

RIVEREAST

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The ninth annual Marlborough Day took place last Sunday, Aug. 23, with the usual array of area businesses and community organizations, food vendors, live entertainment, various activities and demonstrations such as the monkey bridge set up by Boy Scout Troop 39, shown here, which children could climb across with help from the scouts.

Another Fun, Cheery Marlborough Day

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The sky may have been overcast with rain threatening to make an appearance last Sunday, Aug. 23, but the ninth annual Marlborough Day still proved enjoyable for those who attended, with Marlborough Business Association organizer Jessica Olander saying the event was “jamming” right from the start.

Things got underway at 11 a.m., and by noon, 150 people were there to enjoy the day. Overall attendance may have been down – by the end of the day 500 people made an appearance compared to 800 last year – but there was plenty to enjoy for those who *did* come out.

Marlborough resident Karin McDonald was there with her children and said of the event, “It’s a chance to see everyone before the start of school.”

Her sons are members of Cub Scout Pack 39, which was present at the event hosting registrations and a racetrack. Meanwhile the older scouts, who are a part of Boy Scout Troop 39, hosted a monkey bridge demonstration kids could climb across assisted by the scouts.

A highlight of the event this year was the addition of the Snow Sisters, two characters inspired by the movie *Frozen*. Children could be found interacting with the performers throughout the day, and Olander said they were this year’s hit.

In addition, two new bands were added to the lineup this year with Halley Neal and We Got Rhythm. Returning bands included The Modern Riffs, Jim Ferguson, and Catch the Falling.

Residents also enjoyed a dance performance by Hot Stepz Dance Academy, a photo booth

with silly accessories, and the Monster Mobile Arcade where kids could win tickets to exchange for prizes at the prize walk.

Kids and their parents could also get a good view of Lake Terramuggus from the Roaming Railroad, a popular spot in recent years. And, down by the lake’s shore, the L.L. Bean Discovery Tours took place, teaching paddle boarding and kayaking.

Nearby, hose demonstrations were going on through the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department. The hoses stretched far out into the lake and firefighters could be heard quipping about aiming at some of the kayakers.

Other public safety events at this year’s Marlborough Day included demonstrations by state police that depicted what can happen in a car crash, and were meant to help participants learn why they should wear a seat belt.

Olander said one of the more popular booths this year was the Marlborough Arts Center, which hosted a community art project. Visitors to the booth were able to put their artistic abilities to the test and draw part of the project, and Olander said, “It’s kind of cool because that is going to be displayed at the arts center.”

Another popular booth was Streamline Electric with their generators, Olander said, and the tea cup raffle held by the MBA to support the MBA Scholarship. The MBA also honored this year’s MBA Scholarship recipient, Katie Tarka.

“The vendors were pleased” with this year’s event, Scott Welch, president of the MBA, added. He mentioned, however, that while there was an increase in sponsors there was a decrease

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Towns Grapple With Increased State Trooper Costs

by Geeta Schrayter

When the Connecticut General Assembly adopted the 2015-16 state budget in June, it approved numerous changes that will impact the state’s cities and towns. Among them were changes to the resident state trooper program, which is utilized in the *Rivereast* towns of Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Colchester.

The possibility of changes to the amount towns pay for their troopers has been a topic of discussion at various town meetings over the past year, as town officials fretted over what that increased cost might be.

But now, that increase is known; as of July 1, towns are responsible for 85 percent of the costs for the first two troopers assigned to their town, and 100 percent of costs for any additional troopers. The towns are also responsible for 85 percent of any overtime costs as well as any fringe benefits associated with that overtime.

By the time the state budget was approved in June, most of *Rivereast*-land’s municipal budgets had already been approved. As such, for the majority of the towns impacted, the in-

crease means special appropriations will be necessary to cover the increased costs.

In Hebron the increase amounts to around \$53,000 that wasn’t budgeted in the 2015-16 budget.

“We applied the increase that we had last year,” Town Manager Andrew Tierney explained. “We didn’t apply the new increase because it wasn’t approved yet.”

The total police budget in town is around \$400,000, Tierney explained, and includes two resident state troopers and three Hebron police officers who cover special duty assignments such as parades, the Hebron Harvest Fair, traffic control “and some day-to-day stuff.”

But of that \$400,000, the majority – approximately \$312,000 – goes toward the state troopers.

“We’re going to have to take a serious look at [the resident state trooper program] because right now we really enjoy having two resident troopers, but it’s just got to be a palatable expense,” Tierney said. He added, “We’re going to have to take a look to see how best to serve

and provide the best coverage for Hebron while at the same time keeping costs town.”

Similar sentiments were shared by Andover First Selectman Bob Burbank, who said roughly \$20,000 would be needed to cover the additional costs for their resident state trooper.

“I personally can see the value of the resident state trooper program because without a resident state trooper we don’t get the investigatory work we would for break-ins,” Burbank stated. “They also run the [Drug Abuse Resistance Education] program.”

Burbank added the town’s resident state trooper “does a lot of local traffic control on the streets, and when we need a trooper for parades and things like that he’s also available.”

And so, he concluded, “I can see the value of the program but I can’t say where the town will go [moving forward] because it is an awful lot of money for one individual. We’re now talking roughly \$160,000 for one individual.”

Burbank also mentioned while the town is covered by state police barracks Troop K out of Colchester, “I just don’t think it’s going to

be as good coverage as having a resident state trooper. But that’s my opinion.”

As for Marlborough, First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski said that, based on the town’s calculations, the increase for the program would impact the town by approximately \$40,000.

And so, she said, “We’ll be starting that line item in a deficit.”

She added, “I know there was discussion during this last budget development process with the Board of Finance and selectmen about the increased cost, and we will have to look at the police services need in town, and what the cost would be to have an additional constable or what other arrangement we could come up with” such as a regional approach.

“So I think moving forward that would be something we discuss,” she stated.

Colchester was the only town out of the four that opted to budget the maximum amount the town could potentially be responsible for – 100 percent – in its 2015-16 budget, as opposed to using last year’s numbers.

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Snow Sisters Jaime Lauren Morano of Middletown (left) and Hannah Spacone of New York City, N.Y. (right) from Whimsical Wishes Granted were new performers at this year's Marlborough Day. The characters, inspired by the movie *Frozen*, were a hit with the children.

Marlborough Day cont. from Front Page

in vendors, something she said might be due to businesses having a tough time getting manpower out to the event, but still wanting to get their names out through sponsorship.

One thing missing this year was Marlborough Idol, a singing competition, which had been put on for the previous two years.

"Two or three people registered last year," Olander said. "It wasn't an activity that was working."

Instead, Olander explained the MBA put their money toward hiring the Snow Sisters and promoting the L.L. Bean Discovery Tours.

While it's possible an event like Marlborough Idol may make a return in the coming years, Olander added it will likely be different.

"We will probably take a look at not doing just singing," she said.

And, looking toward the future, Olander said the MBA hopes to have more activities out on the lake, and a larger offering of food vendors.

The hope, of course, is also that the event remains free for the community, something Welch said he was proud of being the case, even after nine years.

Also speaking to the event was First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski, who wasn't able to make it to Marlborough Day this year – the first time she'd missed it in the history of the event. She said, however, that she greatly supports the MBA and its efforts to host the community day.

"It is a wonderful community event put on by the MBA to highlight their businesses," Gaudinski said. "The town is happy to provide support to the organization."

