

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 40, Number 26

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

October 23, 2015



The Dursin family put together this *Survivor*-themed display for this year's Scarecrow Contest on the Green. The scarecrows will call the green home until Nov. 1, and passers-by can vote for their favorites at a variety of businesses in town.

More Than Your Average Scarecrows

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Gone are the days when scarecrows looked alike and stood in the same old pose in the middle of fields, working to keep away the birds. Instead, they've taken on a number of activities and appearances in Colchester as they adorn the town green for the 16th annual Scarecrow Contest on the Green.

Co-sponsored by the Colchester Business Association and the Parks and Recreation Department, various businesses and residents take part in the event, creating scarecrow scenes that are then voted on by residents. This year, thirty-one scarecrows can be found scattered across the green, doing everything from yoga to pottery, playing baseball and repairing cars.

They appeared last Friday, Oct. 16 and will stay up until Nov. 1.

"There are a lot of scenes up this year," Parks and Recreation supervisor Anita Pizzutiello said. "It's exciting how festive it looks."

Pizzutiello added last year and the year before people started kicking the scarecrows up a notch.

Other displays include an other-worldly scene with aliens for Galaxy Youth Cheer; a timely *Star Wars* display with Darth Vader, R2D2 and a Storm Trooper by a local family; and a scarecrow of *Survivor* host Jeff Probst, also by an area family.

Beth Wrobel of the Blissful Teacher, a line of educator-inspired oil sprays, is a new participant to the contest this year, and put up what

she called a funny – yet creepy – teacher scarecrow.

"We decided to make something that has a lot of personality since most teachers [have a lot of personality], to represent the company," Wrobel said. "Our company is based around healing and we heal in different ways. We just wanted to give them a laugh and have [the scarecrow] holding the product."

Wrobel's 9-year-old daughter, she said, didn't like the teacher too much.

"She's a bit funny and creepy, so my daughter wouldn't let her sleep in the house," Wrobel said.

Wrobel described the teacher as a mix between Caitlyn Jenner and Mrs. Doubtfire, and said all of the scarecrow's supplies are from local businesses or local people. The desk in front of the scarecrow, for instance, Wrobel purchased from a local resident who bought the desk from a consignment shop.

"We wanted to support local business and it's another way to support them," Wrobel said, adding her daughter has not only been very excited about the contest, but liked the sense of community felt by being part of a collective activity on the green.

"We have done the farmers market and Pumpkins 'n' Pooches," Wrobel said. "It's a nice thing to have our daughter involved too and see the importance of [community]."

See Scarecrows on page 2

Three-Way Race for Portland First Selectman

by John Tyczkowski

A three-way race marks this year's first selectman election in Portland. Such a race hasn't happened since 2011, as the Republicans declined to run a candidate in 2013.

Susan Bransfield is the Democrat incumbent, having already served six terms, or 12 years, in office. Before then, she worked in both the public and private sectors. She's lived in town for nearly 35 years.

During her service in town, she's been involved in a variety of major projects, most recently including developing the Elmcrest property, and continuing work on making Portland's roads and walkways safer and more accessible.

Other focuses include continuing to work to bring the Air Line Trail to town, and to move forward the proposed Portland TownPark at Route 17 and Strickland Street.

Regarding streets, Bransfield said she's "very interested in pursuing action there with the volunteer Complete Streets Group."

"We always need to be looking at how we can improve our roads for vehicles and pedestrians as well, in terms of safety and better ways of transportation," she said.

However, there are others that are not as well-known, which she's still excited about, Bransfield said.

"There's the brownfields grant we received

for the riverfront property across the street from the quarries with oil tanks on it," she said. "Through the state grant we will be able to see what the conditions are and identify a cleanup plan, proceed with it and bring that property back onto the tax rolls in terms of commercial development."

In addition, Bransfield reaffirmed her commitment to continuing to work to help improve Portland's schools, and continuing to support police, fire and emergency services, as well as senior and youth services.

Also, Bransfield said she wanted to note the cooperative nature of the selectmen.

"As we provide these services to the town, we also want to make sure we keep taxes reasonable, and the Board of Selectmen has been very successful in passing budgets," she said. "That is the beauty of our board, to come to consensus, be bipartisan and find that middle ground."

And it's the board's spirit that is a major part of her decision to run again.



Bransfield

"I look forward to working with them in a cooperative manner to continue these wonderful projects we have toward completion," Bransfield said. "We want to maintain Portland's high quality of life in a variety of ways."

Dan Colby is the Republican challenger. He grew up in town, moved to Florida in high school and then joined the Army. Following four years of service in the infantry, he moved to South Carolina and began pursuing a degree in political science and philosophy.

He moved back to Portland before Christmas last year, and currently works for his family's business, Colby Direct Delivery.

"I decided to live in town, and I love politics, so I decided I should get involved," he said.

Mainly, Colby said his objectives would be to reduce property taxes in town and expand the town's water and sewer customer base "to reduce the cost everyone pays on it."

Also, he would want to simplify how to get various permits in town.



Colby

"People are not happy with permitting processes and the hassles the town hall gives people," Colby said.

Regarding sidewalks, Colby said he would want to find out definitively who's responsible for repairing broken panels.

"It's either the town who's going to be responsible, the state or the property owner – and we've got to find out which one it is and have them do their job," he said. "I don't want the town to pay to do something it's not supposed to be doing."

Colby also said he would work to speed up the Elmcrest development process.

"[The town has put itself] in a corner by creating certain zoning rules about what kinds of businesses could go in there," he said. "I don't see the problem with just allowing a wider range of stores to come in and create business – it would do nothing but help the town."

"I'm in favor of the development – I just think the more rules they create the harder it is for

See Three-Way Race on page 2



Lambrinides



Purring Pottery, a Colchester pottery studio, set up a scarecrow this year with an artistic scarecrow at a potter's wheel.

Scarecrows cont. from Front Page

The event had its kickoff last Friday with the costume parade, and Pizzutiello said there was a huge turnout of kids and families this year, with local businesses donating pizza and doughnuts. She said having the parade on a Friday instead of a Saturday drew a bigger crowd.

Also due to a date change, the scarecrows will do more than just accent the green this year: they'll also be present for their first Trick-or-Trunk event today, Oct. 23. Pizzutiello explained this year everything was pushed back a bit, so the scarecrows would be up for two full weeks.

"It gives people more time to think about what they're doing for a scene," Pizzutiello said of the decision to change the event date. "Typically the deadline is a week earlier and people are not really thinking about scarecrows."

Categories for voting include scariest, funniest and most imaginative. First and second place winners in each category receive prizes, and all entries receive participation prizes.

Voting closes Oct. 31 and displays must be removed from the green by Nov. 1.

People can vote online at colchesterctbusiness.com/scarecrowvote.htm or stop by: Colchester Parks and Recreation, Shattered Endz, Escapes Hair Salon and Spa, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services/NE Properties, Colchester Eye Care, CT Chung Du Kwan Academy, Mackey's, and Bengal Tiger Hot Yoga.

Additional sponsors of the contest include the Colchester Business Association, Dime Bank, Reliable auto, Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, and the Blissful Teacher.



A newcomer to the scarecrow contest, Beth Wrobel of the Blissful Teacher put together what she calls a mix of Caitlyn Jenner and Mrs. Doubtfire with her scarecrow.



The Ratzer and Callan families got into the *Star Wars* spirit with their scarecrow this year featuring Darth Vader, a stormtrooper and R2D2.

