member and former teacher.

"I have experience and I'd like to serve," he said. "I've done a lot in my 25 years in town and would like to do what I can to keep giving back to the town."

He said one of his strengths is institutional memory.

"I've worked with many of the current board members and have personal experience with many people in town," Krupa said. "I have an idea of what's going on from my previous service."

Krupa said he would want to make sure the district continues to enhance technology integration "to move the schools ahead."

Krupa also said it's important for him to stay involved with education in town.

"Just because I don't have kids in the schools doesn't mean I should detach from them," he said. "I feel I have a good philosophy of education based upon the accomplishments of my children who went through public schools, and I want to support the schools here."

Two Democrats, board chair Ken Barber and member Joanne Barmasse, are seeking re-election.

Barber, a general practice lawyer in town, is wrapping up his first term on the board. He said some of the accomplishments during this time include calling attention to space and maintenance problems at Center School, and advocating for the town to take it over and make it Town Hall.

He also said he's helped keep the school board meetings civil.

"I made sure the Board of Education didn't turn into a political slugfest, given the anger



Barber

that has been exhibited at the Town Hall," he said. "We kept the peace in the valley and kept the school system going efficiently."

If re-elected, Barber said future plans on the board include successfully completing the transition to a new superintendent, hopefully before the end of the calendar year.

"We'd also like to continue looking at swapping out Center School, and also begin to enter into some dialogue with other school systems as well as the town government," he said.

Barmasse, a Coldwell Banker realtor, was appointed to the board this past spring, but previously served from 2005-13. She initially decided to join the board after attending meetings as her children went through the school system, and participating in the various PTOs.

Barmasse has previously worked with state and regional education organizations during her previous stint on the board, and said "the new information gained from working with board members and superintendents in other towns is great to bring back to help our district."

Barmasse said another priority would be to revisit the board's strategic vision plan.

"The community needs to be a part of that, to update it with new goals," she said. "Every resident should have a stake in and support the education system."



Barmasse



Minnick

Finally, Barmasse said budget transparency is extremely important.

"While we've taken good steps, we can do more," she said. "We should explain things such as why there's x number of dollars in a certain account and what it goes toward."

Minnick, the board's lone Chatham Party member and also the board vice chair, is also wrapping up his first term and seeking re-election. Minnick, who teaches French at Smith Middle School in Glastonbury, has also served two terms on the Town Council.

If re-elected, Minnick said his plans include increasing the number of extracurricular and course offerings at the secondary schools.

Minnick counted among his accomplishments working to implement full-day kindergarten in 2013, and building the district's pre-K program.

"We have a great school system, but there's always room for improvement, and I want to be able to help with that," he said. "I've been an active board member, coming to meetings prepared and taking my role as an elected official very seriously."

Another strength Minnick named was the multiple perspectives he brings.

"I'm a teacher and have students, and I also have children in the district, and I'm a taxpayer," he said. "I have many hats. Because of that I have been able to ask the right kinds of questions and so the board as a whole can make informed decisions."

Voting will take place Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at East Hampton Middle School, located at 19 Childs Rd.

East Hampton Council Talks New Ladder Truck, Oakum Dock Repaving

by John Tyczkowski

Tuesday evening, the fire department approached the Town Council with information on a new ladder truck to replace the department's 30-year-old apparatus.

Fire Chief Greg Voelker – who, with the Fire Commission, had already campaigned to the Board of Finance on the need for a new apparatus – ran through the benefits of a new truck to the councilors.

Nearly two dozen fire department affiliates, from firefighters to the fire marshal office members and fire commission members, were in attendance.

The new ladder truck, manufactured by Pierce, would feature a 100-foot reach, compared to the current truck's 65-foot reach. It also is fully capable of serving as a conventional firefighting truck, able to hold large water reserves and carrying its own pump.

The new apparatus also incorporates more safety features, such as airbags and rollover protection.

Finally, the single-axle truck is also more maneuverable and is more able to handle the tight spaces in town.

"With the poets, the Indians and the condos, that's especially important," Voelker said, with the first two mentions referring to the sections of town with small streets to the east of Lake Pocotopaug.

In addition, field tests of the truck – one at South Wangonk Trail for maneuverability and one at Educational Playcare on Route 66 for reach – "went very well," he said.

"This truck is tailor-made for East Hamp-

ton," Voelker said. "When they thought this truck up, they were thinking of towns like ours."

And that's true in more ways than one, as this truck incorporates five new patents and has been designed specifically for small town fire departments, he said.

Councilor George Pfaffenbach noted the fire department received an award at a recent parade showing for its ladder truck in the antique category.

Fire Commission chair Brett Salafia responded to that comment, saying "I guess it's pretty sad, or it's pretty impressive, that we have a 30-year old piece in active service...that's winning prizes in the antique fire apparatus category."

"Our townspeople deserve better, and our firefighters deserve better," he said.

Councilors decided to have the fire department present to the public before making any decision on purchasing the new apparatus.

In addition to capabilities, the meeting will also include a discussion of the truck's cost.

In a PowerPoint presentation on the apparatus included in the Town Council meeting packet, and previously presented to the Board of Finance, its base cost was listed as \$850,000. A lease purchasing program is available.

The meeting is slated to take place at 6 p.m. at the middle school Tuesday, Oct. 27. It should run 45 minutes to one hour, with the regular Town Council meeting starting at 7 p.m.

Road paving was the subject of much debate on the council's part that evening. Town

Manager Michael Maniscalco presented to the council a proposal needing its go-ahead that would provide for the reclamation and repaving of Oakum Dock, Old Depot Hill and Raymond roads.

According to estimates provided by B&W Paving of Waterford, work on Oakum Dock would cost \$168,505, work on Old Depot Hill would cost \$41,750 and work on Raymond would cost \$59,252.

The \$269,507 total would come out of the Capital Road Improvement funds.

Councilors were in agreement on Raymond and Old Depot Hill, but raised concerns about repaving Oakum Dock. Council vice chair Kevin Reich and councilor Patience Anderson each said the road might get torn up in the future, for gas line installations, and thus argued that spending money on repaving the road wouldn't be prudent.

But, Maniscalco said, only road shoulders would need to be dug up in order to install any additional laterals, which would bring gas from the main to houses on the road.

Also, "at this point we're not aware of any other reason the road would need to be dug up," he said.

Meanwhile, councilor Ted Hintz Jr. raised a concern that the reclamation and repaving technique wasn't sound for Oakum Dock, based upon a presentation during budget season from Public Works Director Phil Sissick.

