

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Shedding Some Light... Under the watchful eye of Santa Claus, Makenzie Burke, 5, flipped the switch to illuminate the towering evergreen tree in front of Brownstone School during the Portland Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Sunday evening. See related story on page 23.

Belltown-Portland Sewer Plan Backed Up

by Elizabeth Regan

A plan to build a sewer pipeline that would connect St. Clements Castle and Marina in Portland to the East Hampton wastewater treatment plant appears backed up.

There has been little movement on a proposal floated one year ago for the banquet facility to cover the cost of construction for a pressurized line that would be able to carry 200,000 gallons of flow per day.

Project engineer for St. Clements, Christopher B. Wester of Weston & Sampson, Inc., said last December that the pump station and forced main would cost approximately \$7 million to build.

Portland Public Works Director Richard Kelsey said on Tuesday that St. Clements would pay, "directly or indirectly," all capital costs associated with design and construction of the forced main.

The plan would require the town of Portland to own, operate and maintain the sewage forced main from the point where it exits the St. Clements property until it arrives at the manhole in front of the East Hampton treatment plant.

Kelsey said St. Clements would pay Portland to use the main and Portland would, in turn, pay East Hampton.

A draft "sewerage transit and disposal" agreement between Portland and East Hampton has been going back and forth between the two towns for a year. It is largely being handled by the public works department in Portland and the Water Pollution Control Authority in East Hampton, according to officials.

A request by the *Rivereast* to speak with a representative of St. Clements was not granted.

St. Clements' proposal to find an outlet for its wastewater is key to expansion plans outlined in a vague narrative of improvements presented by St. Clements President Daniel J. Loos to the Planning and Zoning Commission on Sept. 15.

Development proposals have been in front of the Portland Planning and Zoning Commission in one form or another for almost 15 years. A 2002 special permit and a subsequent five-year extension led to the 2012 authorization of an 80-room inn and helicopter pad on the northern portion of the property.

In addition to the 80-room hotel, the newest outline of "potential buildout" at St. Clements Inc. includes a 250-unit assisted living facility west of the existing castle and a 140-unit extended stay facility overlooking the marina. It also described a 500-foot dock along the river.

The 2012 permit modification includes a prohibition against any more than six extended-stay rooms, which must be confined to the penthouse level of the hotel. It also specifies that "these rooms are for inn guests and are not be converted or presented as residential dwelling units for rental, sale or lease."

That permit modification is good until 2017. Deviations from the plan would require St. Clements to return to the Planning and Zoning Commission to request another modification, according to the land use department.

As a condition of the permit modification, the organization was required to submit a master plan. After being approved for several extensions by the commission, the organization now has until September 2017 to provide the detailed document.

See Sewer Plan page 2

RHAM Volleyball, Cross Country Bring Home the Gold

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Two athletic teams at RHAM High School have much to celebrate this holiday season, as both the girls' volleyball and cross country teams had championship seasons.

The volleyball team capped off their season by winning the Class L Championship game against Farmington High School Nov. 19. The team won 3-1 (25-19, 23-25, 25-18, 25-23) and Coach Tim Guernsey shared this week he was "very proud" of the girls and all they accomplished.

"We were 25-1 on the season," he explained. "We lost to Farmington in the regular season and then beat them in our League Final (CCC Final) and again in the Class L State Championship game. This was a special group of girls that worked hard the entire season, were positive teammates who truly cared for each other, and brought into their daily concept approaching each day, each game and each ball one at a

time."

Guernsey said the reason for the team's success came down to hard work, saying, "We worked extremely hard each and every day.

"I think each member of this team contributed the entire season," he added. "We have some extremely talented kids in this program and each one of them contributes in some way, shape or form each and every day. In order to have this type of success you need each person in this program doing their part and these kids truly buy into this philosophy; no one person is greater or more important than the team and this program."

Guernsey also spoke to the seniors on the team – Lauren Delissio, Lauren Hentschel, Sydney Masna, Jennifer Hallback and Claire Russo – sharing, "The seniors did a great job keeping this group together. The senior class left a huge mark on this program winning our

sixth state title as a program. I wish them the best of luck in their future and realize this is only the beginning of great things to come."