Towns Grapple cont. from Front Page

"We had protected ourselves," Colchester First Selectman Stan Soby explained this week. "So having it go to 85 percent was a decrease from what we anticipated. It's still obviously a significant increase from 70 percent," which was the prior amount the town was responsible for, and, as an increase, "was a concern."

Soby added it helped that the town only had one trooper, who, he explained, supervises the town's 11 local officers.

"We're not like some towns with three, four or five troopers who are seeing a much greater increase" he explained, adding even so, "we're

certainly not happy with the increase."

Soby added Colchester's current set-up works best for the town, but "We [the selectmen] and the police commission are always evaluating how we're doing as a department and we have no plans to make any changes at this time, although it's something that you always evaluate."

And evaluating the situation and keeping an eye on things to come is something all of the towns will likely continue to do, as they work to balance both municipal costs and the seemingly never-ending expenses tossed their way by the state.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Boy is it fun to be a Mets fan right now.

Don't get me wrong – I always enjoy being a Mets fan. Even in the years where they've been down and out, you find players to root for, stories to root for – Jose Reyes' run at a batting crown in 2011, R.A. Dickey's Cy Young-winning campaign a year later (a year that also saw Johan Santana twirl the Mets' first-ever no-hitter) – but this season, they're not down and out. Quite the contrary: right now, they're playing darn good baseball.

The past month – roughly coinciding with the non-trade of Wilmer Flores, which was followed up two days later by a trade for star Yoenis Cespedes – the team has been great, and has been rewarded for it: entering Wednesday's games, the Mets had a five-game lead over the Washington Nationals, and were an impressive 13 games over .500.

Monday's game in particular was a blast to watch. In team captain David Wright's return from the DL, where he's been located since April, the Mets overcame an early 7-2 deficit to beat the Phillies 16-7. Along the way, the team slugged eight home runs (one of which was hit by Wright), setting a new team record. They also had another eight extra-base hits on top of that – also a new team record. This was after a three-game sweep of Colorado – a series that, interestingly, saw the Mets win back-to-back games by the score of 14-9.

Like I said, it's awfully fun to be a Mets fan right now. And it's been a long time coming.

When I developed an interest in baseball in the late '80s, I adopted the Mets as my team. I remember well Dwight Gooden and Darryl Strawberry. I even remember writing an essay in sixth grade about Strawberry being a figure I'd most like to meet. (I recall getting a B- on that essay, in case you're wondering; I was appalled.)

The early '90s were not great years to be a Mets fan, and while I faced occasional harassment from my classmates, I never gave up on them – and by the late '90s, their fortunes had changed, featuring back-to-back postseason appearances in 1999 and 2000. Things got bleak again after that, as aging players combined with some unfortunate acquisitions led to some bad ballclubs in 2002-04.

But, compared with the early '90s, this was a brief period of less-than-stellar baseball. The team competed into September in 2005, and then handily won their division in 2006. The following year brought the team's infamous late-September collapse – up seven games in the standings with 17 to play, the Mets went on to lose 12 of those 17, finishing the season in second place – followed by another, smaller collapse in 2008. But as tough as those finishes were to swallow, at least the Mets were in the playoff race right until the end of

the season.

That would not be the case in 2009, as the Mets finished under .500 to begin a stretch of sub-.500 seasons that....well, it still continues. The Mets haven't finished a season with a winning record since 2008. It's been a very long stretch of baseball that, while still fun to watch (like I said, it's tough not to root for these guys, plus the Mets' broadcast team of Gary Cohen, Keith Hernandez and Ron Darling makes almost an enjoyable view), hasn't led to a ton of success – and certainly hasn't led to any October baseball.

Maybe, just *maybe*, that will change this season. But no matter what the next month or so has in store for the Mets, it's been a heckuva season – and a heckuva past few weeks. It's tough not to be excited. Let's go Mets!

* * *

Well, so much for wishful thinking.

Earlier this month, *The Old Farmer's Almanac* came out with its predictions for the coming winter – and if you're as sick of snow as I am, you were none too thrilled by what it said. The book called for above-average snow and below-average temperatures for much of New England. I think a collective "ugh" was let out by much of Connecticut.

But, wait – there was hope. *The Farmer's Almanac* hadn't come out yet. Maybe those young whippersnappers would have a sunnier outlook?

Nope. *The Farmer's Almanac* predictions came out on Monday, and they also call for a snowier-than-normal winter for New England; overall, the season is supposed to be "very frigid."

Now, both almanacs generate their weather forecasts based on "secret formulas" involving climatology, solar cycles, tidal actions, and a blend of 11 herbs and spices. The National Weather Service uses a more scientific approach, and they're calling for a more normal winter.

Let's go with that. I think we all deserve a break from those back-to-back heavy winters.

* * *

Lastly, next week brings September – and also, the final two months before Election Day. With that in mind, here's a reminder for anyone running for political office: next week is the last issue in which I'll publish photos of people running for office being out and about. I often get photos of people at, say, the Hebron or the Haddam Neck fairs, speaking at business association meetings, holding meet-and-greets, etc. And simply put, I don't want to look as if the paper is favoring one side or another. Nor am I particularly inclined to turn the newspaper into a giant campaign flyer for two months.

So, I've decided: after next week, no more political photos. Thanks for understanding.

* * *

See you next week.

A Rags-to-Riches Story in Marlborough – Thanks to Chess

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

For Alex Sanclemente, coming to the United States was like being “born again.”

Born in Cali, Colombia, in 1966, Sanclemente followed his future wife, Viviana, to the U.S. in 1995. Viviana, a Hartford resident, was born in Colombia, and was visiting her homeland when she and Sanclemente met. The two fell in love and, when Viviana returned to the states, Sanclemente followed – and the two were wed.

Sanclemente hasn’t regretted his emigration for a minute.

“There are more chances and more opportunities,” Sanclemente said of the United States. “People take it for granted and complain.”

Sanclemente explained in Colombia, \$1 is the equivalent of more than 3,000 pesos – and that makes it difficult to scrape by.

“It’s tough to make even \$10,” Sanclemente said. “Gas is \$4 a gallon. There’s no way to make it over there.”

Not knowing a word of English, not even ‘hello’ or ‘thank you,’ Sanclemente began working as a janitor at The Hartford in Hartford. He began learning English and eventually started doing clerical work at the insurance company, making copies.

And while much about the United States was new to him, he did spot a familiar friend – a chess set. Sanclemente had known how to play the game since he was 5 years old.

As a child in Colombia, Sanclemente had developed an interest in chess. At one point he asked his parents for a book about chess – a large request for a family that couldn’t afford school supplies. But his parents found a way to get him the book, and Sanclemente memorized the entire thing.

“I believe in God 100 percent and karma,” Sanclemente explained – and he believes both of those contributed in what happened next.

Sanclemente saw some people in suits playing chess at The Hartford. From the suits, he knew the players were upper level management. He tried to ask if he could play with them, but it “came out wrong,” so instead, he began watching the games.

“There was a tall guy beating everyone,” Sanclemente recalled.

The next day, Sanclemente said, he noticed the tall man in the suit sitting alone. The other players hadn’t arrived on time. The man invited

him to play, and Sanclemente went on to beat him three times. When the others showed up, Sanclemente went on to beat all of them.

Sanclemente stopped playing at that point, and the next day, the other players began asking for him. Two days after he stopped playing, the tall man invited him into a meeting with him. It turned out he was a vice president at The Hartford.

“The guy told me he will put me through college and pay for everything,” Sanclemente said. “It was like winning the lottery.”