"Is it wise for us to spend \$168,000 on that road if it's going to be kind of pointless to do

the reclamation and paving if it's just going to crumble after winter?" he said.

Maniscalco said reclamation and repaving was appropriate in this case because of the smaller size of Oakum Dock compared to larger roads in towns.

"The purpose of this type of work is more to make sure the road is there in the spring, rather than to reengineer and rebuild the whole road," he said. "We would be looking at millions of dollars for that."

Councilor Philip Visintainer, who in his capacity as fire chief had become very familiar with Oakum Dock, called the road "nearly impassable," and urged that the process go forward.

"I think this process is no worse than what we've done in the past, it's just not as good as what we ought to be doing," he said.

Pfaffenbach had the last word before the council voted 7-0 to repave all three roads: "We should proceed with this; putting it off is just kicking the can down the road."

Paving would be slated to begin in the "not too distant future" before snow falls begin, Maniscalco said.

The next Town Council meeting will take place Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m., in the Town Hall meeting room. There will also be an informational meeting on the new ladder truck's capabilities and cost, in concert with the fire department, at 6 p.m. that night, at the East Hampton Middle School commons.

Four Candidates for Four Seats on Hebron Education Board

by Geeta Schrayter

Election Day is fast approaching and when all is said and done, the makeup of the Hebron Board of Education will change by two, as two incumbents and two new candidates are looking to fill four seats.

On the incumbent side, current board chairwoman Maryanne Leichter is looking to stay on for another term as is Geoffrey Davis, who joined the board in March. Both are Democrats.

Leichter, who has lived in town since 1974, had two children who attended Hebron schools. She has advanced degrees in education and over 37 years of educational experience; she taught special needs to children in kindergarten through 12th grade for the first 27 years, and spent the last 10 as a special education administrator. She also spent time on the RHAM Board of Education.

Leichter shared over the summer she was running for a second term because she was interested in seeing what the board would be able to accomplish with new schools superintendent Timothy Van Tassel – who started working in the district in July – and the administration.

Leichter explained, "I really liked the direction [Van Tassel] was taking the schools and I liked his style so I said, 'Well, I'd like to stay and see what we can do as a board with the superintendent and the rest of the administration.'"

She added, "I really see the vision of what this school district is trying to do for our children and I really want to be a part of that. I want to keep things running and moving in the right direction."

Davis, meanwhile, said in July he was looking to run for a full term because "I feel my work has just begun."

Davis has lived in town for almost nine years with his wife and son, who currently attends school in town. He is a certified K-12 school counselor in Southington and possesses a Connecticut Professional Counselor Licensure as well as professional memberships in the National Educational Association and the Connecticut Education Association.

Davis shared this week his "sole purpose" in running was for the children of Hebron. He explained by joining the board he knew "I would be able to give back to the town of Hebron that has welcomed both me and my family. I thought that was something worthwhile and thought whoever is on needs to be focused on the children of Hebron and willing to put them first."

And that's exactly what Davis said he plans to do.

On the Republican side two newcomers will join the board, filling the seats of current members Amy Lynch Gracias and Abe Krisst, who will not be seeking re-election: Kathy Williams and her son Kevin.

Kathy Williams has lived in town since 1966. She's currently retired, but worked at the Savings Bank of Manchester for 31 years as both a loan officer and in the information technology department.

She said previously a big reason behind her decision to run for the Board of Education had to do with communication.

"I really think the biggest thing is communication and getting people to understand what the responsibilities of the board [are] and how it interacts with other agencies" she said, also mentioning the budget as important, saying "that's the one that everybody is most vocal about."



Davis

She continued, "People need to know as much as they can and I make an honest attempt to read all sides of everything and not just go to one side or the other; I think you have to look at the entire picture and make an informed decision."

This week, Williams added she wished more people were running – and that more people would vote in the municipal elections.

"It's really disappointing that so many people do not vote regardless of what's going on. We have so many uncontested positions, it really is sad. People will complain all the time but are not willing to get involved and that disappoints me."

Williams furthered, "I would like to get more people to become involved other than through derogatory letters to the editor and essentially, sniping at candidates. There's got to be a better way that we can all come together and come up with the best solutions for everyone involved."

She concluded, "I want to see our children get the best education they can get."

Meanwhile, Williams' son Kevin, who cur-

rently serves on the RHAM Board of Education, said shifting to the local school board "gives me the opportunity to rebalance my life so I am in the best position to serve with dedication, energy and resolve in everything I am committing to."

Williams works as the director of customer excellence with American Express and has lived in Hebron off and on throughout his life, for a total of 42 years.

He shared, "I've already shown that I am willing to put in the time and effort to not only serve a board, but to actively serve in a leadership role, having served as vice chairman of the RHAM Board for the last two years. And the bottom line is while I will have to vote one way or another on many issues I will always listen to those who want to be heard."

Williams added this week he is "looking forward to the opportunity to serve the Board of Education at the town level."

Voting takes place Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.



Williams



Leichter



Williams

Details Released in Recent Andover Shooting Arrest

by Geeta Schrayter

Details surrounding the investigation that led to the arrest of Andover resident Michael Fortin, 21, were released last week, and chronicle the steps police took in ascertaining Fortin was the suspect wanted in connection with a shooting on the Hop River Trail last year.

At around 1 p.m. on Sept. 25, 2014, state police said an individual was walking his dogs on the Hop River State Park Trail near Long Hill Road when he was approached by a male riding a dirt bike on the trail.

Police said the individual asked the rider not to ride his bike there; the trail is described on the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection website as being for hiking, bicycle riding, horseback riding and cross country skiing.

According to the affidavit, the individual shouted “no motorized vehicles on the trail” at the rider, at which point the rider on the dirt bike stopped, gave him the middle finger and shouted an expletive before firing into the woods and leaving.

Following the incident, the individual on the trail called police to report what happened. He provided police with a written statement as well as a copy of a photograph he’d taken on his phone as the suspect approached him.

According to the affidavit, on Aug. 11 of this year Detective Jeffrey Payette met with the individual from the trail incident and asked him to once again explain what had happened that day. Payette also saw the photo that was taken and observed “a person on a dirt bike, with red plastic showing in the area of the fuel tank and on the front fender. The dirt bike appeared to

be small in size as compared to the rider, had a red circle on the white number plate on the front of the bike with a grey handlebar pad with black ties, and a light colored gas cap vent.”