Russo shared her thoughts on the team's win this week, saying, "I'm very proud of how our team was able to focus on each day and each practice as it came. We worried about what we could control which allowed us to play more cohesively. It's a great feeling knowing that all of our hard work payed off in the end."

Junior Anna Barry also spoke to the team's success, saying that winning the championship game "felt amazing. It was like nothing I've ever felt. We really worked together well and played for each other. We took it one point at a time, which is something our coach had said to us throughout the season. Overall it was a great win."

* * *

As for the girls' cross country team, they

came out on top following the Class MM Championship race Oct. 29.

Head coach Dan Martin and assistant coach Kathleen Gavin said they were "incredibly proud" of what the girls accomplished and were "honored" to be their coaches.

Martin shared in a statement, "Our entire season was focused on this one race, knowing we had a legitimate chance of winning this year. Both Avon and Guilford [who earned second and third place, respectively] have very talented teams and our girls knew they needed to run personal bests in order to win."

And that's exactly what several of the runners did.

Martin explained runners Libby Walker, Brooke Almeida and Abby Potticary set the pace all season for the other girls to key off of, "and once again they did a fantastic job lead-

See Volleyball page 2

Sewer Plan cont. from Front Page

The man behind the thriving banquet facility is Edward Doherty. He is chairman of the Roncalli Institute, a nonprofit organization created to address the health and welfare of elderly people. Numerous nonprofit entities and trusts, as well as the for-profit St. Clements banquet facility, exist under the umbrella of the Roncalli Institute.

Doherty said in an interview at the banquet facility that he was trained at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell. Since then, his focus has been helping people who are homeless, elderly or terminally ill.

“When this one makes money, it makes money for charity,” he said of St. Clements.

Doherty’s residence, a 1928 riverside estate in Middle Haddam owned by the Edward Carney Doherty Trust, is currently on the real estate market for \$2.2 million. The price is down from \$2.5 million when it was first listed more than four months ago, according to [Realtor.com](#).

The lavish English Manor on 4.7 acres has seven bedrooms and 3.2 bathrooms. Photos included in the real estate listing show a 6,027-square-foot interior that includes massive, airy rooms dominated by bricks and wooden moldings filled with ornate antiques.

The home was formerly owned by Wayne Rand and Maria Foss-Rand, according to the East Hampton assessor’s database. They purchased it for \$900,000 in 2003 and sold it to Doherty for \$2.23 million in 2007.

In January of this year, Doherty bought an 18-acre property in Middle Haddam for \$380,000 through the Edward C. Doherty Trust, the assessor’s database said. It was sold for \$1 to the Saint Clements Equestrian Estate LLC in August.

The Saint Clements Equestrian Estate LLC is owned by the Edward Carney Doherty Trust and was registered in July, according to the business registry maintained by the secretary of the state. The listed agent for the limited liability corporation is Kenneth R. Slater, Jr. of Halloran and Sage LLP.

Slater is also a town attorney for East Hampton. Public Utilities Administrator Tim Smith said Thursday morning that Slater has been representing the Water Pollution Control Authority in its negotiations with Portland on the sewer agreement.

According to a *Hartford Courant* article from 2012, Slater represented the Roncalli Institute in a controversy involving the abandoned Nike Missile property in Cromwell.

Slater, when reached by phone Thursday morning, confirmed he represents the town of East Hampton and the Water Pollution Control Authority.

He also confirmed he represents Doherty’s interest in the 9 Middle Haddam Rd. property and that he was the Roncalli Institute’s lawyer in 2012 as reported by the *Courant*.

Slater emphasized the sewer transit agreement is between the towns of East Hampton and Portland.

“I don’t represent Portland,” he said. He added that St. Clements is “not a party to the contract.”

However, the draft sewer transit agreement was initially drafted by engineers from Weston and Sampson for St. Clements. It was presented to the Portland Board of Selectmen on Dec. 2, 2015, by the engineers and a representative from St. Clements. The proposed contract was given to the Board of Selectmen for the town to use in its negotiations with East Hampton.