Three-Way Race cont. from Front Page

certain businesses to come to town, and some rules should be eliminated," he said.

Colby said in the end, he's "willing to make the tough decisions, and to do what's right," and that it's time for a change.

"This town has been run by the same party for so long, and one-party rule is never a good thing," Colby said.

Lambros Lambrinides, American Independent Party challenger for the fourth election cycle in a row, has lived in town since he was 2, with the exception of four years' military service.

He's retired, but previously served in the Air Force, worked for Pratt & Whitney and for his family's local business, Middlesex Signs.

Lambrinides said his priority if elected would be "to clean house" within town government.

"If you take a look at Town Hall, it's not Town Hall anymore – it's Bransfield's Castle. There's a lot of favoritism," he said. "I think the town needs a change and a new direction."

Along those lines, Lambrinides said, if elected, his tenure and the guiding principle behind who would work for the town would be marked by a simple maxim.

"I care about what you know, not who you know," he said. "There would be no nepotism; only people who are qualified and who do their job well."

Regarding economic development, Lambrinides said he supports both the town's plans for Elmcrest, and bringing more local

businesses to Main Street.

"I think it's shameful that [developing Elmcrest] has taken so long," he said. "And we have to do more to support local businesses already in place and develop Main Street – it's gone downhill since I was a kid."

Along those lines Lambrinides mentioned relaxing Village District "historical character" standards, using the example of allowing businesses to use neon signs.

In addition, he said another thing he would be wary about would be the proposed park on Route 17, specifically in terms of liability insurance the town would need with things like a splash pad in place.

"It's a good idea, but if you haven't got that [insurance] in place, you're open to potential problems," he said. "No one's talked about that yet."

Lambrinides also pledged he would bring a deeper understanding of the town's challenges to the office if elected – something he said Bransfield lacks – through his life-long knowledge of living in town.

Finally, Lambrinides said if elected, he would reach out to Colby and help him jump into the political game.

"I think he's got a future in town politics," he said. "He's a good guy."

Voting takes place Tuesday, Nov. 3, between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Waverly Center, located at 7 Waverly Ave.

Marlborough Business Association Holds Candidates' Forum

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Last Thursday, the Marlborough Business Association held its annual Meet the Candidates gathering as a chance for residents to meet the people running and ask questions.

Both political parties were represented, and there were candidates present who were running for various town boards.

First selectwoman candidates Amy Traversa and Cathi Gaudinski were asked about what goals they have for the town.

Traversa said she would like to revisit the Town Center Plan and how things have changed since the plan's creation.

"I'm not anti-growth," Traversa said. "I'm opposed to super-sizing everything."

Traversa cited the town-approved application for a grocery store, which allows for up to 40,000 square feet to be built in the center of town. She said she would like something like an Aldi's, which requires 18,000 square feet instead.

Gaudinski said she would like to regenerate the Economic Development Commission and market the town better. She said the town did fast-track the grocery store application and did everything it can as a town to get the development going. But the project has stalled.

"You can't force a property owner out to get someone else in," Mark Stankiewicz, who is running for another term on the Planning Commission, said, who added, "It's a sin [the Marlborough Tavern building] has been left as it is." The restaurant has been vacant since 2011; in 2013, a pair of brothers announced plans to renovate the eatery and reopen it. However, after some work had been completed, the project fell apart, and the site currently looks largely like a construction zone.

Stankiewicz stressed infrastructure needs to be present to attract new development and busi-

ness.

The Board of Selectmen candidates also discussed the state's recent decrease in funding it provides to towns for their resident state troopers – and how the town can handle the situation and its impact on the town budget.

Traversa said everything in the budget needs to be looked at.

"We can compare the costs between a constable and resident state trooper," she said. "We need to look at the crime statistics. The money expended – is it justified?"

"We're aware of the risk of increasing resident state trooper costs," Dick Shea, a Republican incumbent candidate for Board of Selectmen, said. "I have personal experience with crime, those guys are good. It's expensive, but you get your money's worth."

Shea stated as it is the troopers are stretched thin and often there is only one trooper covering a large area.

The candidates also discussed other reductions in state aid – reductions that aren't welcome.

"The governor's reductions scare me. What goes on there, that is a crime," Shea said. "We're going to have to make tough choices, but we will manage."

Gaudinski mentioned that aid the town receives from the state's PILOT program "is going down." The program provides a payment in lieu of local property taxes [PILOT] for property owned and used by the state. The payment is equal to a percentage of the amount of taxes that would be paid if the property were not exempt from taxation.

Gaudinski also referenced the state's recent decision to cap the car tax rate at 32 mills in the 2016-17 fiscal year, regardless of what the mill rate is in the car-owner's town. For the

2017-18 fiscal year, the cap will drop even further, to 29.36 mills. Marlborough's mill rate, for example, is 32.89 for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Gaudinski said the town has received no details on how the state will make up for the money towns like Marlborough will lose with the lower revenue generated from car taxes.

If the revenues from the state dip too much, and the town finds itself in a budget bind, Gaudinski said there are remedies to make sure local taxes don't get out of hand.

"When it comes down to it, we can freeze [the budget], readjust projects; maybe no [new] capital projects," she said.

Gaudinski also said there needs to be a discussion with the selectmen, the finance board and the local and regional school boards on what to do with budget surpluses. For example, earlier this year, the local Board of Education voted to keep the majority of the more than \$100,000 in surplus funds it had when the 2014-15 fiscal year wrapped, rather than return the funds to the town.

"It's important for that to go back into savings so we have funds to help with a deficit," Gaudinski said of the surpluses.

Board of Selectmen candidate Evelyn Godbout seemed to agree.

"The school surplus helps reduce the amount of taxes," she said. "We have gotten no surpluses back [in recent years]."

The Board of Finance candidates present, Republican Ken Hjulstrom and Democrat Erik Young, were asked what challenges the finance board is facing.

"The RHAM budget is out of control," Young said. "It's given to us and the Board of Finance is stuck with that bill despite pleas."

Hjulstrom, who has been on the finance board since 2011, said "we're seeing more of a

proactive attempt" by the Board of Finance to look ahead at the impact on taxes of the projected RHAM levy.

On town debt, Gaudinski explained it is going down.

"Out of [the town's 32.89 mill rate], 3.5 mills covers debt," Gaudinski said. "In the past we have borrowed for things we should have had money put aside for. We have been creating a fund and watching what we borrow for."

"Debt is 10 percent of the budget," Board of Selectmen candidate Evelyn Godbout said.

On personal solutions to town problems, Godbout led the discussion by saying the town needs to brand itself and that the town hasn't done a good job of that.

Traversa, who grew up in Harwinton, said there is value in staying a rural town.

"[Harwinton] decided they don't want a grocery store," Traversa said. "We have to decide, who are you? If you had to sell Marlborough, what would you say?"

"We are moving forward," Gaudinski said. "Stand still and we are behind."

She pointed out there are 20 town employees, and citizens expect services – which costs money.

"We have to spend to grow the Grand List," Gaudinski said. "Stay a small town and not grow the Grand List, we stay further behind."

Barbara Murray, who is running uncontested for another term as tax collector, reminded everyone at the end of the night to "stay positive" no matter the "bumps in the road."

A full spotlight on the first selectwoman race and the Board of Selectmen candidates appears elsewhere in this week's *Rivereast*.