He furthers, “The rider was wearing dark colored clothing, with a dark colored dirt bike style helmet with a flame pattern, and a chin guard. The rider was also wearing red riding gloves, and dark colored sneakers with a white outer sole.”

On Aug. 20, that same photo was shown to a witness who knew Fortin. Detectives told the witness they were trying to identify a person on a dirt bike, and without mentioning Fortin’s name or the type of crime that was being investigated, the witness was shown the photo and identified the rider as Fortin.

According to the affidavit, the witness recognized Fortin by his helmet, his sneakers and the dirt bike.

The same photograph was also released to the public on Aug. 28 “in order to request the public’s assistance in positively identifying the individual in the photograph.”

Over the next few days, three more witnesses came forward who were mentioned in the affidavit and identified the individual in the photograph as Fortin.

It was also determined through the investigation that the gun the suspect fired that day on the trails was stolen. A 9mm shell casing was found in the area of the shooting by detectives from the Eastern District Major Crime Squad and sent to the State of Connecticut Division of Scientific Services for examination.

Detectives determined six 9mm firearms had

been stolen in the jurisdiction covered by state police in the past six years, the closest being a pistol taken from 280 West St., Bolton, in May of last year. After meeting with the individual who owned the stolen gun, another shell casing was located on the property and sent for processing.

A report was received Aug. 17 that concluded the shell casing recovered from the property at 280 Main St. and the one recovered from the Hop River Trail were fired from the same weapon. Based on the report, the affidavit said the stolen handgun was the same one used in last year’s shooting.

Other details contained in the affidavit include detectives observing a photograph on Fortin’s Facebook page that shows three dirt bikes: a KTM EXC300, a blue and white bike with a white front panel where the headlight was mounted, and a red and white Honda XR100 which the affidavit describes as similar to the dirt bike in the photo of the suspect (both photos were also taken to a Honda dealership, where the parts manager verified the two dirt bikes were the same make and model). In another photo the affidavit states Fortin is wearing a pair of sneakers similar to those worn by the suspect.

The affidavit also shared the area where the trail shooting occurred is 3.4 miles from Fortin’s home. In addition, the residence where the gun was stolen is just 2.2 miles from Fortin’s home.

As part of the investigation a search warrant was approved for Fortin and his home, which took place on Aug. 27. During the search a number of items were seized including the Honda

XR100 and a helmet, backpack and sneakers similar to those in the photo of the suspect.

In addition, the affidavit said, detectives, with the help of a witness, were able to locate an area where Fortin had been known to hang out between the power lines and a tree farm on East Street in Hebron. At that area detectives observed shell casings in plain view including numerous 9mm casings, which were also sent for processing; it was concluded the casings were fired from the same firearm as those from the trail shooting, which was positively identified as the stolen handgun.

Fortin was arrested Sept. 23 and charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, first-degree threatening, second-degree breach of peace, fifth-degree larceny, carrying a handgun without a permit and carrying a dangerous weapon.

He is currently being held on a \$50,000 bond. His next court date is Oct. 28.

* * *

The 2014 shooting incident isn’t Fortin’s first run-in with the law. Along with the above, Fortin is also pending first-degree reckless endangerment, second-degree assault, and sixth-degree larceny charges stemming from an incident in February where he shot his girlfriend in the eye with a flare gun that turned out to be stolen. The girlfriend – who told police that the shooting was accidental – lost her right eye as a result.

In addition, Fortin was found guilty of first-degree criminal trespassing in 2012. He was also found guilty of second-degree criminal mischief and resisting an officer in 2013.

Colchester Board of Education Candidates Face Off

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Two representatives from each party – Democrat, Republican and the Colchester Independent Party – will face off in the Nov. 3 election for the Board of Education.

The six candidates spoke with the *Rivereast* this week about their backgrounds and what they would like to do if elected. Three of the six will be elected to the board.

Democrat incumbent Mary Tomasi is running for another term. A former Colchester teacher, Tomasi has been retired for over 30 years.

“Preparing our children for the 21st century is and will continue to be a challenge,” Tomasi said. “We must provide our teachers with the tools needed to meet the challenges of the 21st century.”

Tomasi cited changes in curriculum and technology as important things to focus on.

“We must continue to meet the educational needs of our children and to do it within the budget that the towns’ people approve,” Tomasi said.

Joining Tomasi for the Democrats is a new face, Vincent Rose. Rose moved to Colchester in 2001 and currently works in instrumentation sales. Rose is a soccer coach for his two children who are in the Colchester school system.

“I grew up in a family of educators,” Rose said, noting his parents were both teachers. “I learned the importance of education at an early age.”



Tomasi



Rose

“It is a time of meager funding from the state. The fundamental challenge is trying to stay responsibly within budget while meeting the needs of the students,” Rose said. “I strongly feel the best way to get agreement on the education budget is increased communication and participation in the process.”

Rose said he believes investing in education does “pay off” and that people’s choice of where to live and property value are affected by the reputation of the school system.

Republican incumbent Brad Bernier is also running for another term.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Bernier is a professional firefighter in the Hartford area. He has also been involved in residential and light commercial construction.

“I see great value in preparing Colchester’s students to enter society as critical thinkers who can innovate and solve real-world problems,” Bernier said. “I have been honored to serve as a board member, working to maintain and improve programs that help our students face today’s challenges while preparing them for the challenges of tomorrow.”

Bernier stressed the challenge the board is facing is providing a quality education while being responsive to declining enrollment. He also said the goal for the next term would be to increase communication with residents through social media.

“In today’s world, when you wait weeks for the opportunity to communicate, you run the risk of being seen as non-responsive or even non-transparent,” Bernier said. “I would characterize our current board as incredibly responsive and very transparent, but concede that we are not as effective at communicating in the digital realm as we could be.”



Bernier

Renie Besaw is a new face for the Republicans. She has worked in corporate accounting and local for-profit and non-profit companies.

Some of the goals Besaw said she would like to see accomplished are improving school rankings, creating an environment where students and educators can grow and thrive, and also fund the education system in an effective, planned and fiscally-responsible manner.

The challenges facing the board, Besaw said, include: balancing a quality education and increasing property values with fiscal responsibility; managing short- and long-term capital improvements; and giving the superintendent the tools he needs to attract and keep top level educators.

“I look forward to being able to utilize my knowledge of business, budgets and accounting to better our schools and give back to the town that has educated my children and that I’ve called home for over 20 years,” Besaw said.

For the Colchester Independent Party, Stefani Lowe and Carl Swanback are running.