The vice president went on to become Sanclemente’s mentor, teaching him marketing and other techniques. Sanclemente passed the GED, then began studying computer science at Central Connecticut State University.

“Someone gives you an opportunity and you take it and do it right,” Sanclemente said. He went on to graduate with a 4.0 GPA.

“I was always the last person at the [CCSU] computer lab,” he said. “I was hungry and eager to learn.”

Sanclemente worked at The Hartford while in school, and learned to speak even more English. While he was at The Hartford, he and his wife also wound up buying a home in Marlborough, moving here in 2001.

Eventually, however, Sanclemente was laid off from his job. He began temping at other insurance companies – until he had an idea.

Although Sanclemente wanted to open his own business, he said he knew he needed the community’s support and trust. Being one of the few Colombians in Marlborough, Sanclemente feared he would be discriminated against by the public if he just opened up a computer repair shop right away – without people getting to know him first. Therefore, Sanclemente went after the Post Office exam. He passed and began substitute mail carrying for East Hampton, Marlborough, Hebron and Glastonbury.

“I did it to get people to know me,” Sanclemente said. “[Residents] didn’t know I had a degree. I built trust in the towns.”

Sanclemente thought of it as sacrificing something to get more, much like how he plays chess. He saw it as sacrificing the opportunity for his business for a little while, so that the business would be a better success.

After working at the Post Office for two and



Alex Sanclemente, 49, of Marlborough, originally came to the United States from Colombia in 1995, and opened up Smart Computer Repair in town in 2010.

a half year, Sanclemente opened up Smart Computer Repair at 5 South Main St. in Marlborough in 2010.

“People already knew me when I opened the doors,” Sanclemente said. “They were surprised I knew computers.”

He had come a far way from being scared to move a computer mouse while cleaning at The Hartford.

“When you have your mind set, you can do everything,” Sanclemente said. “What I do is what I like. It’s not work, it’s something I enjoy.”

Sanclemente prides himself with going above and beyond for the customer.

“I put love into everything I do,” he said. “Money is not everything.”

He said money doesn’t matter to him because he is “rich in life” and has his three blessings – his wife and his two daughters, Tiffany and Sabrina.

Giving back – and teaching good values to his daughters – are also important for Sanclemente. Recently he went back to Colombia to help feed 20 families of four for five days, three meals a day. He also helped out at the local senior center down there, even though none of his family are there.

“I give and don’t expect anything back,” Sanclemente said.

In regards to the future, Sanclemente is just happy with his business and being “just Alex.”

Smart Computer Repair can be contacted at 860-295-1301 or at smartcomputerrepair.net.

Hebron Board Swaps Half-Day Pre-K Section for Full-Day

by Geeta Schrayter

At its Aug. 13 meeting, the Board of Education discussed the district’s current preschool program and, ultimately, voted to swap a half-day section for a full-day one.

“We do have a wonderful preschool program here – a wonderful education system to begin with – and I couldn’t be more proud to be here,” said Superintendent of Schools Tim Van Tassel, who started in Hebron last month. “But there has been some discussion in regards to what is the potential to expand the preschool program.”

He added, “There is some potential that exists at current, and the reason is there is a waiting list for both full-day and half-day preschool.”

To help tap that potential, Van Tassel had the district’s new director of educational services, Patricia Buell, present a number of options the board could choose to move forward with.

Like Van Tassel, Buell mentioned, “We do have a tremendous preschool program here as evidenced by them receiving [National Association for the Education of Young Children] accreditation in the spring – a true hallmark for preschool programs – and I’m very pleased to see that they have achieved that.”

Buell went on to share there are a number of benefits to preschool such as increased academic, social and behavioral readiness. She added there were currently 10 students on a waiting list for a slot in half-day preschool in town, and 17 waiting for a full-day slot.

“Some of those are the same students,” she explained. “Some are waiting on both lists, and some of the full-day students are already in half-day programs but the families would prefer full-day.”

Fourteen of the children currently on a wait list are not in either program.

To try to address some of those children, Buell shared four possible options with the board.

The first, Option A, was the addition of one more half-day session in the afternoon, which would allow for about 10 students currently on the half-day waiting list to garner a spot in the program.

Option B would be the addition of a full-time preschool classroom, which would provide a spot for 17 students on the full-day waiting list. Buell noted some of those students would come from half-day classes, which would then mean those sessions could be back-filled by children on the half-day waiting list.

Regarding this option, Buell explained there would be a salary impact through the hiring of staff for the class, as well as a community impact. In phone surveys soliciting parents’ ideas, she said, “some parents said they would take their kids out of an area childcare center and put them in ours. So there could be a negative impact on community programs like KinderRHAMA [a preschool program AHM Youth and Family Services offers at RHAM High School], so we need to keep in mind.”

Buell went on to mention Option C, which would see the reduction of one half-day preschool session and the addition of a full-time section.

“Because we’re trading in a half-day,” she explained, “the only impact is three new students coming into the program, but we’d have two full-day and two half-day sections.” This, Buell said, would provide the community with a “broader option.”

In addition, she said, “I think there will be less of an impact to area childcare providers.”

Lastly, Buell mentioned Option D, which

was to leave the sections as they currently stand, but increase the enrollment for each.

Following Buell’s presentation, Van Tassel shared a recommendation for Option C, mentioning Option B would require an additional classroom and reiterating Buell’s mention of the community impact.

Regarding his preferred option he said, “We can do it. We can make it work, with minimal impact, and do what’s right for the community.”

In the end, the board voted 3-1 to authorize Van Tassel to move forward with Option C, which will require adding a half-time teacher and a half-time paraprofessional, who will first be sought through internal candidates.

The motion stated that the program should be in place by Oct. 1.

Also at the meeting, the board took various actions relating to school staff, just in time for the start of the new school year, which got underway this past Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Two resignations were accepted at the meeting, that of classroom teacher Laura Moore and speech pathologist Barbara Wilson, who left to become the assistant principal and director of special education in Andover.

School board chair Maryanne Leichter said the board was “very grateful for their years of service and we wish them the best in their new endeavors.”

Board member Carol Connolly added her thoughts as well, sharing, “I have looked at their resignation letters and I appreciate what they wrote about the district and how they were grateful for the opportunities” in the district. “I think we were lucky to have both of them,” she added. “They’ll truly be missed and I wish them the best of luck.”

The next Hebron Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m., in the Gilead Hill School music room.

Colchester Native to Study Cheese in Europe

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Cheese is no joke for Colchester native Thomas Perry.

Perry, now working for Potash Markets in Chicago, Ill., is headed off to Europe next March, for a cheese lover's paradise.

After being awarded the \$5,000 Daphne Zepos Teaching Award by the American Cheese Society, Perry plans to travel around the United Kingdom and surrounding areas learning about European cheese to bring that knowledge back to the United States.

Perry's mother, Irene Watson, tells a story of putting cheese into her son's school lunches. Watson said he still references the "smoky cheese" in his presentations.

Perry graduated from Bacon Academy then went to graduate from the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts. He found himself working at Formaggio Kitchen in Cambridge, Mass., a business known for its cheese.

"As a catering manager, I was assembling cheese plates," Perry said. "I was exposed to cheese, but I wasn't really learning about cheese."

He then began tasting cheese and finding out what he liked.

One of the benefits of working at Formaggio was a 20 percent employee discount off the company's products.

"I would pick up cheese and had very capable coworkers who were into cheese and they explained it and guided me through based on what I liked," Perry said.

Since Perry was working in the Boston area, he said people automatically assume you know cheese if you work at Formaggio.