The Portland selectmen serve as the town’s water and sewer authority.

Slater said he “wasn’t involved in presenting the contract to anybody.”

He said no parties have expressed concerns about a conflict. “If St. Clements were directly involved, we would have to look at it,” he said.

East Hampton Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said he was unaware that Slater was representing the Water Pollution Control Authority. He denied having oversight over the authority, which governs the Joint Facilities Water Pollution Control plant serving East Hampton and Colchester, as well as parts of Marlborough, Hebron and Lebanon.

The plant is in East Hampton on Gildersleeve Drive.

When asked who has ultimate accountability in this matter, Maniscalco said it would be up to the Water Pollution Control Authority to determine if it felt there was a conflict.

Doherty’s 2,512-square-foot historic farmhouse on the 9 Middle Haddam Rd. property is on the National Register of Historic Places but does not fall inside the Middle Haddam Historic District. That means the house has federal protections from demolition but that changes to the structure are not regulated by the local historic district’s guidelines.

Building plans prepared by Fellner Associates Architects of East Haddam for the Edward Carney Doherty Trust call for the renovation of the house and the addition of a two-story fam-

ily room, a foyer, a covered porch and a garage.

Building, Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DiCarli said a site plan has been approved but the building plans are still being reviewed by Building Official Glen LeConche.

The property is zoned residential.

The site plan includes three proposed wells that DiCarli said are for the geothermal heating and cooling system referenced in the design.

The property’s file included a permit for the installation of three four-foot electrical conduits 30 feet under the ground on the site’s “driveway.”

Driveways emptying onto town roads must be approved by the public works department, according to town regulations. They cannot be more than 20 feet wide.

Public Works Director Dean Michelson said Tuesday that the driveway was not approved because it exceeded the allowable width by eight feet.

The new “driveway” was evident from the other side of the property this week. A small apron on Oakum Dock Road was paved while the rest of the visible path was unpaved. A chain was suspended across the entrance and signs indicating video surveillance could be seen on the property.

Michelson said a certified letter was sent to the owners but there has been no response.

He did not know when the certified letter was sent and could not procure the permit application or the letter. His executive assistant the next day asked that the request for public records be made in writing. The department’s response to the *Rivereast’s* Freedom of Information request had not been received as of press time.

Multiple officials have said St. Clements representatives have talked about using the renovated home and possibly others as cottages for bridal parties.

Meanwhile, with the details of the banquet facility’s large-scale development plans still not ready for public consumption, an Aug. 11 letter from St. Clements President Daniel J. Loos to the Portland Planning and Zoning Commission described wastewater disposal – “whether by subsurface disposal or connection to a local treatment system” – as “the major challenge” delaying further action.

Two agreements related to the proposed sewer pipeline are still in draft form. One is between Portland and the East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority to formalize details

related to the point of connection, amount of flow, discharge fees, and obligations of each town. Kelsey said the other agreement is between Portland and the St. Clements organization on issues related to the design of the forced main and payment, among other things.

“We’ve been back and forth and we’re trying to get this thing finalized,” he said.

Kelsey explained one point of contention between the two towns involved construction of a separate forced main to be used for a future treatment disposal facility in East Hampton. “I think we’ve gotten beyond that,” he said.

Tim Smith, the public utilities administrator for the joint wastewater treatment facility owned by East Hampton and Colchester, said Wednesday that discussions on the pipeline are ongoing.

Smith said Kelsey has suggested a single pipeline setup that might work toward East Hampton’s future goals, but the details have not yet been submitted to the Water Pollution Control Authority.

The second main being pushed for by East Hampton would facilitate the construction of a water treatment facility on Oakum Dock Road, if and when East Hampton decides to establish a public water system. Taxpayers voted down a move to create such a system in 2007.

The town currently owns a well field on Oakum Dock Road.

The main would allow for the discharge of wastewater from a new water treatment facility into the sewer line for delivery to the Joint Facilities plant, Smith explained. He said it would take at least five years for a public water supply to become a reality – and possibly much longer.

Another sticking point had been Portland’s initial request to be granted membership to the Joint Facilities Committee.