Lowe, who moved to town two years ago, was formerly a social worker at a home care agency before becoming a secretary.

“Regarding my campaign, this has been an eye-opening process,” Lowe said. “I find the residents of Colchester I meet are welcoming and forthcoming with their issues. Their main issues are the taxes in this town are slowly squeezing their



Besaw



Lowe

budgets so tight they are uncertain what their future holds here.”

Lowe said she’s found residents are upset with the costs of the school increasing when enrollment is decreasing.

Lowe is advocating more transparency in the board and moving away from setting only policies brought forth by Shipman & Goodwin.

“Perhaps it’s time to shop around for a less-expensive and more proactive legal firm,” Lowe said.

The other candidate is Swanback. He is currently managing the construction of a medical facility, was formerly a substitute teacher at Vinal Tech and Cheney Tech high schools, and is also involved in managing golf courses.

Swanback said the board needs to work on being more transparent, saying people might not know about the “padding” he said is in the current year’s budget, nor may they know the recently-passed William J. Johnston Middle School project actually contains administrative offices for the school system’s central office staff – specifically, the department of pupil services.

Swanback said it is important the district has a transparent budget process and consistent year-round community outreach to show the benefit of every dollar spent.

He also stressed the school needs to “foster an environment that challenges every child to become the best learner they can be and support teacher and parent to ensure they reach their fullest potential.”

Election Day is Nov. 3 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at each district’s location: Town Hall, Bacon Academy or Abundant Life Church. If unsure of your voting location, call the town clerk’s office at 860-537-7215.



Swanback

Colchester Board Approves New Special Education Position

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

At the Colchester Board of Education meeting Tuesday night, the board approved moving forward with the hiring of an assistant director of special education – a move years in the making.

Board Chairman Ron Goldstein said Tuesday the position had been discussed at various times over the last couple of years, but it took until now to get everything in order to move forward.

The need for an assistant director rose out of an action plan created after parent complaints were received this past spring. Those complaints varied and alleged children in the district were not receiving the special education accommodations they were supposed to, or were not being declared eligible for services. The complaints led former Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Katherine Shaughnessy to step down at the end of June.

Superintendent of Schools Jeff Mathieu explained to the board that even though a new director was hired – Kelly McNamara – the assistant director position was still needed. Mathieu explained there was a lot of work to be done in the district related to special education. He shared 54 students are currently serviced out-of-district and require the director to travel to various schools at the beginning of the year for a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting and again at the end of the year.

“Her strength is implementation,” Mathieu said of McNamara. “She needs to be in dis-

trict.”

And so, Mathieu explained the main job of the assistant director would be to handle the out-of-district PPTs, thereby allowing McNamara to remain in town.

The assistant director would be hired in January and will cost the district between \$59,597 and \$63,669 for the 2015-16 school year. For the full 2016-17 school year, the position will cost between \$119,194 and \$127,339. This is the same amount as a middle school assistant principal, and Mathieu said the money would come from the certified salary line.

The board approved both the job description and the addition of the position unanimously.

* * *

Also at the meeting Mathieu discussed an initiative the district is considering along with Bacon Academy Principal Matthew Peel; the district is attempting to establish a contract to accept tuition students from Norwich.

This week Peel and Mathieu went to Norwich, where there is no public high school, to discuss whether or not Norwich would be interested. The agreement would mean 10 students per high school grade could attend Bacon Academy, for a total of 40 Norwich students.

“As enrollment goes down, we would have to decrease staff and program offerings,” Mathieu said. “This generates money and brings in a diverse student population.”

Mathieu said the program would also allow

Bacon Academy to compete more against the magnet schools. At this point, Mathieu said, the question was whether both boards are interested in moving forward and hashing out more details.

Peel said the Norwich board seemed “impressed” and Mathieu added the Norwich board was “extremely receptive.”

Board member Mary Tomasi said it was an “interesting concept,” and member Michael Voiland said he would like to see more details on a potential contract.

The board reached a general consensus that the initiative is something to continue to look into.

* * *

In addition Tuesday, attorney Alyce Alfano from Shipman & Goodwin discussed a recent settlement to a Freedom of Information complaint that was made before appearing in front of the FOI Commission.

The complaint, Alfano said, was placed in May, but she wanted to clarify what happened to the board. Alfano explained a resident in town submitted the complaint after the board only gave the individual redacted copies of statements made before the board in March regarding issues with special education in the district.

The person had submitted an FOI request for the documents after they were not put into the minutes from the meeting.

Alfano explained the reason the board hadn’t placed the documents in the minutes and then

provided redacted copies to the complainant, was that once those statements were submitted in paper form to the board, they became an educational record of the students described in the statements – and therefore confidential. This information is called “personally identifiable information” under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. This could be as simple as a parent placing their name on the statement and mentioning “my son,” therefore making it possible for someone to identify the student.

The settlement the resident and the school system reached was that Mathieu would send out a letter asking for each parent’s consent to release the “educational record” to the complainant. Educational record, Alfano explained, is anything in a document form that may include the student’s name or information or personally identifiable information.

The letter also contained a copy of the “educational record” for the parent to view. Mathieu stated so far the district had not received any replies.

Alfano clarified that after the settlement, the complaint to the FOI commission was withdrawn and there is currently nothing pending with the commission. There is no time frame parents have to respond to the letter by.

* * *

The next regular Board of Education meeting is Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. in Jack Jackter Intermediate School room 120.

Colchester Pumpkins ‘n’ Pooches Successful Despite Postponement

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The event may have been postponed a week due to inclement weather, but the annual Pumpkins ‘n’ Pooches event put on by the Colchester Lions Club still proved successful last Saturday, although it was admittedly more pooches than pumpkins.

Traditionally, the event sees the green fill with costumed dogs and painted pumpkins, however this year the squash part didn’t work out as well as it had in the past; only five sat on display, something organizer Charlene Picard said might have been due of the date change.

Picard added attendance at this year’s event was down a bit due to the holiday weekend, but everyone who came had a great time.

Attendees walked onto the green and soon found themselves among an array of costumed dogs.

The dog contest kicked off at 1 p.m. with categories including cutest, funniest, best assembled and most original.

Julia Babcock of Mansfield brought along her daughter Penelope, 3, and their dog Spock, 6. A poodle and Chihuahua mix, Spock was dressed as Olaf from the movie *Frozen*, with Penelope dressed as Elsa.