"I was put in charge of the cheese program," he said. "I had a gentle familiarity with cheese and was learning how it worked."

In 2008, Perry moved to Providence and worked in a couple of kitchens. He also worked as a chef at a daycare – but, he quipped, he was going crazy making chicken nuggets all the time.

"I missed the fine dining aspects of food," Perry said.

That was when he found out a local cheese shop, Farmstead, Inc., was expanding. He applied and began working there part-time – and kept his job with the daycare.

"I was satisfied working with kids and working part-time with the cheese shop," Perry said. Eventually, however, the daycare ran out of funding for his position, so Perry found himself at the cheese shop full-time.

"It's definitely where I learned the bulk of my career," Perry said of the shop. "There were good managers that guided me, and the owner gave me a lot of leeway."

When a new cheese came in, he would try it and experiment.

"I got more familiar with the products and different styles and flavor aspects," he said. "I was able to deliver what the customer was looking for."

Perry began climbing the ranks at the shop, staying there for four years, eventually becoming a domestic cheese buyer. He also became the lead educator.

But, he said, "it became clear I wasn't going to be able to move up further."

Curious about cheese-making and all that it entails, he found himself at Cato Corner Farm in his hometown of Colchester in 2013.

"Initially I was part-time then full-time primarily as a cheesemonger," Perry said. A cheesemonger is someone who sells cheese, butter or other dairy products.

But this time around, it wasn't just buying or selling or teaching for Perry – he also got down into the nitty-gritty of the business, becoming an assistant cheese maker.

"Any agriculture is hard and difficult, but you don't realize it until you're knee deep in it," he said. "Animals are very dependent on humans. They need to be milked and fed, and [you] call the veterinarian when they're sick. Sometimes things happen at 3 a.m., if a cow goes into labor or a cow gets loose."

Fortunately, Perry said, the cheese-making business and the farm side tend to be separate – but of course, the former is dependent on the latter.

"You need quality milk for cheese," he said.

Working at Cato Corner wound up teaching Perry he never wants to be a cheese-maker – it's a hard life.

"I have an awesome amount of respect for cheese-makers and anyone involved in getting you food that does it with care and respect for the final outcome," he said. "There's a lot of work and a lot of love and a lot of sweat."

Perry left Cato Corner in July 2014, and headed to Chicago, his wife Mary's hometown.

"I always liked the food scene in Chicago," Perry said. He found himself at Potash Markets, a market that gave him an opportunity he "could not turn down."

"They wanted me to build my own cheese program, develop it the way I saw fit and up the ante of what they're able to offer to their



Thomas Perry, a Colchester native, recently won a \$5,000 award to learn and teach about cheese. He is pictured here receiving the Daphne Zepos Teaching Award at the American Cheese Society's conference in July in Providence, R.I.

customers," Perry said.

Earlier this year, Perry joined the American Cheese Society. When he became a member, he said, he qualified to apply for the Daphne Zepos Teaching Award. In his application, he stated that, if he received the award, he would use the money to learn and teach about cheese in Europe. He officially received the award at a July conference.

Perry's goal while in Europe next March and April is to learn and teach about the naturally produced native cultures in cheese.

"I made contact with a couple of cheese-makers and distributors in the U.K. that are gracious enough to welcome me," he said. "I'm working to make contact with people in France and Switzerland."

Perry said he's attempting to focus attention on where he will be going since he only has so much time and so much money.

His ultimate goal, Perry said, is to get cheese-producers and farmers talking with academics.

"They are two groups that don't really communicate as much as they should," Perry said. "They only talk when things go horribly wrong, like contamination."

He said he always wants to be an advocate for good cheese.

"I'm an advocate for good agriculture in general," Perry said. "Right now my goal is building a program. That's pretty neat."

Perry encourages people to support local cheese-makers – and not be afraid of the price.

"Europeans have full government support in line with cultural traditions," he said. "In the states, someone with a similar project incurs double the cost. It's a very slow road to build up a good quality product and get it out there."

Perry's journey in Europe can be followed at [Facebook.com/thomasthemongera](https://www.facebook.com/thomasthemongera).

Colchester Selectmen Talking, But No Action on Senior Center

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The senior center was again the topic of discussion at the meeting of the Board of Selectmen last Thursday, Aug. 20.

The board discussed finding a new home for the Colchester Senior Center at its July 2 meeting, but failed to formally make a motion indicating its interest in a new location.

But last week, selectwoman Rosemary Coyle pushed the board to draft an official position to vote on, stating the board would move the matter forward.

"There are many reports [and studies done into the future of the senior center], but our goal has to be if we as a town are going to develop a new senior center, we need to go on record and say we're going to do that," Coyle said. "Then from there, define how we're going to do that."

The current senior center is located at 95 Norwich Ave., in the former Bacon Academy Arts and Sciences building. The senior center has been housed there since the early 1980s – but, with the town's elderly population growing and the fact the building was designed for students and teachers, not seniors, the consensus among residents and town officials has been that a new building is needed.

Coyle's comments came after selectwoman Denise Mizla asked where to begin when it came to the project.

Mizla wondered if a good first step would be to direct the town planner to research potential sites and come up with a list of town-owned properties and vacant parcels. (However, currently there is no town planner; town officials are currently in the process of hiring a new one, following the recent resignation of Adam Turner.)

Unlike the William J. Johnston Middle School project, which involves renovating an existing building, "this would be [starting] from scratch and finding the land," Mizla said.

But, Coyle didn't want to dismiss the current senior center – saying it has to be part of the conversation.

"We can't ignore a piece of property that exists," she said.

First Selectman Stan Soby said there has been interest from developers to build an entirely new senior center. However, the price tags discussed, he pointed out, would prove this a costly option.

"It doesn't mean that won't happen," Soby

said. "It's information to evaluate for when we're starting to move forward."

The selectmen came to an agreement that the board has to draft something stating the board's official commitment.

"We need something structured over the next month," selectman Kurt Frantzen said.

Coyle suggested the document may help start the conversation with the Board of Finance.

"We need to have the conversation with the Board of Finance and raise the topics and generate the first step," Coyle said. "Neither board has taken an official position committed to doing this."

Coyle suggested the boards create a subcommittee, which would include the Commission on Aging, as a first step.

"Where the senior center is now, is that part of the mix? It's all questions not simply answered," Coyle said. Coyle also mentioned the center "is not going to get accredited in the building they're in."

The senior center is beginning to work on National Council on Aging (NCOA) accreditation. Only nine centers in the state are nationally-accredited.

The board came to the conclusion to bring a draft of an official position to vote on to its next meeting.

Also last Thursday, the board approved the consultant contract for the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department strategic plan.

"It's about time," Coyle said. "I'm really happy this is going forward."

JLN Associates out of Old Lyme was hired to facilitate the plan for \$13,000.

Developing a strategic plan for the department has been in the works for a while. Money for it was initially included in the 2014-15 budget, but was taken out during the budget-crafting process. The funding was included, however, in the 2015-16 budget – and it stayed in, despite multiple referendums being needed to pass the spending package.

The selectmen voted unanimously, 5-0, to approve the contract.

The Board of Selectmen will next meet Thursday, Sept. 3, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

Andover Board Seeks to Step Up Town Efficiency

by Geeta Schrayter

At Wednesday's Board of Finance meeting, chairman Dan Warren brought forth a couple of items for discussion that he felt were important for improving town efficiency.