Kelsey said negotiations have resulted in consensus that Portland “would not be a member,” and added that Portland and East Hampton are “very close” to a signed agreement.

But don’t forget: Portland is also negotiating with St. Clements.

“We’re waiting a little bit to see where [St. Clements] wants to go,” Kelsey said.

Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said Tuesday she has asked the town attorney not to move forward on an agreement with the East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority until “we get specifics on what St. Clements will be doing.”



Members of the RHAM girls’ volleyball team, along with coach Tim Guernsey, are all smiles as they hold their championship plaque, earned after they capped their 25-1 season by beating Farmington High School – the only team they lost to during the regular season – for the Class L state title.

Volleyball cont. from Front Page

ing them through the first mile [of the championship race] in position and under control.”

Martin added runners Jules Turo and Reileigh Fleher understood how important it was for them to stick together and keep the gap between the number three runner as small as possible.

“These two have done this for the past three seasons together and it is incredible to watch how well they key off one another which allowed both of them to have breakout races.”

Turo and Fleher finished the 5K race in

21:47 and 22:01.

Meanwhile, Walker, Almeida and Potticary ran the race in 20:31, 20:38 and 21:02, respectively, with Walker finishing fourth overall and Almeida finishing eighth. Freshman runner Jackie Lage and senior Olivia Folkes also ran their best times during the race, at 22:52 and 23:24, respectively.

Martin concluded he and Gavin “cannot emphasize enough how proud we are of this team. They truly are a special group of girls to us.”

Marlborough Winery Plans to Open in Spring

by Julianna Roche

If it weren't for wild mushrooms, Gary Crump and his wife Caroline may have never stumbled upon the 303 South Main St. property they purchased last November.

Nearly a year later, stepping into the wide open art-filled and sun-drenched tasting room at Chateau Gary Lee, it's hard to imagine that Marlborough's new winery (whose doors are set to open to the public this spring) was once home to the Marlborough Moose Lodge, which disbanded in August 2014 likely due to lack of membership.

"It doesn't look the Moose anymore," Crump laughed, "but we've had to do a lot of work to it."

Before the lodge disbanded, the town had leased the smaller than regulation-sized soccer and baseball fields sitting behind the building, and held a public forum regarding the property hoping to buy it. In May 2015, the town made two offers for the lodge, both somewhere between \$175,000 and \$200,000, but they were ultimately rejected.

Last November, according to Crump, he and his wife happened to be picking wild mushrooms in the woods nearby when he noticed the property's for sale sign as they were about to leave. Though Moose International was originally asking \$425,000 for the property (it was assessed at \$235,810 and appraised at \$338,300 in 2012), Crump was able to secure it for \$250,000.

The self-declared "grandfather of wine," Crump is no stranger to the wine business. He is self-taught and also the former co-owner of Priam Vineyards in Colchester, which he opened with his then-wife Gloria Priam in 1998.

"[At the time] we had made the decision to make wineries viable in the state, and we have,"

he said, adding that when he "first started [with Priam], we had five rocking chairs on the front porch and you'd just be hoping somebody would come in."

Since Priam opened nearly 20 years ago, though, the wine industry has "exploded," Crump continued – which is why he has confidence that Chateau Gary Lee will do well in Marlborough.

"Priam will do just fine; we will do just fine," he said. "If there were 20 more wineries five miles from here, they'd all do just fine because people wouldn't spend as much money at the package store... they'd spend more locally."

The 5,225-square-foot building was constructed in 1955 and sits on 19.5 acres of land, which include a one-story former lodge building, a pavilion and the two fields out back. Nine acres of the property are wetlands.

The building's interior – which, when it was the Moose Lodge, was dark and smoky, Crump said – now boasts brightly-lit rooms including a lounge, dining area, full kitchen and a tasting room with a bar.

The pavilion and fields in back, Crump said, will be used for concerts or as event space, and they are in the midst of building both an indoor and outdoor patio. Once more brush is cleared off the property, even more vines will be planted.

While the vines currently growing on the property are still "two summers out" from being ready, Crump said they've been growing vines on another eight acres of land which they own out of town – giving them the ability to serve up their own wines when the winery opens in April or May.