Julia’s friend, Sara Crowley of Lebanon also tagged along, and said her favorite part of the event was seeing all the dogs.

Crowley meanwhile, said she liked the costumes since they are so creative. The two friends also attended last year with Penelope and Spock and did a *Beauty and the Beast* theme; this year’s ode to Disney won the duo first place for cutest costume.

After contest, the dogs competing for funniest took to the ring. Lulu, a 10-year-old Boxer, took first in her scuba diver gear. Her owner Josh Vinoski of Colchester said it was a bitter-

sweet win.

“She has lymphoma,” Vinoski said of Lulu. “This may be her last year so we went all out.”

Vinoski’s was joined by his wife Stephanie and their newborn daughter Everly, who was dressed as a mermaid, along with the Vinoski’s second dog, Sacco, as a shark.

In best assembled Janet Schultz, 27, and her German Shorthaired Pointer Lucy, 13, of Salem, took second place with a movie theater theme. Schulz was dressed as a movie theater usher while Lucy was the concession stand and a ticket.

“It’s definitely a family tradition,” Schultz said of coming to Pumpkins ‘n’ Pooches. “We’ve done every year since 2001!”

Schultz has worked with her mom, Joyce Schultz, to come up with original costumes each year. In the past the pair has done an airplane and flight attendant theme, a 50s waitress, and a roulette table.

“I love this event, it’s just a lot of fun,” Schultz said. “We don’t care about the winning, we just want to [have the dog] behave.”

Over the years, Schultz said people have definitely started to “step up their game” and make more creative costumes.

In addition to the dogs in their getups, attendees could also venture to the Colchester Farmers Market and the vendors that lined the green selling everything from dog treats to crafts.

Dogs and people alike also watched Top Hats and Tails Freestyle performing dog dances and Frisbee demonstrations in the main ring. Attendees could also view Dave Dart of D&D Dog Training, who focused on dog safety and bite prevention, a theme of the event. People could also ride around the green on a hayride pulled by Picard’s tractor with a Halloween mural



Lulu, a 10-year-old Boxer, took first place in the funniest costume category at this year’s Pumpkins ‘n’ Pooches event with her scuba diver costume. Her owner, Josh Vinoski of Colchester, said it was a bittersweet win since Lulu has lymphoma and this may be Lulu’s last year attending.

painted by Julie Shilosky.

This year also featured Freedom Guide Dogs and the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation.

One of the Lions’ main focuses is eyesight and working to prevent blindness, and proceeds from the event went to vision related programs,

local scholarships and the Colchester Fuel and Food Bank.

And with this year’s Pumpkins ‘n’ Pooches now over, Picard said the Lions are already looking forward to next year, which has already been scheduled for Oct. 1.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

ESPN labeled it “the slide heard ‘round the world” – and for good reason. It seemed the entire baseball world was talking about it.

During Game 2 of the National League Division Series between the Mets and Dodgers Saturday night, the Dodgers were down 2-1 in the bottom of the seventh inning. They had runners on first and third, and one man out. Dodger Howie Kendrick grounded a ball up the middle that could’ve been an inning-ending double play. Only thing is Utley slid hard into Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada, breaking up the potential double play and also breaking Tejada’s leg.

Note I said Utley slid into Tejada, not that he slid into second base. For Utley never touched second base; indeed, his intention appeared to have nothing to do with touching second base at all. His intention was to prevent Tejada from turning a double play. He was able to do that, and the tying run scored from third.

At least Utley was out, right? Nope. Even though Utley got up, jogged into the LA dug-out and even *entered the clubhouse*, the Dodgers weren’t convinced he was out. So manager Don Mattingly asked for a video review, and Utley was deemed safe, and ordered back on the field, to second base. Tejada had sacrificed his leg and the rest of his season for the play, and not only did he not get two outs, the umpires had decided he didn’t even get one. For Tejada, it seems, missed second base by like a millimeter. Nevermind that Utley didn’t come anywhere close to touching second – he in fact missed it by far more than Tejada did – Tejada’s foot came up just short of the bag, so Utley was ruled safe.

So instead of the Dodgers having one on and two out, they had two on and one out. Their next batter weakly flied out to left, which would have ended the inning were it not for that incredulous safe call. Instead, it was only the second out of the inning, and the Dodgers’ best hitter, Adrian Gonzalez, came up and immediately laced a two-run double to right. This was followed by another double to plate Gonzalez, and the Dodgers ended the inning with a 5-2 lead – which is what the final score wound up being.

The whole thing was a terrible way to decide any baseball game, let alone a postseason affair broadcast on national TV. Everybody seemed aghast that Utley was ruled safe at second, despite missing the bag. The most ludicrous explanation Major League Baseball gave was that, if Tejada had tagged Utley out before Utley left the field, he would’ve been called out even if the call were overturned on video review. Nevermind the fact that Tejada’s leg was broken, and thus the man probably had other things on his mind, the umpire had already ruled Utley was out. Is this where video review has taken us? Fielders are now supposed to go after and tag a runner, after he’s already been called out, because said call might be overturned on review? I don’t think that was an intended consequence of video replay. The man was called out. To expect Tejada – or anyone on the Mets, for that matter – to want to tag him out again anyway is just silly.

But here’s the thing: Utley should’ve been out anyway. And so should’ve Kendrick. MLB rule 6.01 states that if a runner “willfully and deliberately interferes” with a fielder “with the obvious intent to break up a double play,” the ball is dead and not only is the runner out but the guy who batted the ball is out because of the action of his teammate. (The baseball version of guilt by association, I suppose.)

It’s up to the umpire to decide if a runner was “willfully and deliberately” interfering with the play – and, in my view, not coming close to second base, instead going right after a fielder, counts as pretty willful and deliberate. In all my years of watching baseball, I’ve seen plenty of takeout slides at second base (although few quite as egregious as Utley’s slide Saturday night), and I’ve never seen umpires make that call. It’s high time

they start, though.

MLB has revealed that, during this year’s Arizona Fall League, baseball will experiment with a rule change that requires runners to slide directly into the bag, in an effort to eliminate the takeout slide. That’s nice, and if the change gets adapted to the major leagues hopefully it saves future broken legs or torn ligaments, but if the umps just enforced 6.01 more judiciously – or at all – the takeout slides would naturally fall off anyway. If there were no reward for doing it – if in fact there were punishment instead – then there’d be no reason to do a takeout slide.

Rule 6.01 exists for a reason. Like I said, it’s high time to start enforcing it.