The first item discussed was a fund balance reserve policy, which he explained would help provide guidance regarding what to do with excess funds at the end of the year. The draft document he provided at the meeting suggested allocating excess funds to particular accounts in town as opposed to putting the entire amount into the general fund.

"I'm not looking for anything tonight but feedback," Warren said. "My thought was, we're generally consistent with the money that comes in and the money that goes out; maybe we can be proactive with funds at the end of the year" by putting some of them into accounts such as open space land acquisition, capital non-recurring and school improvements.

"This will be passed onto the Board of Selectmen for consideration," Warren continued. "It sets a baseline guidance document for consideration when the town closes the books at the end of the year."

Warren added some heavy capital improvement project items would be heading the town's way in the future, and "I think it's prudent as a town to plan for this kind of stuff."

Following Warren's explanation, board member Georgette Conrad said, "As long as we don't

have to raise taxes" she was okay with the policy, and Warren assured her the policy didn't suggest increasing the budget, but addressed what to do with leftover funds at the end of the year in the already approved budget.

In the end, Conrad said, "I think it will be good to discuss this with a full board" – not all the finance board members were in attendance at Wednesday's meeting – and she also suggested passing the draft along to the Board of Selectmen for input.

* * *

The second item Warren brought up was the town's Accounting and Purchasing Procedures and Policies manual – or lack thereof. He mentioned the town auditor had noted for "many years" that the town was lacking one.

Board member Dennis Foran reiterated this. "There's no real document the town has for purchasing and accounting," he said, and added that, despite the lack of such a document repeatedly being mentioned in town audit reports, "The problem is there's never really been any progress over the past seven to eight years."

So, to spur that progress, Warren crafted a draft purchasing policy which he shared at the meeting. He explained the town charter even states the Board of Finance needs a policy for purchasing but, after asking the town clerk, he learned there wasn't anything on file.

The purchasing policy, he explained, would

include what protocols to follow when making purchases for the town. For instance, the current draft includes information on bidding procedures for purchases under \$1,000 and purchases from \$1,000 to \$10,000 considered non-capital expenditures.

Other information contained in the draft policy includes purchase requisitions, developing specifications for the item or service to be purchased, bid waivers and ethics and vendor relations.

Regarding the policy, board member Jeff Murray added it might also be prudent to make it a requirement that a justification be included for why a particular bidder was chosen.

And, along those same lines, Conrad added, "Sometimes price isn't the only thing."

As with the draft of the fund balance reserve policy draft, Warren said he would pass the purchasing policy to the selectmen and, Thursday morning, he spoke to the importance of both policies.

Regarding the fund balance reserve policy he said, "It is important for the town to have a guiding policy for distribution of excess revenues on an annual basis so that we maintain an appropriate balance of unrestricted funds to address emergencies or unexpected changes in state funding without incurring a precipitous increase in the mill rate."

As for the purchasing policy, Warren ex-

plained, "We are not following what I would consider widely-accepted competitive bidding and purchasing standards."

Warren furthered, "The CIP Committee and town engineer are currently not being involved in the preparation/review of specifications or bid packages for procurement of capital equipment or projects. This policy is intended to act as an appropriate level of control and guidance for a small town such as Andover to make sure we are spending taxpayer dollars in an efficient and effective manner."

Warren mentioned it was likely some large capital projects would be coming up in the next few years such as the senior center and town garage, "which are both in an advanced state of disrepair. It's important for us to have the right people involved and ensure quality work from contractors."

Warren added an accounting internal controls policy was another piece to the puzzle, "It has been noted in our annual audit for several years that we don't have 'an accurate in-depth accounting procedures and policy manual' that documents internal financial controls."

While one hasn't been drafted yet, he explained the finance board "will be working with [selectman] Jeff Maguire to develop this manual, which the purchasing policy will likely be a part of."

Portland Board of Education Talks Enrollment, Priorities

by John Tyczkowski

At Tuesday's Board of Education meeting, Superintendent of Schools Philip B. O'Reilly discussed tentative enrollment figures for the coming school year.

These figures only included registrations from July 1 forward. Due to the implementation of a new centralized registration system under Holly Russo, the district's new data management specialist, on that date, any enrollments from late June may not have been entered into the new system yet, O'Reilly said.

The district has had 46 new registrations in total as of Tuesday, he said.

As part of that, the district has gained 19 students from Hartford through the Open Choice program. That brings the total number of Open Choice students in Portland to 54, and "most of them" are at Valley View, O'Reilly said.

Those numbers are in line with projections the board previously discussed at its Aug. 4 meeting, and the concentration of the enrollments at Valley View will result in a bonus for the students there.

"That proportion of students there allows the district to qualify for some extra funding and some extra support for all children at Valley View," he said. "It's certainly going to have a

very positive implication for this district."

That extra support will include a literacy and math facilitator for kindergarteners from the Capitol Region Education Council, of which Portland Public Schools is a member.

Along those lines, Portland also receives grants from the state with each acceptance of an Open Choice student: \$6,000 per student, with an additional \$4,500 per kindergarten student.

According to the state Department of Education, such grants can be put toward capital expenditures for "improving the educational experiences for students" at Open Choice participant districts.

O'Reilly said exact enrollment numbers for 2015-16 will not be available until after Oct. 1. However, based upon a calculation that 55 Open Choice students would equal four percent of the district's total enrollment, Portland Public Schools serve approximately 1,375 students across the entire district this year.

Oct. 1 is the key date, because that's when the normal registration process is complete, O'Reilly said.

"There's a process and paperwork that has to be completed by both the sending and the

receiving districts, which takes time," he said.

* * *

The board also discussed setting priorities for the coming school year.

Specifically, chair MaryAnne Rode said the board needed to make a decision on what to do about the modular classrooms at Valley View. For reference, the modulars, designed for temporary use, have been in place for more than 20 years.

"At this point we've got to come down one way or the other," she said. "Either keep them or replace them."

Board vice chair Andrea Alfano agreed.

"We need to decide on a plan of action and do it," she said simply.

To that end, Rode suggested first creating a plan to "inform and educate" students, teachers and the public at large about the modulars: why they were put up in the first place, the current problems they face and the alternatives to using them.

In addition, Rode said the solution the board comes up with may have to involve redistribution of students at existing schools.

"People in town, including teachers and ad-

ministrators have made it clear from past surveys; they're looking to the board to get creative," she said. "They don't want closing schools or building projects."

For reference, Rode said "no school is at maximum capacity" in the district, and it could be possible to reconfigure existing facilities to absorb some students from Valley View.

O'Reilly also proposed to that end to make discussion of the Valley View modulars' future a regular component of board meetings during the school year, to allow for public input.

"It's always good for something like this to be more of a community process," he said.

On a separate note, but one that board members agreed related to long-term projects such as the Valley View modulars, the board also agreed to prepare a plan within the next two months to ensure continuity of policy and other board priorities after the coming shift in the board's composition due to the November elections.

* * *

The next Board of Education meeting will take place Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Portland High School library.

East Hampton Man Arrested Twice in Same Morning

by John Tyczkowski

An East Hampton man was arrested twice on the same day on Aug. 15.

The first of these occurred early in the morning that Saturday, East Hampton Police Chief Sean Cox said.

“We received the call at 5 a.m. of a report of a flasher on Route 66 by Main Street,” Cox said.

Scott Spicer, 20, of 3 Main St, was charged for that first incident with public indecency, creating a public disturbance, interfering with an officer, operating a motor-driven cycle without a valid license, and the improper operation of a motor-driven cycle – specifically, operation on a public sidewalk.