"People don't realize how much work there is," Crump said, adding, "But once you get the physical stuff done, the upfront stuff [like plant-



Chateau Gary Lee, located at the former Moose Lodge on 303 South Main St, will be open to the public sometime in the spring – likely April or May, according to the winery's owner Gary Crump.

ing the vines] ... everything you do pays you back [for] years and years to come."

Between the two properties, there are four to five different varieties of grapes being grown, which will be used to make Crump's two-time international award-winning Riesling and his Cabernet Sauvignons.

In addition to wine tastings, they also plan to take advantage of the full kitchen and dining area, serving up stone-fired pizzas, burgers and

steaks – "nothing fancy" – to guests.

"I don't want people to have to spend a fortune here," Crump said. "Just come in and enjoy yourselves."

Chateau Gary Lee, located at 303 South Main St., is expected to open in April or May 2017. According to Crump, the winery will be open seasonally, from April-December.

For more details, contact 860-559-1457.

Holiday Fun Comes to Hebron Tomorrow

by Geeta S. Sandberg

For decades, Andy Williams (and others) have been proclaiming in the song of the same name, "It's the most wonderful time of the year!" And several town departments have come together to ensure that holds true with tomorrow's "Hebron Holiday Fun" event.

In the past, Douglas Library Director Amanda Brouwer explained different departments sponsored individual activities this time of the year, but this time around they decided to work together to organize a community-wide event.

"Last year we all had smaller events and people didn't really know about them, so we figured we'd pool our resources and do everything together so it would be a well thought out idea," Brouwer said.

The activities kick off tomorrow, Dec. 10, with a Holiday Family Fun Run sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department on Pendleton Drive. During the race participants

and onlookers are encouraged to wear holiday costumes or ugly sweaters.

Recreation Manager Richard Gadoury said of the event this week, "I just hope to have families come out and have fun and see what the town of Hebron has to offer for holiday events." He added of those interested in running, "just come on down at 12:30 p.m., we'll have a tent sent up and some music, and we'll see who has the best ugly sweater or costume!"

Following the race, attendees can head to the library from 1-3 p.m. where they'll find a hot chocolate station, storytelling, various crafts, a photo booth with props, and holiday favorites performed on piano and violin.

"It's a holiday event – it's not strictly Christmas, it's all holidays and it's all ages," Brouwer explained. "Where we have the music you can just listen, have hot chocolate and mingle; or there's craft for all aged kids; and everyone's got a camera phone so we did up a photo booth

with props to do fun photos."

Jolly Old Saint Nicholas is also expected to make an appearance – not on a sleigh but atop one of the town's firetrucks – and will greet everyone in the library parking lot from 3-4 p.m. and hand out candy canes. He'll then lead the way to the Town Office Gazebo for a tree lighting and carol sing led by the RHAM choral group at 4:30 p.m.

Also during tomorrow's event, a new Hebron T-shirt designed for the Hebron Historical Society will be available for purchase at Old Town Hall along with Hebron mugs and ornaments to help the "Raise the Roof Gang" raise funds to replace the roof on Old Town Hall.

All of the events are free; however, attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items that will be collected and donated to Hebron Interfaith Human Services for local distribution.

Speaking to her hopes for the holiday event,

Brouwer stated, "I just hope that everyone enjoys themselves and starts off the season with the event. We're really excited we could do this all together and we hope to see a lot of people and a lot of families so they can just mingle with each other and just have fun all together."

Brouwer concluded, "We've all been working really hard. The staff is really excited; they've been decorating and everyone's been getting into the mood."

Also speaking to tomorrow's event, Town Manager Andrew Tierney stated, "I'm looking forward to it myself. I plan on attending and it's going to be chilly so that should put everyone in a seasonal, festive mood I hope for the tree lighting."

He added, "I'm looking to have a cheery, happy event; I know it's going to get me in the spirit and hopefully the kids that come and the parents all have a good time."

Two-Car Crash on Route 66, Marlborough

by Julianna Roche

A two-car crash last week sent an Amston woman to the hospital with possible injuries, State Police said.