MLB took a big step toward remedying this Sunday night, when it announced it had reviewed the slide and found that, yes, Utley’s slide was illegal. Utley was suspended for Games 3 and 4 of the series (Monday’s and Tuesday’s games). Now, if you wanted to be completely fair, you could argue that, since the play has now been deemed illegal, then that would be an inning-ending double play, and the Mets should have a 2-1 lead going to the top of the 8th. So what baseball could’ve done was suspend the game and have it resumed from that later on. There is precedent for such a thing. But I don’t recall it ever happening in a playoff series. It could’ve worked out (the game could’ve been resumed before yesterday’s game 5, as the Dodgers had home field in Saturday’s game and Monday’s and Tuesday’s games shifted to Citi Field; yesterday was the first time the Dodgers went back home).

But at least Utley got suspended, and as such it’s a step in the right direction toward taking those take-out slides out of the game.

By the way, by the time you read this you’ll know who won that National League Division Series. Game 5 was played last night, after press time. I obviously hope the Mets won, and are continuing their march to a World Series title. But even if they lost yesterday, I want to congratulate them for a fantastic season. As I wrote a few weeks back, it’s been an awful lot of fun to be a Mets fan this season. There were certainly some down parts – such as David Wright’s back injury – but all in all it was one the most entertaining Mets seasons in a while. I had a lot of fun following the team this year, and I hope it continues to be fun for years to come.

* * *

It’s the time of year where fall activities really start to ramp up. The pages of the paper this week feature plugs for several such activities going on in *Rivereast*-land. And that includes an annual favorite – the Air Line Trail Ghost Run.

This year’s run – the 13th annual one – is set to take place Saturday, Nov. 7. The parks and recreation departments of Hebron, Colchester, East Hampton and Marlborough are collaborating with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to host this event.

The race distance is 13.1 miles, and is a fun way to touch all four of those towns in not a whole lot of time. The run starts at 9 a.m. at Hebron Elementary School, and wraps up at Center Elementary School in East Hampton.

Cost to register is \$32 per individual and \$54 for a relay team; after Oct. 21, those fees increase to \$37 and \$59, respectively. The first 375 registered runners will receive a long sleeved T-shirt.

Volunteers are also wanted to help out with this event. If interested in helping, or if you simply want more information, call Hebron Parks and Rec. at 860-530-1281, Colchester Parks and Rec. at 860-537-7297 or East Hampton Parks and Rec. at 860-267-7300. And if you’re already sold on it, you can mail registrations to: Hebron Parks & Recreation, 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248. Make checks payable to “Town of Hebron.”

* * *

See you next week.

Colchester Police News

10/6: Colchester Police said they are investigating after a chainsaw and a tire iron were stolen from a barn on Middletown Road. The case is under investigation and anyone with information can call Officer Eric Watrous at 860-537-7270.

10/6: Colchester Police said Alexander Peck, 27, of 120 Stollman Rd., was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

10/6: Colchester Police said Adrian Pompei, 26, of 71 Foxridge Dr., was arrested and charged with third-degree larceny from an incident on July 24.

10/7: State Police said Ryan Estanislaw, 22, of 308 Lydall St., Manchester, was arrested and charged with operating under suspension.

Marlborough Police News

10/7: State Police said Tyler Wilson, 25, of 432 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, was arrested and charged with DUI and making an improper turn.

Hebron Police News

10/11: State Police said Timothy Fogarty, 21, of 360 Hebron Rd., Andover, was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to drive a reasonable distance apart, illegal passing and failure to have headlights lit.

10/7: State Police said Piper Lincoln, 35, of 36 Woods Rd., Norwich, was arrested and charged with failure to appear and violation of probation.

10/9: State Police said Scott Ezold, 21, of 10 Glenwood Dr., Marlborough, was arrested and charged with failure to respond to an infraction.

10/10: State Police said Edwin Mena, 43, of 142 Windham Rd., Willimantic, was arrested and charged with first-degree escape after failing to report to his parole officer and leaving his approved residency.

10/13: State Police said Kyle McMahon, 21, of 163 Highland Rd., Mansfield, was arrested and charged with criminal mischief.

Two Injured After Colchester Crash

State Police said Robert Vaughn, 56, and Christine Vaughn, 56, both of 39 Peck Ln., were transported to the Marlborough Clinic for possible injuries after the car they were in was rear-ended on Middletown Road at around 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 8.

The other driver, Kassiani Bisbikos, 28, of 155 Standish Rd., was issued a warning for failure to drive a safe distance apart.

Obituaries continued

courant

East Hampton

Eleanor R. Jersey

Eleanor R. Jersey, a 10-year-resident of Las Vegas, Nev., passed away peacefully at Nathan Adelson Hospice Saturday, Oct. 3. She was greatly loved by her family and will be greatly missed. She was born March 15, 1920, in East Hampton.

She is survived by her daughter, Donna Mares, and her son, Ronald Jersey (Marie). She is also survived by her grandson Christopher Jersey (Jessica), and grand daughters, Jennifer Mares and Danielle Jersey; her great granddaughters, Victoria and Christina Jersey; and several nieces and nephews.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years William, and son-in-law Marvin Mares.

Eleanor lived most of her married years in New Britain, and was a volunteer and a past president of the Hospital for Special Care Auxiliary in New Britain. She moved to Las Vegas in 2005 and was a member of the Red Hats Society.

Memorial services will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 2 p.m., at the Davis Memorial Chapel, 6200 S. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89119.

courant

East Hampton

Lynda J. Wilcox

Lynda J. (Blair) Wilcox, of East Hampton, March 16, 1961- Oct. 11, 2015.

It is with heavy hearts and much sadness we announce the passing of Lynda. She was predeceased by her parents Henry J. Blair and Alma (Scott) Bluis. She was also predeceased by longtime companion and love Walter Godfrey, with whom she shared her home in East Hampton.

Described by her niece as “beautiful and vibrant,” Lynda throughout her life and travels was a bartender, served as a personal chef on a private yacht, and was “The Jewelry Lady.” Her real passion was cooking for friends and family. She was always eager to share recipes and tips. Lynda was also preceded in death by her “children,” Millie and Willie. Millie and Willie were her constant companions, her “babies,” and she loved them deeply.

She is survived by her brother, James S. Blair and his wife Mary of Columbia; sister Wendy A. Bluis of New Bedford, Mass.; nephews James S. Blair Jr., Joseph J. Sager, Erik Senna; and niece Alessandria L. Blair.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, Oct. 18, at 5 p.m., at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Calling hours will be Sunday at the funeral home from 3 p.m. until the time of the service. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in her memory to a charity of the donor’s choice.