Marlborough i Marlborough i Marlborough i Marlborough i Marlborough i Marlborough i Marlborough i Marlborough i Marlborough i Marlborough i Marlborough i Marlborough

First Selectwoman, Board Candidates Face Off

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

When voters head to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 3, they'll have a choice between re-electing their current first selectwoman, Republican Cathi Gaudinski, or instead going with longtime resident Amy Traversa, a Democrat.

Gaudinski and Traversa spoke with the *Rivereast* this week about their campaigns, along with Board of Selectmen candidates Republican incumbent Dick Shea and Democrat Evelyn Godbout.

Of the four, three can be elected. Per Marlborough's charter, the losing first selectwoman candidate could still get a spot on the board if she obtains more total votes than the other candidates.

Gaudinski has served as first selectwoman since 2011. Before that, she was on the local Board of Education for eight years and on the Board of Finance for 10 years. In her professional life, Gaudinski has worked in project management and technology. She and her husband formerly owned the Marlborough Eatery in town.

The biggest issue Gaudinski sees in town is economic development and infrastructure.

"The Town Center Plan is really a process the town went through; [we] had a community survey and open meetings. It was a very inclusive process," Gaudinski said. The plan "is a road map for our direction in terms of making the town more attractive for businesses and for us to assist them in providing infrastructure."

Gaudinski said she would like to see the sewer and water systems continue toward the area of Exit 13 from Route 2, so the businesses there can benefit from them.

"I see the role of the town as providing the infrastructure, regulations, and being an advocate for a development proposal," Gaudinski said. "Time is money. The longer it takes to get something done, if we're not competitive, the developer will go somewhere else."

She said she has been working to reconstitute the Economic Development Commission

and creating a strong partnership between the selectmen and the commission.

Gaudinski pointed out there have been expansions and new businesses in town – but those businesses have been more service-oriented, rather than the retail many residents are looking for.

"I'm hearing from opponents about keeping a small town," she said. "You can have small-town charm and also provide conveniences and businesses to the town."

Gaudinski has come under criticism for the size of the town debt. But she said the numbers don't show the whole perspective – and that most of the debt was incurred prior to her time as first selectwoman. The debt, she added, was also all borrowing approved by voters.

But Gaudinski's opponent, Traversa, said the town's debt is actually her chief concern.

"We have spent too much, and the bill has come due," she said. "As a town, we need to reduce our debt, be wise about how every tax dollar gets spent, and be creative in how we attract new development."

Traversa said that, to help lessen the tax burden, she would like to reach out to organizations such as the Independent Grocers Association and regional chambers of commerce to ask for their help in bringing new businesses to town.

"The town should not be a water company or the developer of our business park – we lack the experience to successfully develop these projects and our personnel is already stretched thin," she added. "As first selectman, I would aggressively seek strategic partners to help us quickly and fully realize the potential of these partially completed projects."

Traversa briefly served as an alternate on the Board of Finance. She works as a financial advisor, and owns her own firm. Traversa said she works to analyze information to identify problems and develop solutions. She also said she recognizes the difference between an expendi-

ture and an investment and the importance of developing strategic and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Overall, Traversa said she would like to be first selectwoman because she misses "living in the town Marlborough used to be."

"I want to restore our sense of community – to see Marlborough grow," she said.

For the Board of Selectmen, incumbent Republican Shea is running for another term.

Shea has worked in aerospace manufacturing and engineering. He spent two years on the finance board before being elected to the Board of Selectmen in 2011.

Shea said economic development is a large challenge, although the more immediate challenge for the town is the reduction in state aid.

"Finding sources of savings to adjust to whatever the state reduces is going to take an extraordinary effort," Shea said. "There was low-hanging fruit for savings, but we picked them all."

As an example of this "low-hanging fruit," Shea mentioned the town cutting funding for cell phones for town employees. He said this was an easy trim because nobody used the cell phones anyway.

Going forward, he said, savings are not going to be easy to find and the town needs to keep looking for opportunities and try and run as efficiently as it can.

For economic development, Shea said the

town needs to get the message out that Marlborough is not unfriendly to businesses and that there are opportunities in town to develop.

Godbout said she chose to run for the Board of Selectmen because she would like the town to continue to be a great place to live and raise a family. Godbout has been on the Board of Finance for 11 years – the last four of which as board chair. In her professional life, Godbout is the IT director for the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice.

Godbout said she sees the town as facing a crossroads.

"Are housing developments on small lots the right next step? Is spending millions on infrastructure with no guarantee on a return on our investment the right next step?" Godbout said.

If elected, Godbout said she would engage businesses that would be a good fit for the town and before adding more debt she would have a commitment in place. She also supports a blight ordinance.

"My priorities will be to work together to develop a long term plan for growth, development and capital improvement," Godbout said. "I would look to develop a more comprehensive and cost effective plan on what Marlborough should look like 10 years from now."

Voting will take place Nov. 3 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Marlborough Elementary School at 25 School Dr.



Gaudinski



Traversa



Shea



Godbout

Marlborough Selectmen Discuss Lake Weed Issue

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The Board of Selectmen discussed the need for some action on pondweed and cattail growing around Lake Terramuggus, especially in Cheney Cove.

Cheney Cove is a small stream that runs from a culvert and into the lake. It is surrounded by private homeowners.

The problem, Joe Peak, chairman of the Lake Advisory Committee, explained is that the pondweed, around the entire lake, has grown thick enough it could “hold back a kid” if the child was to jump into the water and get stuck. The cattails are also growing dramatically around the cove.

“The concern is that the water [in the lake] was down 14 inches over the summer,” Peak said. “The seeds got a chance to go out further.”

Peter Hughes, director of planning and development, said there is a state grant for the removal of invasive aquatic growth. However

the list does not include the type of pondweed the lake has or cattail. Also according to the grant the lake, including parking, would need to have public access. Currently the town restricts parking to residents or those with parking passes. Peak said the grant would be “icing on the cake” and a “long shot.”

The process to eliminate the pondweed and cattails would take three years and cost approximately \$14,000.

Peak reached out to Chris Allan of Land Tech, an engineering and planning firm, for his thoughts on the matter. Allan, in an email response to Peak, expressed some concerns.

He wrote that the pondweed is a native plant, produces oxygen and provides a fish habitat. He also said killing pondweed can result in the release of stored nitrogen and phosphorus, which can increase algae growth.

Peak explained to the selectmen that the plan would not be to destroy all of the pondweed.

The committee wants to get the pondweed under control so it’s manageable and simply take it back a bit.

“It’s not like it’s one shot,” Peak said. “We can get on top of it now so we don’t have problems of other lakes.”

As for the cattail, Allan said his concern was that the cattail serves as a filter for treating water into the cove and the lake.

But Peak explained that, like with the pondweed, the plan is not to remove all of the cattail.

“The homeowner wants the cattail through the culvert into the beginning of the cove,” Peak said. “It serves as a filter.”

By leaving either the pondweed or the cattail, Peak said, the town would run the risk of the plants spreading again and becoming more of a problem.

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski said she

was concerned about the balance of the ecosystem and would like to hear more. Peak said Allan would be coming to the Dec. 8 Lake Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the issue. The meeting is at 7 p.m. in the Marlborough Elementary School media center.

* * *

The board also acknowledged with regret the resignation of selectman Denis Soucy. Soucy recently moved to Norwich and in his letter of resignation said the closing of the sale of his home in Marlborough came sooner than expected.

“We want to thank him for stepping in when Mike Gut left,” Gaudinski said.