Police said that at approximately 3:15 p.m. Dec. 1, a Subaru Outback driven by Kimberly L. Childress, 45, of 304 W. Main St., Amston, was exiting Route 2 via the exit 13 ramp, turning onto Route 66 at a green light.

Meanwhile, a Volkswagen Jetta GL driven by Michelle M. Ruty, 22, of 327 Wall St., Hebron, was traveling westbound on Route 66 at the intersection with the exit 13 ramp

when it failed to stop in time for a red light and subsequently collided with the left front door of the Subaru with its front end, according to police.

Childress' vehicle was towed and she was transported by Marlborough EMS to Middlesex Hospital for possible neck and shoulder injuries, while Ruty did not suffer any injuries, police said.

Ruty was found to be at fault for the accident and was issued an infraction for failure to obey a traffic signal.

Portland Lights Up Holiday Season

by Elizabeth Regan

The triumphant finale of the 2016 Portland Holiday Parade on Sunday left almost-6-year-old Makenzie Burke with quite a story to tell her classmates at Valley View School the next morning.

What's the story?

"That I lit up the tree!" she exclaimed.

Makenzie was the lucky winner of a raffle to see who would get to flip "Santa's Special Tree Switch" to illuminate the towering arbor in front of Brownstone Intermediate School. She did the honors under Santa Claus's watchful eye after a countdown led by emcee Dave Kuzminski.

The lights shone in her eyes as she looked out on the sudden gleam of the evergreen. Beyond her, the Portland High School band launched into "O Christmas Tree."

The tree lighting was the culmination of the light parade that brought Claus into town on a truck-pulled sleigh.

"It's great to be back in Portland," Claus said into Kuzminski's microphone after the Jolly Old Elf had distributed candy canes to all the children lining the sidewalk leading up to the school. "I know Portland's on the good list."

He didn't waste the opportunity to remind the kids to be on their best behavior, either.

"Christmas Eve, I'm coming through about midnight Portland time. So make sure you're in bed nice and early. I don't want to have to pass up your house," Claus added.

The boisterous and brightly-lit parade that heralded his arrival was made up of 16 marching units and floats. The soundtrack was a combination of drumbeats from the age-old instruments of the alumni of Portland Fife and Drum

Corps and the newer sounds of Toby Keith's "American Soldier" emanating from a Newington Fire Department truck.

Active fire trucks from the Portland and East Hampton fire departments were joined by out-of-service trucks like Barney Schnurbush's 1979 Chevrolet Mini Pumper and John and Joan Kuzminski's 1974 Maxim.

Boats were featured by the Portland Sea Scouts and Petzold's Marine Center.

The Portland Cub Scouts, Little League and carolers from the Trinity Church Choir were represented as well. One neighborhood piled onto a Crazy Cats float as the all the lights from the combined spectacle brightened the sky.

Also making an appearance was a 1964 V.W. Beetle, outfitted as Herbie the Love Bug, owned by Portland resident Greg Mattesen.

The annual holiday parade, tree lighting and carol sing, which began over a decade ago through the efforts of the Connecticut Cellar Savers, were sponsored this year by the Parks and Recreation Department and Office of Youth Services.

Band director Kristin Novak and choral director Sam Tucker led the high school band and a capella choir in the evening's tree-side music component.

Parks and Recreation Director Sean Dwyer called the event a "community beginning to the holiday season."

He credited the Public Works Department with an increasingly difficult task: "Our grounds crew does a great job setting up the tree, which keeps growing. They couldn't reach the top this year."

Portland Youth Services Director Mary Pont



Boy Scout Troop 2 was among the many groups that participated in the Portland Holiday Parade last weekend. For additional photos, see [facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin](https://www.facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin).

couldn't put a number to the crowd that lined the parade route from the town hall to Free-stone Avenue and up a short section of Main Street – but she called it a "large, large crowd."

Returning parade-goer Laura Murphy, of Portland, said she has been kicking off her holiday season at the event for years.

"It's fun and the kids love it," she said.