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

Obituaries

Colchester

Bernard Eugene Sosnoski

Bernard Eugene Sosnoski, 84, of Colchester, formerly of Stratford, passed away Wednesday evening, Oct. 7, in Colchester. Born in Dickson City, Pa., on Oct. 4, 1931, he was a son of the late Bernard and Wanda (Krasko) Sosnoski.

He was a proud veteran, having served with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. After his active service, Bernard worked in the automotive repair industry as a body and fender repairman.

Bernard married Jean Crowther Feb. 5, 1955. The couple made their home and raised their family in Stratford.

In addition to his beloved wife of 60 years, survivors include two sons, David Sosnoski and his fiancée, Maryalice Doria of Sterling, Ma., Robert and his wife Melissa Sosnoski of Colchester; a sister, Magdaline Almodovar of North Carolina; five grandchildren, Jacqueline, Heather, Colleen, Brian, Jason; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A memorial service will be held today, Oct. 16, at 11 a.m., directly at the Westchester Congregational Church, 449 Westchester Rd., Route 149, Colchester, CT 06415. Military honors will follow immediately. Burial will be private in the Veterans Cemetery in Middletown.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Westchester Congregational Church, or to The Colchester Senior Citizen's Memories Class, 95 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with these arrangements. For more information, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Christiane M. Johnson

Christiane (Christel) M. Johnson passed away after a brief illness, surrounded by her family, Friday, Oct. 9. Born in Hamburg, Germany, May 11, 1931, she moved to the west coast, and in 1959 she married the love of her life, Robert A. Johnson, in Seattle, Wash. Soon after, they moved to Portland, where they raised four children.



Christel enjoyed spending time with her family, dancing, collecting stamps, gardening, and travel. Christel was also very active in the Altar Guild at Zion Lutheran Church, The Half Century Club, VASA order of America and the Svea Social Club. She will be remembered as a devoted wife and mother, and friend to many. She had a unique way of expressing herself, and to know her was to love her.

She will be sadly missed, but always remembered, by her daughter, Caroline; sons, Roger (Lisa Piatti) and Paul (Lilian) Johnson; grandchildren, Jessica and Collin Wilcox, Jonathan, Andrew, Anthony and Alyssa Johnson.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by a son, Karl Arthur Johnson.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at Middlesex Hospice for their excellent care and compassion.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Oct. 17, at noon, at Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland, with the Rev. Beth Anderson officiating. Burial will follow in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends may call on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Zion Lutheran Church 183 William St., P.O. Box 202, Portland, CT 06480.

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

Portland

Yvonne Cozzi

Yvonne (Hyde) Cozzi, 90, of Portland, died peacefully Saturday, Oct. 10, surrounded by her family. She was born Saturday, Dec. 5, 1924, in East Hampton, the third daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Cavanaugh) Hyde. She was the loving wife of John Cozzi, who predeceased her in 1993.

Yvonne attended local East Hampton schools. She was in the last group of East Hampton students to go to Middletown High. After freshman year she went back to East Hampton to the new high school and graduated as part of the Class of 1942. For 64 years she resided in the Portland home that she and her husband built in 1951. They raised their three children in the Covell Hill community where she was one of the mothers who made Covell Hill such a special place to live. Yvonne was a faithful communicant of the Church of St. Mary in Portland and was a member of the Ladies Guild. As an avid reader, she was a frequent visitor to the Portland Public Library.

Two of Yvonne's favorite life stories were experiencing the 1938 Hurricane with her mother and sisters while huddled in a shoreline home in Clinton; and volunteering in high school as a World War II civilian aircraft spotter positioned at the top of Chestnut Hill in East Hampton. After high school, she was a secretary in Production Engineering at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft until the birth of her first child in 1951. In 1964, with the experience of the 1938 Hurricane still in her memory, she and John moved their vacation spot a little further inland to Sand Pond in Marlow, N.H. Their family enjoyed many years at Sand Pond and it is still a treasured spot for their entire family.

Yvonne is survived by her children, Robert Cozzi (Teresa) of East Hampton, Leslie Logiudice of Haddam and Jacquelyn Skillings (Leon) of Hebron; her grandchildren, Lauren Boulé (Christopher), Ian Skillings (Sarah), Patrick Logiudice, Jeffrey Skillings, Tory Cozzi and Michael Cozzi; and her sister, Anna Vallaincourt of Rhode Island. She also leaves several nieces and nephews and her extended Cavanaugh and Hyde families. In addition to her parents and her husband, Yvonne was predeceased by her infant son, Thomas; her two sisters, Mary Fox of East Hartford and Margaret (Peg) Kenny of Waterbury; her son-in-law, David Logiudice; and her grandson, Travis Cozzi.

Per Yvonne's request, burial services will be private. A Mass and Celebration of Life in her honor will be held Friday, Nov. 27, at 11 a.m., at the Church of St. Mary in Portland.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Yvonne's name may be made to the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480 or the Portland Library, Janet Nocek, Library Director, Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

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

Hebron

Patricia King

Patricia (Guzzetti) King, of Hebron, passed away Wednesday morning, Oct. 14.

She grew up and attended school in East Hartford and graduated with the Class of 1964.

Pat was predeceased by her parents, Carlo and Helena (Terracino) Guzzetti; three sisters, Carol Snyder, Gloria Verilli and Marie MacNamee; and one brother, Louis Guzzetti.

She leaves her wonderful husband, Robert, who she loved dearly; eight nieces and nephews (including special nieces, Carol Ann Hery and Lisa Roberts and nephew, Frank Snyder Jr.); and six grandnieces.

Pat retired from Pratt & Whitney after having worked 35 years as an inspector.

After her retirement, she traveled with her husband and English Setters in the motor home across the country and always enjoyed camping at Fisherman's Memorial State Park in Rhode Island.

She spent many years caring for and loving her English Setters and always enjoyed showing them at dog shows. Pat was a longtime member and Regional Vice President of the English Setter Club of New England. She was also a longtime member of the English Setter Association of America.

Pat was a communicant of the Church of the Holy Family and was active with the Compassion Ministry and was a greeter during Masses.