Soucy will not be replaced since the next selectmen meeting is after the elections on Nov. 3.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

State Approves STEAP Change in Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

The state Office of Policy and Management has approved the requested change to the location of the proposed recreation field in town, which will utilize Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant funds for its construction.

In September 2010, the town was awarded a \$200,000 STEAP grant for what was originally supposed to be the design and construction of a recreational area on Long Hill Road. This money was combined with another STEAP grant for \$250,000 awarded the year prior for the construction of a new senior center in town; it was determined the senior center would cost too much – even with the grant – so the decision was made to combine the two grants for the field.

The plan encountered a hiccup, however, when it was discovered the proposed area was unsuitable due to wetlands. And so, in response, land behind Andover Elementary School was examined and decided upon as a replacement location, and a letter was sent to OPM – and approved – that requested the location be changed.

However, after plans were drawn up for the fields, another hiccup occurred after residents expressed dissatisfaction with the proposal: issues were mentioned including the size of the field and the slope of the land in the proposed area.

In a previous *Rivereast* article, Vice First Selectman Jeff Maguire said, “You can try to stuff a field there but it won’t end up getting used because the amount of money it would take to get the utilities there would be greater than the money we have.”

In May, the selectmen voted to form a new Recreation Field Subcommittee to look at the project and hopefully move things forward. They discussed design features of the project over the summer, to include multiple fields to accommodate multiple age groups and sports, a walking/running track, an area for the Farmers Market with a pavilion, additional and improved parking, walking and riding trails to connect with existing and future biking trails, irrigation, and lighting and bathroom facilities.

These plans, though, weren’t for behind Andover Elementary School but back on Long

Hill Road, and another change in location meant First Selectman Bob Burbank would have to request approval from OPM once more, something the board voted to have him do last month.

At the time, Burbank had expressed concern with the plan, which involved upgrades to existing town fields instead of an entirely new field which the STEAP grant was awarded for, as well as the location change. He had said he felt there was a chance the state would deny the request as a result.

But it was approval the town received Oct. 14, in a letter from OPM.

“Please be advised that your request dated September 3, 2015, to modify the scope of your 2011 STEAP Grant from a new recreation complex on a town-owned parcel of land on School Road behind the Andover Elementary School to another town-owned parcel on Long Hill Road for the same purpose, has been approved,” states the letter.

Speaking on the approval this week, Burbank said, “I would have preferred to go to public hearing and get input from many more residents, but the Board of Selectmen didn’t see fit

to do that, so I guess we will move forward with the renovation plan as soon as [the field subcommittee] decide what they want to do.”

He added, “We’ve got an engineer that was picked for this project so they’ve got to go back to them and get some ideas back and forth as far as what they want and what there’s money for.”

Meanwhile, Maguire called the approval “very positive” for the town, adding, “I think it’s phenomenal. I’m glad that the OPM has taken a step to approve the change in the grant location. We’ll be able to make better use of the grant dollars and benefit more of the residents of the town by spending those dollars at the Long Hill Field complex.”

Maguire furthered that the field subcommittee had already met and discussed the next steps, which include figuring out where to house the activities that utilize the current field during construction. In addition, he shared “the next administrative hurdle is [the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection]” and approval from them.

Hebron Receives Open Space Grant

by Geeta Schrayter

Last week Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced open space grant awards totaling \$5.9 million to 17 towns in the state – and Hebron was among them, fetching \$110,000.

“Preserving the best of Connecticut’s open space is critical to protecting our land, water, and wildlife and ensuring Connecticut maintains its natural beauty,” Malloy said in his Oct. 16 release.

He added, “Through these grants, we will increase the availability of open space for our residents to enjoy – whether they live in our state’s beautiful cities, suburbs or rural areas.”

In Hebron, the \$110,000 the town received will go toward the \$170,000 cost of purchasing 19.5 acres of open space; a parcel with approximately 750 feet of frontage on Millstream Road,

which means it will provide additional public access to the Raymond Brook Greenway, described in Malloy’s release as “the most significant river corridor in Hebron.”

The release furthers, “The greenway has benefited from this grant program, and this parcel directly abuts Church Street Park (another part of the greenway).”

According to the release thirty percent of the Millstream parcel is open field, which is used for agricultural purposes along the road; the land then transitions into an undeveloped forest containing over 1,000 feet of Raymond Brook.

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program, which is administered by the state Department of Energy and Environmen-

tal Protection, helps local governments and land trusts purchase open space using funds from the 2005 Community Investment Act and state bond funds.

Projects are prioritized if they meet the multiple goals of open space such as protecting vital habitats, creating and enhancing recreational resources, and protecting water resources. In addition, a requirement of the program is that a conservation and public recreation easement be procured to ensure the property “is forever protected for public use and enjoyment.”

Speaking on the award this week, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said, “That parcel of land is going to connect the town of Hebron to already existing open space passing through the Air Line Trail. ... We’re not just buying pieces

of property at random; this fits into our plan of conservation.”

“We were very happy we were awarded that grant,” he stated.

Also sharing her thoughts in a release, state Sen. Cathy Osten said, “Connecticut routinely scores among the highest quality of life ratings of any state in America, and one of the reasons why is because we have made a firm commitment to protecting and preserving our natural environment.”

She added the investment in Hebron is “part of that ongoing tradition in Connecticut” and said, “Governor Malloy is to be commended for his dedication to preserving open space in Connecticut, which is a gift from our generation to those generations yet to come.”

Three-way Race for Town Council Seats

by John Tyczkowski

Fourteen candidates – representing three political parties in town – are running for seven Town Council slots this election season.

The entire current council – Democrats Barbara Moore, George Pfaffenbach, Kevin Reich and Phil Visintainer, and Republicans Patience Anderson, Ted Hintz Jr. and Mark Philhower – are all seeking re-election.

They're joined in the race by Republicans Melissa Engel and Josh Piteo, Democrat Pete Brown, and Chatham Party members Kyle Dostaler, Sue Weintraub, Bill Marshall and Tania Sones.

If she wins, **Engel** would hardly be a Town Council novice. She's served six council terms in the past, and also was its first female chair. She's a lifelong Republican, joining the Republican Town Committee at age 18.

Engel cited some of her accomplishments as establishing a facilities committee that "laid the groundwork for today's re-exploration of the Center School as a town hall," creating the Conservation-Lake Commission in its current form, bringing businesses to town and supporting tax breaks for veterans and fire department members.

If elected, Engel said she would support repurposing Center School for town offices, separating general government and education budgets at referendum, continuing to work to fix the lake and bringing a central water system to town.

"I would bring the same dedication, hard work and passion I have always had to this new term," she said.

Piteo also is not new to town politics. He currently serves on the Board of Education, and has also served on the finance board.

Piteo said his guiding principle if elected would be "being mindful of the impact of anything we do on the taxpayer."

"Council people want to jam through many initiatives at the same time, overloading the taxpayer," he said. "We need better planning."

And that includes talking with the public to prioritize town needs, and staggering those needs to be able to plan for costs, Piteo said.

"The police station, the town hall, the town water system – these are big things that should've been done years ago," he said. "It's the perennial kick the can; now the can's up against the wall. We have to involve people in the process."

Anderson is running for her second term. She's also served for four years on the finance board.

Anderson said some accomplishments included working on annual budgets, "serving on various sub-committees and attending all but one council meeting in the past two years."