Spicer was released on a \$1,000 nonsurety bond, and was arraigned in Middlesex Superior Court on those charges on Aug. 26.

About two hours after he was released, at

7:30 a.m., police responded to another incident involving Spicer.

“Two officers were dispatched on a report of the same person assaulting multiple people” at a Main Street residence, Cox said.

After an investigation into that domestic dispute incident, Spicer was charged with third-degree assault, third-degree assault on the elderly, disorderly conduct, and second-degree criminal mischief, police said.

Spicer is due in court on Sept. 2 to enter a plea, and was released on a promise to appear.

According to court records, Spicer had a previous arrest in June on charges of failure to drive right, illegally operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and possession of alcohol by a minor.

He is due in court Sept. 2 to enter a plea regarding those charges as well.

Portland Police News

8/19: William O’Brien, 45, of 254 Marlborough St., was charged with breach of peace and unlawful discharge of a firearm, Portland Police said.

8/19: Nathaniel Hardesty, 19, of 69 Payne Blvd., was charged with unregistered motor vehicle and misuse of plates, police said.

Colchester Police News

8/19: State Police said Joseph John, 32, of 1112 Boulevard Rd., West Hartford, was arrested and charged with failure to pay or plead to an infraction.

8/19: State Police said Travon Campbell, 21, of 115 Schuyler Ave., Middletown, was arrested and charged with possession of narcotics and having narcotics not kept in the original container.

8/20: State Police said Ramon Ocasio, 40, of 2224 Broad St., Hartford, was arrested and charged with DUI and illegally using the left-hand lane.

8/20: Colchester Police said a 10-year-old

East Hampton Police News

8/11: Corey S. Gallagher, 43, of 77 Standish Rd., was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

8/15: Samantha Lee Ocelik, 29, of 9 Bevin Blvd., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with a police officer, police said.

8/15: Jason Melquist, 36, of 121 Hebron Rd., Marlborough, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

Resident Killed in Cromwell Crash

by John Tyczkowski

An East Hampton man and a Middletown man died Saturday morning after a motor vehicle crash on Route 9 in Cromwell.

Travis Cozzi, 22, of East Hampton, and Kevin Palozie, 22, of Middletown, were heading south on Route 9 around 1:15 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, state police said.

They were traveling in a Chevrolet K-10 pickup truck that sideswiped a Buick LeSabre near Exit 19, after which the truck rolled over, went through a wire rope guardrail and into the grassy median, police said.

Police said Palozie, the Chevrolet’s driver,

was pronounced dead at the scene, and Cozzi, the passenger, was later pronounced dead at Hartford Hospital. Neither were wearing seat belts.

The driver of the Buick was transported to Middlesex Hospital for evaluation.

The cause of accident remains under investigation, state police said.

Cozzi was an electrician with the IBEW Local 90 based in Wallingford, and enjoyed skiing, water skiing, snowmobiling and trucks, according to his Facebook page. His obituary appears in this week’s *Rivereast*.

Marlborough Police News

8/23: State Police said Kevin Smith, 42, of 84 Jones Hollow Rd., was arrested and charged with risk of injury to a child, interfering with an officer, disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and second-degree unlawful restraint.

Andover Police News

8/20: State Police said a juvenile was arrested and charged with possession of narcotics on Stanley Drive.

Rear-Ending Injures Andover Driver

State Police said Eusebia Soto-Velazquez, 51, of 175 Jackson St., Willimantic, was transported to Windham Hospital for minor injuries after an accident on Route 6 near Parker Bridge Road.

Police said the car Soto-Velazquez was driving was rear-ended by another vehicle.

Portland Man Dies After Middletown Quarry Jump

by John Tyczkowski

A Portland man died last Wednesday afternoon after jumping into a quarry hole in Middletown.

Andrew Frizen, 26, was quarry-diving with two others on August 19 on the property containing the site of the former Kleen Energy plant at the end of Bow Lane.

Chief Rob Ross, of South Fire District in Middletown, said his department received the initial 911 call just after 3 p.m.

“We were dispatched to a report of a male who had jumped into water and hadn’t surfaced,” he said. “On arrival, we did a quick interview of the two parties there, and they gave an area where the victim was located.”

The drop into the quarry hole was about 30 feet, Ross said, and the water itself was 30 feet deep. SFD also received aid from Middletown Fire Department and Portland Fire Department dive teams.

“We deployed a dive team operation, and made two sweeps before we found the victim,” he said. “We had to use ropes and ladders just to get the divers into the water.”

“The dive rescue was very technical and very challenging, especially given the location in the woods and the distances into the water,” Ross said.

Specifically, teams needed to execute a high-angle rescue with those ropes and ladders, due to the pit-like shape of the quarry hole, Ross said.

Ross said emergency personnel then made resuscitation attempts on Frizen at the scene, as he was unresponsive when SFD personnel

pulled him from the water after about an hour after receiving the call. He was then transported to Middlesex Hospital by ambulance, and died that afternoon.

The quarry holes are located off of a private road accessible from Bow Lane, and Ross said the surrounding woody terrain makes the location “a very challenging site.”

The “handful” of holes around there are all also supposed to be fenced off, he said.

“It’s one of these things where they put up signs and fences, and then people tear them back down,” Ross said. “And every once in a while we have a tragedy out there. That was the first one in that particular quarry.”

“It’s been quite a while [since the last fatal accident] but it’s pretty clear the area is used quite frequently,” he said.

Ross said that diving into the quarry holes puts both the divers and fire department staff at risk when trying to effect rescues or recoveries.

“It’s not a safe area for anyone,” he said. “We encourage the public to stay out of that area and to swim only in approved swimming areas with lifeguards. People may think ‘It’s a hot day, we’ll cool off here and have the place to ourselves,’ but the dangers and risks outweigh that.”

Swimming in the quarries is also illegal, as they are located on private property.

The Middletown Police Department’s major investigations division is investigating the incident.

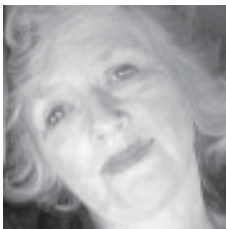
Frizen’s obituary appears in this week’s paper.

Obituaries

Portland

Jan C. Janowski

Jan C. Janowski, 66 of Portland, wife for 48 years to Joseph C. Janowski, passed away Thursday, Aug. 20, at Portland Care & Rehab. She was the daughter of the late Maurice and Helen (Powers) Willmore. Born Sept. 9, 1948, in Middletown, she lived in Portland for most of her life.



Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Joseph P. Janowski of Portland; a daughter, Lori Janowski of New York; brothers John and Terrence Willmore, both of Portland; sisters Jill Matterazzo of Higganum, Suzanne Kennedy of Florida, Patricia Barsamian of Manchester and Robyn Willmore of Portland; grandson Ryan Janowski; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a brother, Jeffrey. Jan was owner of JJ Portland News for six years. She worked for Portland's Parks and Recreation Department for several years and volunteered much of her time at Portland Senior Center and doing creative programming with the children of Chatham Court. She was recognized for these efforts in 2012 with the Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award.

Jan was one of the most beautiful, caring souls on the planet; a woman who gave of herself without question or consequence. She will be sorely missed but her spirit will live on forever.

Relatives and friends called Monday, Aug. 24, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, followed by a Mass that morning at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to "Joy for Jan: A Dragonfly's Journey" at gfwd.at/1J8r43g.