The family will receive guests starting at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 19, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before the celebration of the funeral liturgy at 11 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron, with the Rev. Michael S. Smith, officiating. Interment will follow in the Gilead Cemetery, Hebron.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Concetta Contois

Concetta "Jenny" Contois, mother to Amy, wife to Frank, and grandmother to Jack, aunt of Maria Gallo and her husband, Michael; aunt of Lori Paggioli and her husband, Tom; dear friend of Linda Orange and Ron Goldstein, as well as countless others; and a tremendous leader for Colchester and all of eastern Connecticut, died on Monday, Oct. 12, at the age of 68.



Born Dec. 1, 1946, in Hartford, Jenny was the daughter of the late Michael and Rose (Calabro) Napolitano. Jenny grew up in Mayberry Village, East Hartford. In 1966, she married Frank. They lived first in Hebron, then moved to Colchester in 1979 where they raised their daughter, Amy. About 15 months ago, Amy and her husband Andrew gave Jenny and Frank perhaps the best gift possible – a grandson, Jack – who brought a smile to Jenny's face even in her final days.

After her family, Jenny's greatest love was her hometown of Colchester. Jenny served Colchester initially on the Board of Finance (1981-91) and then as first selectman (1991-2007), leading the town and its citizens through a period of tremendous growth and change. During her years as first selectman, Colchester was regularly cited as the fastest-growing town in Connecticut, and Jenny led the town through its growth while always respecting and maintaining its traditions and heritage. In recognition of her efforts, Jenny's colleagues elected her President of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns.

Jenny's accomplishments as the leader of Colchester are almost too numerous to list. A longtime member of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee, as First Selectman Jenny spearheaded the adoption of Colchester's first town charter. She championed for the renovation and additions to Cragin Library and all four of Colchester's schools (including one new school). She aggressively sought out state and federal grants to revitalize the downtown historic district. She brought about the establishment of Colchester's Police Department and was an honorary member of the Hayward Volunteer Fire Company.

Jenny was a founding member of the Colchester Learning Foundation and a strong advocate for the establishment of the Colchester Land Trust. She supported efforts to open both Colchester's Fire Museum and the Colchester Historical Society's building and museum. Jenny worked to form a solid partnership between the town's Board of Selectmen and Board of Education, and brought efficiencies to government that remain as models for good governance and cooperative problem-solving. Jenny worked with the entire Colchester community and deeply valued the bipartisan relationships she built.

In 2007, Jenny accepted the position as district director for Congressman Joe Courtney. Jenny worked tirelessly for the 2nd Congressional District until her retirement in 2014. Jenny's understanding of the challenges that face Connecticut and commitment to public service were critical to meeting constituents' needs. Congressman Courtney referred to her both as a "Co-Member of Congress" and the "First Selectwoman of Eastern Connecticut."

For all Jenny's accomplishments and all of her successes, none would have been possible were it not for the strength of her passion and the power of her personality. Jenny always cared. No challenge was too big, no constituent question too small – Jenny was there to lead and to help, and Jenny got it done.

The family will receive guests from 4-7 p.m. today, Oct. 16, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at the church, followed by burial in the New St. Andrew Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the following organizations of which Jenny was a benefactor: the Colchester-Hayward Vol. Fire Co., 18-54 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415; the Friends of the Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., Colchester, CT 06415; or to the Colchester Land Trust, P. O. Box 93, Colchester, CT 06415.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Elizabeth Petroni

Elizabeth (Beth) Ann DuBrul Petroni passed away the evening of Thursday, Oct. 8, after a valiant battle against pancreatic cancer. She died at home in Marlborough, with her husband and three boys at her side.



She was born in Fort Eustis, Va., in 1961. After graduating from Ridgefield High School, she earned a political science degree from the University of Connecticut in 1984. She devoted her enormous passion and intellect to 30 years of service in Connecticut's state government, acting most recently as director of IT for the Department of Children and Families. She also worked tirelessly to better her family, state and community, serving on the local democratic town committee, as a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance, as president of the Woman's Club, chairman of MECCA, and loved being the coach/hollering-bleacher-mom for her sons' many sporting teams.

Beth was our mom, our friend, our daughter, our wife; she was loved and respected by all those she touched in her life. Her generosity and loving spirit taught us to be passionate in all we do and to appreciate friendships, family and self. She found peace and happiness in her devotion to others and she will be missed by all those whose lives she touched.

She is survived by her mother, Theodora Burton of Ridgefield; her father, Robert DuBrul of Ashville, N.C.; her husband of 38 years, Victor Petroni and her sons Nicholas of Houston, Texas; Michael of Syracuse, N.Y., and Joseph who is at home and a student at RHAM High School. She is also survived by her sister Theresa Amrani and her brothers Tom, Robert and Bill DuBrul.

There will be a celebration of Beth's life on Nov. 5 from 5-7:30 p.m. at St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Beth can be made for pancreatic cancer research to the Gastrointestinal Cancers Program Fund. Please make checks payable to Yale-New Haven Hospital and mail to Office of Development, P.O. Box 1849, New Haven, CT 06508. Secure online gifts can be made at givetoynhh.org.

Hebron

Germaine Bernadette Morin

Germaine Bernadette Morin, nee Dumond, 78, of Hebron, beloved wife of Edward, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Oct. 13, at home, surrounded by her loving family. Born May 18, 1937, in St. Agatha, Maine, she was the daughter of the late Antime and Yvonne (LeClair) Dumond.



A devoted wife, mother and Memere, she loved to care for her family and created countless knit and crocheted items that they will cherish for years to come. In her spare time, she was an avid NASCAR fan, a pastime that she shared with much of her family. She loved gardening and was known fondly as the flower lady.

In addition to her loving husband of 58 years, she leaves two children, Terry Brehant and her husband Fred of Hebron and John Morin and his wife Nancy (Lagasse) of Columbia; a daughter-in-law, Gina Morin of Amston; five grandchildren, SaraBeth Brehant of Danbury, Kathy Brehant of South Windsor and Victoria, Christine and Alex Morin, all of Columbia; two siblings, Richard Dumond of Bowling Green, Ky., and Louise Ouellette of St. Agatha, Maine; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by two sons, Phillip (on April 25, 1976) and Donald (on June 20, 2015); and four siblings, Yvonne Germaine and Leo, Hector and Raymond Dumond.

The family will receive guests from 4-7 p.m. today, Oct. 16, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, directly at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85) in Hebron, with the Rev. Michael S. Smith officiating. Interment will follow in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Windham.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the John A. DeQuattro Cancer Center (ECHN Community Healthcare Foundation), 71 Haynes St., Manchester 06040 or the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 911, Hebron, CT 06248.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.