Regarding next term goals, she said some would be to "present a thorough and financially viable plan" to residents on Center School, to begin a charter revision process regarding referenda, to address water quality issues and to "make a more concerted effort to communicate" with residents.

"I've been so privileged to be a voice for the residents of East Hampton," she said. "I work hard to reach compromise when it's necessary, while maintaining an amicable relationship with my colleagues."



Engel



Piteo



Anderson



Hintz

Hintz has served two terms on the council and previously served as finance board chair for four years.

Hintz said some accomplishments included work on town budgets, as well as work on the Water Development Task Force and creating various sub-committees.

"I insisted we set up the Center School Sub-Committee and have led this committee charged with relooking at the Friar Report to see about using Center School for the consolidation of town offices and police department," he said.

Hintz said main challenges to the town are "many needs and limited funds."

"We as a community have let things go for far too long and we now need to be creative in how we address those needs," he said.

Philhower has served three council terms and said his goal, if reelected, is action.

"I really want to see that lake study finished, finally deciding the direction we should go in and proceed with it," he said.

In addition, Philhower said he's in favor of a privatized town water system.

"I don't want the taxpayer buying water," he said.

Also, he said another priority is "getting on top of our facilities – especially police and town hall."

Being experienced with building maintenance, Philhower said he advocated for fewer town buildings.

"More buildings equals more maintenance, more staff and more costs," he said. "Fewer buildings will be a higher cost per square foot at first, but there'll be savings in the long term."

On the Democrats' side, **Moore**, current council chair, has served three council terms and two and a half finance board terms.

If re-elected, Moore said she would focus on solving facilities problems "without costing the taxpayers more than they can afford."

"Our town is made up of many residents who have the ability to pay more in taxes and many more who cannot," she said. "We need to find a balance."

And key to that, she said, is open dialogue. "I have volunteered all of my life and feel that it is best to give back and try and help others," she said. "If reelected, I will continue to work hard and listen to the concerns of the residents and answer them truthfully."

Reich is in his first term on the council and currently is its vice chair. He's been an educator for 41 years – including a long stint as the town's assistant superintendent of schools.

Reich said some of his accomplishments included helping secure a grant for brownfields reclamation on Watrous Street, regionalizing animal control services with East Haddam, supporting bringing natural gas to town, and helping create committees to address facilities needs.

If re-elected, Reich said he'd work to expand the town center's water system, continue to support the schools, continue improving town facilities and continue to work to "ensure the health of the lake."

"My close working relationships with parents, citizens and town staff have proven to be a tremendous asset for me," he said. "I have listened to concerns, attended meetings well prepared and have thoughtfully addressed the challenges presented to me."

Visintainer is also wrapping up his first term on the council. He served for 53 years on the volunteer fire department.

Visintainer said facilities needs are paramount, along with a town water system and see-



Philhower



Moore



Reich

ing the high school renovation project through.

"A lot is coming due for the town at once," he said. "We've spent two years trying to address needs that have been pushed down the road for many years."

And Visintainer said if reelected, he'll be "dedicated and focused" to that in the "most affordable way possible."

"I care deeply for my town, I want to see us move forward with projects that will benefit everyone," he said. "We're getting very close to instituting some of those measures and correcting some of these things we've been talking about."

Pfaffenbach is running for his third term. He served on the finance board for eight years.

He addressed facilities as a chief concern, saying the town "definitely has to renovate Center School" and "find a new police station and town hall."

Pfaffenbach also served on the town-wide facilities committee, and mentioned building a utility shed for public works vehicles.

"We have hundreds of thousands of dollars in equipment exposed to the weather, costing us real money in repairs," he said.

Finally, he said continuity is a key factor behind running.

"I'd like to continue our current councils' efforts – you can't keep changing command," he said. "We have great momentum with the current council and I want to keep things moving forward."

Brown has served two terms on the council and two terms on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

If elected, Brown said he would take action securing a new police station and town hall, bringing a water system to the town and fixing the lake.

"These are problems we've kind of looked at and looked at, but we really need to start doing," he said.

He also called for phasing with the town's many needs, due to each item's large cost.

"People say, what's \$25 more in your taxes, but that's a lot when on a fixed income," he said. "I know, I'm retired. But we have to try and make it better – standing still is not going to work."

Chatham Party members are Kyle Dostaler, Sue Weintraub, Bill Marshall and Tania Sones.

Dostaler previously served two terms on the council.

He named as priorities facilities, filling town staff positions and improving council communication to staff and the community.

"Facilities and communication are tied together: the council can't move anything forward without an informed community," he said.

Dostaler also said if elected, he would "stop micromanaging the town manager, and support the department heads."

Dostaler cited water rate raises at the Village Center and Royal Oaks as an example of poor communication.

"They just stopped subsidies and now people are paying more for their meters than their water," he said. "You shouldn't do things for your residents like that. It tells me the town council is not aware of what's going on in their own community."

Weintraub served three terms on the council, and served as chair for one.

She named as her priorities, if elected, as facilities, including the police department, the



Visintainer



Pfaffenbach



Brown



Dostaler

town hall, the schools, the fire department, the library and the senior center, as well as fixing the lake and sustainable small business growth.

Another priority is improving leadership through improved communication, she said.

"The way we solve these problems is the way we moved the high school project forward," Weintraub said. "We focused, did our homework, had open meetings and created policies that successfully moved the project forward."

"When you communicate why you're doing something and you let the community in on and you ask questions and get answers you work professionally, you do well," she said.

Marshall previously served on the council, and on the school board. He was an educator for 35 years.

Marshall said the "appalling" behavior of the council's Republicans has motivated him to run.

"They have repeatedly attacked members of the management team at town hall as well as volunteers on various boards and committees," he said. "The Democrats have allowed this to happen, so the council needs new leadership. Civility in dealing with our volunteers and professional staff will go a long way."

Also important, Marshall said, is doing – not just thinking about it.

"This town council doesn't have a record of accomplishment; it has a record of studying things," he said. "And we also need creative problem solving to meet our challenges within the resources that we have."

Sones serves on the Board of Education, and is running to "represent a population whose voices may not be being heard."

"There needs to be more open communication with the town manager and town staff and the community in general," she said.

In addition, Sones said the town needs a long-term plan "to avoid substantial mill rate increases."

"Taxes in town are comparatively low, but we need a plan to guide how we address our needs," she said. "We're in a situation where the needs outweigh the wants, starting with facilities and police."

Sones also said she'd want to revisit the referendum process.

"It takes a couple of years to change the charter, but starting the process is very important," she said.

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



Weintraub



Marshall



Sones

East Hampton Woman Faces Charges in Child’s Injuries

by John Tyczkowski

An East Hampton woman has been arrested in connection with allegations of injuring her 5-year-old stepdaughter, then staging videos to show the child hurting herself, in an attempt to cover up the injuries.

Felicia Marie O’Brien, 24, appeared in Middletown Superior Court last Thursday, Oct. 15, and was charged with risk of injury to a minor and intentional cruelty to persons.

The former is a Class C felony carrying a sentence of up to 10 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine. The latter is a Class A misdemeanor with a penalty of not more than five years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

O’Brien appears in court next on Oct. 28 to enter a plea.

According to the arrest warrant affidavit, the stepdaughter had been brought into the Middlesex Hospital emergency room on Aug. 24 with bruising on her head and body.

When questioned by an investigator from the Department of Children and Families, O’Brien said her stepdaughter hears voices in her head that tell her to hurt herself, the warrant said.