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

Hebron

Karin H. Roche

Karin H. Roche, 74, of Glastonbury, formerly of Hebron, passed away early Tuesday morning, Aug. 18, at home, with her beloved children by her side.



Born in Germany Dec. 24, 1940, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Elisabeth Büttner. Karin emigrated to the U.S. in 1957. She married Frank M. Roche Jr. The couple moved to Hebron, where they raised their family. They shared 54 years together before Frank predeceased her on May 19, 2011.

Over her career, Karin was an employee, then full partner/owner of and, most recently, a consultant for, Pension Consultants in Farmington. She loved to dance and was a longtime participant at the Fred Astaire Dance Studios. Karin also enjoyed boating and she was a life member of the Shennecossett Yacht Club in Groton. Most importantly, she will be remembered by her family as a devoted and loving mother, grandmother and friend to all who knew her.

Karin will be sadly missed but always remembered by her son, Frank Roche of Colchester; daughter, Monique Roche of South Glastonbury; grandchildren, Christopher Roche and Nicole Cardella; her aunt, Hildegard Unger and cousin, Heidi Weingartner, both of Germany; Ruth Roche of Florida; and numerous friends.

A celebration of her life will be held Wednesday, Sept. 9, from 5-8 p.m., at the Glastonbury Hills Country Club, 239 Country Club Rd., So. Glastonbury. Burial will be private.

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

Portland

Andrew David Frizen

Andrew David Frizen of Portland passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015. He was born in Middletown Sept. 13, 1988, and lived in Portland most of his life. Andrew was the loving son of Susan Bongiorno Frizen of Portland and Gregory Frizen of Groveland, Fla.



In addition to his parents, he is survived by his brother, Joseph Lastrina III and niece Emma Marie Lastrina of Queens, N.Y., and sister, Ashleigh Frizen of Pensacola, Fla.; grandfather, Salvatore A. Bongiorno Jr. and his longtime companion Myrna Geiges, both of Portland, and grandmother, Doris R. Bongiorno of Cromwell; uncles Paul Bongiorno of Portland, William and his wife Mary Ann Bongiorno of Madison; aunt Nancy (Frizen) and her husband Brian Herndon of Clermont, Florida. He also leaves behind a large extended family whom he cherished, and his adoring pets.

He was predeceased by his grandparents and namesake Andrew and Rose Frizen, formerly of Clermont, Fla.

Andrew loved family gatherings and spending time with his friends. He was an old soul of sorts and had a keen sense of understanding the world around him. With a quirky sense of humor and a contagious giggle he was easy to be around. He was a great listener, considerate and mindful of other people's needs. He was a talented poker player and won several tournaments, including the 2012 Champion Foxwoods Poker Classic 7-Card Stud.

He loved all sports, especially bowling and playing pool with friends. He was a huge Yankee fan and would often travel to Yankee Stadium for a Saturday home game with his Uncle Bill. During the week you could spot him around town helping his Uncle Paul. He was happiest when he had something to do and people to be with.

Andrew will be greatly missed by those who truly knew and loved him.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Aug. 26, at St. Mary's Church, Freestone Ave. Portland, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial that day. Burial was in the family plot at St. Sebastian Cemetery in Middlefield. Relatives and friends called at the D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., Middletown, on Tuesday, Aug. 25.

Colchester

Rose Ann Clark

Rose Ann Clark, 93, of Colchester, beloved wife and best friend of Walter James Clark for nearly 64 years, passed away peacefully at home Tuesday, Aug. 25. Born May 27, 1922 in Plainfield, she was a daughter of the late Bernhard and Rose (Crystal) Lehmann.

A consummate farmer and homemaker, she worked for Clauson's Greenhouses for 20 years, while also running the farm stand on the family farm on Chestnut Hill Road in Colchester well into her 90s. Rose had been very active with both the Norwich and New London Farmer's Market as well.

Mrs. Clark was a devout communicant of St. Andrew Parish in Colchester.

In addition to her husband, she leaves two sons and daughters-in-law, Thomas and Laura of Colchester and Mark and Margaret of Mooresville, N.C.; five granddaughters, Erin, Christie, Kelly, Katie and Colleen; a great-granddaughter, Brooklyn Rose; a sister, Theresa Masse of Brooklyn (Conn.); and numerous extended family and friends.

She was predeceased by a son, Kevin, in 1977, as well as eight siblings.

The family will receive guests starting at 9:30 a.m. today, Aug. 28, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before the celebration of the funeral liturgy at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the New London Community Meal Center, 12 Montauk Ave, New London, CT 06320 or St. Vincent de Paul Place, 120 Cliff St., Norwich, CT 06360.

For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

East Hampton

Travis Achille Cozzi

Travis Achille Cozzi, 22, of East Hampton passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Aug. 22, after being involved in a tragic car accident. Travis was born in New Britain, and lived in East Hampton for most of his life.



Travis was a 2011 graduate of Vinal Technical High School in Middletown, where he was a member of the Cross-Country and Rifle teams and later became a volunteer coach of the Vinal Rifle Team. He was a former member of the Northern Middlesex YMCA Swim Team and Glenbrooke Swim and Tennis Club in East Hartford.

Travis had a love of the great outdoors and was an avid snow skier, water skier, and snowmobiler. He had a special fondness for the Cozzi family's cottage at Sand Pond in Marlow, NH and took great joy in introducing friends to Blueberry Point, Bulldog Ledge, Silver Mountain and the numerous snowmobile trails surrounding the area. Travis also loved trucks, preferably Chevrolet. He was a "Bowtie" man from the beginning.

Travis was a member of the New Haven Electricians JATC Local Union 90 and was employed by C. White Electrical LLC in Guilford. Travis loved to work. No project was too big. His passion for all things mechanical and electrical combined with his generous nature and personality made him an endearing friend to all who knew him.

Travis was the youngest son of Robert and Teresa (Borowski) Cozzi of East Hampton. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his brothers, Tory of Seattle, Wash., and Michael of Tampa, Fla.; his grandmothers, Yvonne Cozzi of Portland and Janina Borowski of New Britain; as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins. His network of friends spanned many towns in the greater Middletown area as well as Keene, N.H.

Funeral services will be held today, Aug. 28, with a Mass at 10 a.m. directly at Sacred Heart Church, 158 Broad St., New Britain. (Everyone is asked to go directly to church.) Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery, New Britain. Relatives and friends called Thursday, Aug. 27, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home 231 Main St., Portland.

Memorial donations may be made to: The Jimmy Fund; NH Lakes Association/Sand Pond Lake Host/Marlow NH (14 Horseshoe Pond Lane, Concord, NH 03301); and American Association of State Troopers.

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

Colchester

Lorraine Day

Lorraine (Wilenski) Day, 68, of Lebanon, passed away peacefully with her family by her side at Middlesex Hospital Sunday, Aug. 23, due to varied complications from rheumatoid arthritis, scoliosis, pneumonia and another undetermined infection. She was born in Middletown Nov. 13, 1946, the only child of Alexander and Antoinette (Stankowski) Wilenski, late of Colchester.

Lorraine was married for nearly 44 years to her husband and amazing caregiver, James H. Day. Jim and Lorraine built their home in Lebanon, where they have resided since January 1974 and raised their two children. She returned to work in 1990 after being a stay-at-home mom and was a special education aide at Lebanon Middle School for many years. Lorraine truly enjoyed being able to help make a difference in the lives of the children she encountered.