However, the treating physician who saw the 5-year-old said she did not appear to have any psychological issues, the warrant said.

The next day, when taken to Yale-New Haven Hospital and interviewed separately, according to the warrant, the stepdaughter gave a hospital forensic interviewer the same answer, saying voices in her head told her to hit her head on her bunkbed ladder.

However, police were not able to pursue the case at that time due to conflicting expert assessments: the DCF investigator suspected abuse, but the forensic interviewer believed the stepdaughter, so the doctors let the pair go, the warrant said.

A month later on Sept. 22, O’Brien brought her stepdaughter to the walk-in clinic in Marlborough, this time with facial and eye injuries, including “a very large and swollen bruise causing her eyes to swell shut,” the warrant said.

In addition, according to the warrant, the 5-year-old also had what appeared to be “finger-shaped bruising consistent with grabbing

and squeezing” on her body.

With the 5-year-old taken to Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford due to the severity of the injuries, the warrant said O’Brien repeated the explanation she gave in August.

Additionally, according to the affidavit, O’Brien’s cell phone contained two videos allegedly showing her stepdaughter “tapping” her head on her bunkbed’s ladder; when O’Brien asked “What are you doing?” in the video, her stepdaughter answered, “I’m hitting my head...because I wanted to,” the warrant states.

However, when she showed the phone videos to medical staff, a CCMC physician dubbed them “staged” and notified police, saying the actions in the video did not appear to have caused the child’s injuries, the warrant indicates.

Several days later, on Sept. 26, police interviewed O’Brien, where she told them she had restrained her stepdaughter during “outbursts,” and then took her cell phone as evidence. A forensic analysis of the cell phone revealed several “outtake” videos, the warrant said.

In one of those outtakes, police said O’Brien could be heard ordering the 5-year-old to hit her head on the bunkbed’s ladder, and the girl appears to be moving her head in between the ladder’s rungs to look like she was hitting her head, from the proper angle.

Also, her stepdaughter appeared to have injuries on her face and arm before performing the banging actions, the warrant said.

Police arrested O’Brien on Oct. 15 after discovering the alleged practice videos.

Searching O’Brien’s residence, police found a hole in the bathroom wall that matched the 5-year-old’s height and head size where they believe she may have actually sustained the injuries, the warrant said.

O’Brien’s bond was set at \$250,000, and, as of Thursday, she has not been released from custody. She has also been ordered to have no contact with her stepdaughter.

According to court records, O’Brien has had no prior convictions.

East Hampton Police News

10/12: Joseph J. Duncan, 60, of 36 Skinner St., was taken into custody pursuant to an outstanding warrant, and charged with second-degree failure to appear, East Hampton Police said.

Police News

10/15: State Police said Justin Davis, 30, of 731 Latham Ln., Suffield, was arrested and charged with DUI and speeding.

10/16: State Police said Trindia Reid, 29, of 270 Laurel St., Hartford, was arrested and charged with DUI, speeding and operating under suspension.

10/18: State Police said Ryan Lewis, 24, of 230 North St., New Britain, was arrested and charged with DUI, reckless driving, and failure to carry insurance.

10/18: State Police said Zachary Bryant, 25, of 100 Hillcrest Ave., West Springfield, Mass., was arrested and charged with speeding, failure to carry a license, possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Hebron Police News

10/14: State Police said a 14-year-old juvenile male was arrested and charged with breach of peace and second-degree assault after allegedly assaulting a family member in the parking lot of First Niagara Bank on Main Street.

Colchester Police News

10/16: State Police said a juvenile student was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession with intent to sell. Police said the student had 36 Adderall capsules at Bacon Academy.

10/18: Colchester Police said James Charland, 46, of 204 West Rd., was arrested and charged with illegal burning. Police said Charland was found burning a pile of garbage in his backyard.

10/18: State Police said Henry Cooper, 28, of 132 Parum Rd., was arrested and charged with two counts of failure to appear.

10/19: State Police said Scott Corna, 29, of 37 Fellows Rd., Oakdale, was arrested and charged with three counts of failure to appear, DUI, and operating under suspension.

Andover Police News

10/15: State Police said Elisa Rodriguez, 54, of 40 Elm St., Willimantic, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive a reasonable distance apart.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It seems like summer only recently ended, but believe it or not October is winding down – and as such, Election Day is just around the corner.

You’ll see a bunch of politically-themed letters to the editor in this week’s *Rivereast*. It’s nice to see so many people getting involved in the political process, even if it’s just to throw their support behind somebody. Local elections are more important than a lot may think, and I always enjoy seeing so many people getting involved.

Anyway, you can expect to see another large collection of political letters next week, as it’s the last week before elections. What you won’t see, though, are negative letters. The letters are to be endorsements only, or otherwise positive in nature. We won’t allow any new issues to be raised or candidates to be attacked, as there won’t be time for said candidates to defend themselves before Nov. 3.

I got a call this week from a candidate wondering if they’d be able to defend themselves next week against any attacks that may be made against them in the letters pages this week. I said sure – after all, that’s why these deadlines are in place. The whole reason I made this, the Oct. 16 issue, the last one for negative letters is precisely so that people have ample opportunity to defend themselves against criticisms posed in letters, or answer any questions asked of them.

And as long as candidates can defend themselves without attacking the opposition at the same time, then I say go ahead – defend away. That’s what the Oct. 23 issue is there for. One last chance for candidates to *positively* explain themselves and why people should vote for them – and it’s one last chance for residents to *positively* offer their support.

But the key word is “positive.” No negative letters, of any kind, will be published. And remember, deadline for all letters – no exceptions – is Tuesday, Oct. 27, at noon.

* * *

Speaking of politics and elections, I read an interesting editorial Monday about last week’s Democratic presidential debate. Specifically, the editorial blasted debate moderator Anderson Cooper’s questions of the candidates.

I didn’t see the debate – had Mets playoff tickets instead – but, reading some of the questions Cooper posed, it’s easy to see why the editorial writer, *Bloomberg View* columnist Francis Barry, was frustrated. According to Barry, Cooper started things off by asking Hillary Clinton, “Will you say anything to get elected?” Barry wrote that when Cooper “wasn’t satisfied” with Clinton’s answer, he followed it up with, “Do you change your political identity based on who you’re talking to?”

Those aren’t questions to me so much as attacks – and somewhat juvenile ones as well. (“Will you say anything to get elected?” Really? What could Cooper possibly thought would’ve been the answer to that?)

Cooper then moved on to Bernie Sanders, saying to him: “The Republican attack ad against you in a general election writes itself. You supported the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. You honeymooned in the Soviet Union. And just this weekend, you said you’re not a capitalist. Doesn’t that ad write itself?”

Again, was this a question or an attack? Shouldn’t debate moderators simply ask questions to elicit information useful to voters? I’m not saying just throw a bunch of softball questions – but you can be tough without being antagonistic.

Indeed, it sounds like, throughout the de-

bate, Cooper was less interested in genuinely collecting candidates’ thoughts than he was in tossing in matches to see if something went “BOOM!”

Barry went on to explain that asked of Clinton was: Is Bernie Sanders tough enough on guns? Asked of candidate Martin O’Malley: Is Clinton too quick to use force? Asked of candidate Jim Webb (who has since dropped out of the race): Should a conscientious objector like Sanders serve as commander-in-chief?

“Instead of allowing such disagreements to arise naturally, CNN forced them down the candidates’ – and viewers’ – throats,” wrote Barry, who called Cooper a “moderator-as-matador.”

Like I said, it sounds like it was a very frustrating evening – and reminded me, actually, of the first Republican presidential debate back in August. I did watch some of that – there was only so much of those candidates I could take – and was struck by how antagonistic those moderators’ questions were too. You can confront a candidate with tough questions without making it sound like you’re picking a fight.

I agree with Barry; presidential candidates all have differences, and it’s best to let these differences arise organically during debates. Framing questions in the way that Cooper did last week makes it seem like CNN was interested less in eliciting useful and thought-provoking answers from the candidates, and more in generating sound bites of candidates going after each other.

Which may very well be what CNN wanted – I’m just not sure it’s what voters wanted, and I think it does a disservice to them. Voters have months, and months, and months, to hear sound bites from the candidates. Debates are a time to offer voters something more.

* * *

Rivereast publisher Jim Hallas also edits – as many of you know – our sister paper, *The Glastonbury Citizen*. For that paper, he writes a column called “This ‘N That,” and in a recent one, he shared this joke that gave me a nice chuckle:

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a man below. He descended a bit more and shouted, “Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him half an hour ago, but I don’t know where I am.”

The man below replied, “You are in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You are between 40 and 42 degrees north latitude and between 58 and 60 degrees west longitude.”

“You must be an engineer,” said the balloonist.

“I am,” replied the man, “but how did you know?”

“Well,” answered the balloonist, “everything you told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I am still lost.”

The man below responded, “You must be a manager.”

“I am,” replied the balloonist, “how did you know?”

“Well,” said the man, “you don’t know where you are or where you are going. You made a promise which you have no idea how to keep, and you expect me to solve your problem. The fact is you are exactly in the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it’s my fault.”

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

Portland

Susan P. Larson

Susan P. Larson, 82, of Portland, wife of Harold R. Larson, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center. She was the daughter of the late Harold Porteous and Elise (Taylor) Dennison. Born Aug. 26, 1933, in Middletown, she was a lifelong Portland resident.



Over the years, Susan was very active in and out of church participating in many fundraisers including everything from quilting, and making teddy bears for the infirm, to chocolate festivals and plays. Although Susan was a dental assistant for many years, her true love was being a grandmother to her three grandchildren as well as a caregiver for other preschool children.

Besides her husband Hal, she leaves her children, Dayna Larson-Hurst and husband, Clifford of Salt Lake City, Utah, sons Peter Larson of Portland and Timothy Larson of East Hampton; grandchildren, Sarah, Kirsten and Elijah Larson; and numerous nieces, nephews, greatnieces and greatnephews.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Oct. 18, at the First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., Portland. A private burial will be at the Swedish Cemetery, Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, PO Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011 – www.alz.org – or to the church.

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

Portland

Frances M. Ellsworth

Frances M. (Banning) Ellsworth, 95, of Portland, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 14, in her home of 70 years. She was the widow of Herbert M. Ellsworth, who predeceased her in 2002, and the daughter of Clinton H. and Hilda C. (Vujs) Banning.



Born Feb. 21, 1920, in her home on Hebron Avenue in Glastonbury, she was a 1938 graduate of Glastonbury High School. She worked for Sanborn Map Company in Hartford from 1939-45. Fran and Herb married May 19, 1943, and in 1945, when Herb returned after serving in the Air Force during World War II, they moved into their Portland home.

Fran worked at Wesleyan University, in the music department, as an administrative assistant for 21 years, from 1964 to 1985. In her younger years, she was a member of the Portland and Middletown Bowling Leagues, a communicant of St. Mary's Church and member of their Altar Society, a past president of the American Legion Auxiliary (1954), a 65+-year member of both the Auxiliary and Hemlock Grange and a charter member of the Portland Historical Society.

She is survived by her three children – son, McClure E. (Linda) Ellsworth of San Antonio, Texas; daughters, Deborah A. of Framingham, Mass., and Portland and Sarah E. (Gary) Perruccio of Meriden; proud grandmother of Marissa E. (Ted) Schaeffer of San Antonio, Texas, and Matthew and Mallory Perruccio of Meriden; proud great-grandmother of Hannah, Gio, Eli, Teddy Jr. and Nicole. She also leaves her sisters-in-law, Elizabeth P. Ellsworth of Portland and Evelyn Banning of Manchester; many loving nieces and nephews and her extended Texas family: Jeff, Londa and Victoria; Tom, Simon, Dayna and Wesley; Denise and Brian.

She was predeceased by her brother, Lewis D. Banning of Manchester.

The family would like to thank Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care for their support and care.

Friends and relatives are invited to join her family for a celebration of her Mass of Christian Burial today, Oct. 23, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be in Center Cemetery, Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Frances' name may be made to St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland CT 06480.

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

Colchester

Jeanette Marian Love

Jeanette Marian Love, 93, of Colchester, formerly of Michigan, widow of the late Harry James Love, passed away peacefully early Tuesday morning, Oct. 20. Born Sept. 21, 1922, in Fargo, N.D., she was the daughter of the late James and Marie (Olson) Lyster.



The couple spent their life together in ministry – Harry as the preacher/director and Jeanette as secretary for Camp CoBeAc and the IFBA of Michigan. He predeceased her Sept. 29, 1998, after 47 years of marriage.

She leaves two children, the Rev. Mark W. Love and his wife, Brenda of Colchester and Joy Miller and her husband Robert of Sterling Heights, Mich.; four grandchildren, Aaron Mark, Ashley Joy, Andrea Yvonne and Adam James; a great granddaughter, Chloe Elizabeth; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Visitation will be observed from 5-7 p.m. today, Oct. 23, directly at the Colchester Bible Baptist Church located at 38 Chestnut Hill Rd. The funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Camp CoBeAc, 4925 S. Reserve Rd., Prudenville, MI 48651 or to the scholarship fund of Maranatha Baptist University, 745 W. Main St., Watertown, WI 53094.

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

East Hampton

Bernice Pettersen

Bernice "Bea" Naomi Scovill Erlandson Pettersen, 97, departed this world to be with her heavenly father and already-departed loved ones Saturday, Oct. 10.



She is predeceased by her beloved husband, Leif S. Pettersen; her parents John and Georgiana Scovill; her brothers, Fred, Ronald and John; and her sister, Olive Larson.

Throughout her life, Bea was a lady of style and grace who was a wonderful conversationalist. She loved to laugh, dance, entertain, garden, paint, shop, decorate her home, and travel internationally. In addition, she enjoyed playing cards, golf, and pool. And more than anything, she looked forward to spending time with her family and friends as well as the special children in her life.

Bernice was born at home on Christmas Day in 1917. She grew up in Middletown, raised her family in East Hampton, and later moved to Higganum. In retirement, she and her husband enjoyed 26 carefree years in Winter Haven, Fla. She returned to Connecticut five years ago after his death at 93 and resided at The Saybrook at Haddam. They were longtime members of the Higganum Congregational Church and volunteered their time to the Salvation Army.

Earlier in her life, she served in East Hampton as the worthy matron of the Eastern Star and the noble grand of the Rebeccas. She was also a member of the East Hampton Garden Club, served as a Cub Scout den mother, and taught Sunday school at the East Hampton Congregational Church.