As many are aware, Lorraine has been a "super-trooper" over the last 15-plus years with her chronic illnesses. She has endured 13 back surgeries, double knee replacements, a flesh-eating infection contracted in 2011, along with three bouts of pneumonia.

In addition to her loving husband, James, she leaves her daughter, Jennifer M. Day of Lebanon; her son, Matthew J. Day and his wife Jeanette of Colchester; four grandchildren Taylor Marie, Kayla Alexandra, Xzavier James and Jamason Matthias; and numerous extended family and friends.

The family received guests Wednesday, Aug. 26, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service was observed that evening. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, 1330 W. Peachtree St., Ste. 100, Atlanta, GA 30309 (<https://donate.arthritis.org>).

Colchester

Susan Edna Johnson

Susan Edna Johnson, 67, of Uncasville, formerly of Colchester, passed into eternal life Tuesday, Aug. 18, at Orchard Grove Nursing Facility where she has lived for 15 years. Susan was born May 29, 1948 in Norwich, the daughter of the late Herman and Edna (Hastedt) Johnson.

Born with Down syndrome, she spent time as a child at the Mansfield Hospital in Connecticut, Sea-Side Hospital in Waterford and the Norwich State Hospital. It was a sad and difficult time for many people who were identified as physically and/or mentally disabled during those years. Very little was known or understood regarding many afflictions of that time such as Polio, Down syndrome, and Alzheimer's which was identified as Early Onset Dementia. Today, these illnesses are better understood and can be treated more effectively. Advancements in research and prosthetics have allowed even our words to have changed from being "disabled" to simply being "differently abled." As these hospitals began to close better options became available.

In 1984 Susan went to live in the private home of Diane Fedus in Colchester, where she spent most of her adult years in a very happy and loving environment. Diane treated Susan like a member of her own family. She took Susan on some beautiful vacations and took her to church on Sundays, introducing her to Jesus and to the song "Amazing Grace," which Susan learned from beginning to end and would proudly stand and sing it beautifully. She especially enjoyed going to the ARC Day Care Program(s) on Sachem Street in Norwich.

Unfortunately, in 1998 Diane could no longer physically care for Susan. After placement in a few private homes that were not befitting to Susan's health and happiness, and in need of constant care, she was moved to her final home at the Orchard Grove Specialty Care and Rehabilitation Center in Uncasville. It has been a joy to witness the many people that Susan's life has touched over the years.

Susan's family would especially like to thank Hospice for their help and compassion; Orchard Grove's administrator and present staff for going above and beyond in making her as comfortable as possible during this last year, RN Rochelle, who cared for her so lovingly; Dr. Terrence Navin and RN Barbara of the New London Wound Care Center, State of Connecticut care manager Pam Lewis, who love Susan; and the WW Backus Hospital staff and hospitalist's doctors in the ER, CCU, ICU and E3 and palliative care departments; "Suzanne" for all of the help and compassion she provided throughout this sad time.

Susan will be missed...yet she will always be remembered for her strength of endurance, kind and loving nature, sense of humor and for the young girl and woman that she grew to be.

She is survived by her sister, Carol (Johnson) Nolan of Albuquerque, N.M., and her nephew, Mark Nolan of South Carolina and Edna-Lynn Nolan of Georgia and Patricia Rajala of Albuquerque, N.M.; by her stepsister Theresa (Terri) Homiski of Norwich and stepbrother Len Cormier of Beverly Hills, Fla.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, Aug. 25, at Christ Episcopal Church in Norwich. Burial followed in Maplewood Cemetery.

The Church and Allen Funeral Home, 136 Sachem St. Norwich, is entrusted with arrangements. To leave a message of condolence for Susan's family, visit her memorial at churchandallen.com.

Obituaries continued

Portland

Mary Young

Mary “Betty” (Conklin) Young, 88, of Ivoryton, formerly of Portland and Middletown, beloved wife of Mark Young, passed away peacefully with family at her side, Monday, Aug. 17, at Middlesex Health Care Center.

Betty was born in Middletown, the only daughter of the late Roland and Mary (Ahmuty) Conklin Sr. Growing up, Betty graduated from Portland High School and worked for her father at Conklin’s Pharmacy on Main Street in Portland. Oh what a grand time she had working at the Pharmacy! She was a true “Portland Girl.”

After graduating from PHS, she was employed by CL&P as a switchboard operator, a job which she loved. While she worked for CL&P she met and married the love of her life, Mark.

Betty is survived by her sons David (Linda) of Wareham, Mass., and Douglas (Laura) of Ivoryton, with whom she made her home; brothers John Conklin of Sun City, Ariz., and William Conklin of South Glastonbury; and four loving grandchildren, Christian (Jill) Young, Jenna (Kate) Strong, Alex Young and Mark Young. She is also survived by sister-in-law Elizabeth Conklin of Westminster, Md.; nieces Charlene (Scott) Yinger of Westminster, Md., and Victoria (Mark) Brown of Amston; and nephews Michael Conklin of Gettysburg, Pa., and Timothy (Carol) Conklin of Old Saybrook. Betty will be greatly missed by her special cousin, Charlotte “Sissy” Anderson.

Betty was a very special sister, mom, grandmother, aunt, great aunt and cousin to her family.

Besides her husband Mark, she was predeceased by her brother, Roland “Bob” Conklin Jr., and her cousin, William Pringle.

The family would like to express their gratitude to all the staff of MHCC for the kindness shown to Betty.

A memorial Mass was held Saturday, Aug. 22, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Middletown.

Biega Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Andover

Malvin Desilets

Malvin Desilets, 75, of Tolland, passed away at home Monday, Aug. 24. He was the son of the late Irene and Paul Desilets of Andover.

He leaves behind his loving wife of 51+ years, Roberta (Bobbie); three children, James and William Desilets of Tolland and Tammie Foster and husband Shon of Amston; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Butch was a loving husband, father and grandfather, who enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He worked for Manchester Sand and Gravel for 31 years. Butch enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, waterskiing and listening to the ocean waves at Cape Cod while watching sunsets. He loved watching UConn women’s basketball games with his wife Bobbie. Butch was an assistant Boy Scout leader and Little League coach. He will be greatly missed by all.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, Aug. 29, at 10 a.m., at Saint Mathews Church in Tolland.

East Hampton

Ann Margaret Breda

Ann Breda, 84, formerly of East Hampton, passed away at The Springs skilled nursing facility in Sarasota, Fla. Born in Norwich, she was the daughter of the late Martha (Schultz) Sweet and Charles Herbert Sweet of Oakdale. She was a graduate of Norwich Free Academy.

Ann was a registered nurse from the mid-1950s to the late 1970s at Backus Hospital, Middlesex Memorial Hospital and several convalescent homes. She was married to William Breda March 7, 1953, in Norwich and raised her family in East Hampton.

Ann is survived by her husband William Breda of Sarasota, Fla., and her four children, Valerie Breda Hornat and her husband Peter of Glastonbury; William Breda Jr. and his wife Lyn of Sarasota; Crystal Andruskewicz of Oakdale; and Kathryn Breda Hornat and her husband Tom of Groton. She is also survived by seven grandchildren, Brian (and wife Sara) and Robert Andruskewicz ; Alexander and Peter Hornat; Ashley and Kelsey Breda and Christopher Hornat, and her dearest friend, Sheila Ceder.

A Christian celebration of life service will be held at Ann’s homestead at Laurel Lock Campground in Oakdale Sunday, Sept. 6, at 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in loving memory to Tidewell Hospice, Philanthropy Department, 5955 Rand Boulevard, Sarasota, FL 34238.