She leaves behind her dear children and stepchildren: Lucinda E. Moriarty, of East Hampton; David Erlandson, of East Hampton; Helen Coleman, of Brunswick, Maine; Donald Erlandson, of Topsham, Maine; Brian Pettersen, of Hilton Head, S.C.; and Marlene Ayasse of Tamworth, N.H. She also leaves her treasured grandchildren: Alison Moriarty Daley, of East Hampton; Colleen Moriarty-Weston, of Haddam; David W. Erlandson of East Hampton; Scott Erlandson of East Haddam; Daniel Erlandson, of Durham, Maine; Timothy Erlandson, of Ione, Calif.; Kristen Temple, of Richmond, Maine; Mark Pettersen of Middletown; and Rhonda Creelius, of Fryeburg, Maine.

Bea was especially proud to have had 15 great-grandchildren, many who visited her and enjoyed celebrating holidays together. Bea is also survived by two of her eight much loved siblings: Lawrence Scovill of Cromwell, and Doris Clark, of LaVerne, Calif. Her family will miss her deeply.

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, at noon, Bernice will be laid to rest with her husband at the State Veterans' Cemetery, at 317 Bow Ln., in Middletown, which is the same lane where she lived with her family as a child.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Fernande Eliane Gardner

Fernande Eliane Gardner, 82, of Lebanon, formerly of Colchester, died peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 21, at The Hospital for Special Care in New Britain, surrounded by her family.



Fern was born Aug. 15, 1933, in St. Julien, Quebec, Canada, to the late Albert and Bernadette (Laverriere) Henri.

Fern is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, Kenyon (Ken) Gardner. Fern was a stay-at-home mom of their three children. She also had numerous part-time jobs over the years. Fern enjoyed time with her loving family and friends. Card-playing and bingo were her favorite fun times. She was a communicant of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lebanon.

Fern is survived by her three children, David Gardner of Lebanon, Daniel Gardner of Colchester, and Rita Straker of Colchester. She also leaves behind seven grandchildren, David Gardner, Nathan Gardner, Brian Gardner, Kevin Gardner, Jalynn Gardner, Phillip Straker, Sarah Straker, and one great-grandchild, Kaylee Gardner.

In addition, she is survived by her brothers Florel Henri and Joseph Henri, her sister Marie (Dora) Sullivan, and brother-in-law William Rush, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Fern's family will receive relatives and friends today, Oct. 23, from 5-7 p.m., at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Her funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, Oct. 24, at 10 a.m., directly at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 67 West Town St., Lebanon. Interment will follow in New Lebanon Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Saint Francis of Assisi Ladies Guild, 67 West Town Street, Lebanon, CT. 06249.

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

Colchester

Meredith Ann Shaw

Meredith (Mickey) Ann Shaw, 85, formerly of Colchester, passed away peacefully Sunday, Oct. 18, at her residence in Nashua Crossings Senior Living Center in Nashua, N.H. Born Feb. 20, 1930, in South Portland, Maine, she was the daughter of the late Claude and Faith Huntress Casey and was raised in South Portland, ME.

She was a loving wife of 58 years to Bernie Shaw, who preceded her in death.

Prior to moving to Nashua, N.H., Mickey and her husband were longtime residents of Colchester. She was a full-time mother of six and helped her husband run their business Re-lyon Labels, a small printing company in Colchester. Besides being a devoted wife and mother, Mickey loved to knit, garden, watch movies, eat candy (especially Milky Way candy bars), bake a variety of cookies to share during the holidays and was an avid UConn basketball, Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots fan. She will be sadly missed by friends and family.

She is survived by her sister, Patricia Brahi of Florida. She is also survived by her six children, Elizabeth Picard and her husband John Ayer of Westbrook, Audrey Mucci and her husband Nick of Moosup, Kristopher Shaw and his wife Jeanna of Bonita Springs, Fla., Diane Hammett and her husband Bill of Nashua, N.H., Joel Shaw and his wife Michelle of Lebanon and Elaine Shaw and her friend David of Norwich; her grandchildren, Timothy Picard, Matthew Mucci and his wife Colleen, Talia Mucci, Jamie Shaw, Jennifer Davis and her husband Mike, Andrew Shaw, Christian Shaw, Donna Morris and her husband John; and her great-grandchildren Justin Picard, Em Picard, Adam Morris, Benjamin Morris, Emily Shaw-Winans, Victoria Davis and the newest member of the family and her namesake, Meredith Ann Mucci.

She is also survived by her friends and former daughters-in-law Kathy Shaw and Carrie-Ann Picard of Connecticut; and her brother-in-law Bob Junkins of South Portland, Maine. A special "Thank You" to all at Nashua Crossings for all the loving care that was given.

Services will be private.

Donations may be made in her memory to Nashua Special Olympics, P.O. Box 936, Pelham, NH 03076.

Hebron

John Joseph Fitzpatrick

John Joseph "Jack" Fitzpatrick, 79, of Hebron, husband of the late Diane (Wagner) Fitzpatrick, died Thursday, Oct. 15, at Hartford Hospital. Born July 11, 1936, in Bronx, N.Y., he was the son of the late John J. and Agnes (Carson) Fitzpatrick.

Jack had worked as a heavy equipment operator before his retirement. He had proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Jack was a member of the Moose Club for more than 44 years.

He is survived by his sons, John Fitzpatrick of Willimantic, Richard Fitzpatrick of Hebron, Steven Fitzpatrick and his wife Melissa of Moodus, Scott Fitzpatrick and his wife Sally of Hebron; two daughters, Diane Stefanovicz and husband Marty of Hebron, Laura Donovan of Willimantic; 16 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Burial with military honors was held Wednesday, Oct. 21, in Marlboro Cemetery.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Timothy A. Sander

Timothy A. Sander, 51, of Coventry, formerly of Portland, beloved husband of 26 years of Jacqueline (Enderlin) Sander, loving father of Ryan Sander, Kara Sander and Allison Sander, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Tim was born in Hartford March 23, 1964, son of the late William and Janet (Morris) Sander, and lived in Coventry for the past 12 years. He grew up in Portland, graduated from Portland High School and earned his bachelor's degree at Bryant University, Smithfield, R.I.

In addition to his wife and children, Tim is survived by two brothers, Thomas Sander and his children, Jessica, Bianca and Pedro of Madison; William Sander and his wife Kimberly and their sons, Benjamin and Bradley of Independence, Mo.; in-laws, Lee and Marie Enderlin, David and Carole Holmes, Joseph and Teresa DeCormier, Donald and Jo Ann McQuaid, Patricia Enderlin and Mary Enderlin; and the following nieces and nephews: Jacqueline and Christina DeCormier, Matthew and Jillian Holmes and Jennifer, Nicole and Leon Enderlin.

Tim was employed at General Cable in Willimantic, but spent the majority of his career at JC Penney Distribution Center in Manchester. Tim loved his family immeasurably, and there was nothing he enjoyed more than delighting in their accomplishments and watching them grow and flourish. He was actively involved in all aspects of their lives and was so very proud of them. His wife and his children were the light of his life.

Tim was an avid sports fan. His first passion was hockey which he played through his college years. The Hartford Whalers were his number one team. Tim coached youth hockey, baseball and soccer. He also enjoyed biking, family hikes with his pets Gracie and Lexi, and the weekly trips to the Farmers Market.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to Tim's co-workers, present and past, for their compassion and support.

A memorial Mass celebrating Tim's life was held Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Saint James Church, 896 Main St., Manchester. There were no calling hours. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may donate to the Sander Children's Education Fund through United Bank, 1671 Boston Tpke., Coventry, CT 06238.

Holmes Funeral Home of Manchester is in care of arrangements.