Her son Connor, who was set to turn 6 years old the next day, said his favorite part of the event was Santa's arrival and the availability of free candy.

He was joined by his sister Emma, 7, who said she would probably tell Claus she wanted a Nintendo DS, if he happened to ask.

Fat Orange Cat Offers Homegrown Beers in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

East Hampton brewer Mike Klucznik is an accountant by day and a "mad beer scientist" by night.

That's according to his wife, Sheila Mullen, who helped him launch Fat Orange Cat Brew Co. in a barn on their 47 Tartia Road property in August.

For Klucznik, it's gratifying to be drawing a tap after 30 years of pushing a pencil.

"I was always a CPA. I always had bad news for people. It's a very depressing industry," he said last week as he stood behind the wooden bar in his barn-turned-brewery. "Here, everyone's happy and they don't want to leave."

The brewery offers tastings as well as the chance to bring home beer in take-home containers called growlers. Visitors can bring their own growlers or buy them on site. The new year will bring another option as Klucznik and Mullen unveil pop-top "crawlers," which are pre-filled, 32-ounce, sealed aluminum cans that can be sold at the brewery, stores or farmers' markets.

The new business is open Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. through Dec. 31. It will reopen for the 2017 season in March.

Klucznik spent the year and a half before the brewery opened running his beer experiments in the couple's home while Mullen worked on securing federal, state and local approvals needed to open a farm brewery in a residential neighborhood.

Klucznik regularly brought in an informal group of about 80 people – he called them the Founder's Club – to test different variations of yeast, hops and even jalapeños in a makeshift tasting room in the house. When he found a batch the club members really liked, he'd use it as the basis for subtle alterations that could affect the taste in slight or dramatic ways.

One popular India Pale Ale called Courageous Cat spawned two more beers that now comprise the three most popular IPAs in Klucznik's lineup. The 1960 television cartoon series *Courageous Cat and Minute Mouse* gave name to the series of IPAs, which is more bitter than the typical New England IPA.

"I took the same exact beer and I just changed the hops," Klucznik said.

Besides the cat and the mouse from the cartoon, his beers also pay homage to the show's villain, known as The Frog.

He was surprised to see, as he listed the beers fermenting in several tanks last week, that he had unwittingly included each member of the trilogy in the selection that will hit the taps on Dec. 24.

It takes Klucznik three weeks to bring a beer from grain to growler.

There are at least four, and usually more, beers available each week. One that is always on tap is the brewery's flagship taste: Jalapeño Jack.

Named for Klucznik's son upon the twenty-something's graduation from the University of Connecticut, the beer is touted on the brewery's website as "a unique brew with the aroma and flavor of jalapeño without the heat."

Mullen says that's because she painstakingly chops the peppers to remove the spiciness before they soak into the brew: "I sit there for hours, listening to NPR, cutting out all the ribs and all the seeds."

According to Klucznik, the concept is often met with skepticism from those who think the strong jalapeño aroma wafting up from their glass means that the taste will be just as potent.

Not so, he said: "If you tasted it, the expression on your face would be like 'wow, this is cool.'"

Those seeking out the heat will find it in Tequila Sheila, a spicy cream ale made with tequila-infused jalapeños and cherry peppers.

Klucznik said he got his first home brew kit around 15 years ago, but it didn't really catch on with him until his daughter, Karlin, gave him a kit for Christmas several years ago. When he won multiple awards in a home brew competition in Vermont, he realized he might be onto something.

"On the way home, we started talking about some crazy idea about turning our garage – where we park our cars and I have my wood shop, and all kinds of storage upstairs – into a brewery," he said. "One of the toughest parts about this whole process was cleaning out this garage and turning it back into a barn and ultimately to the brewery."

The converted barn has been seeing up to 200 people per weekend, the owners said. About one quarter are repeat customers.

The large clientele, which has exceeded their expectations, led to problems that were good to have but challenging to address. Running out of beer and parking spaces were two of them.



Mike Klucznik, left, and wife Sheila Mullen are the owners of East Hampton's new farm brewery, Fat Orange Cat Brew Co. The unique name for the business came from the couple's beloved late cat, Billy.

It was the couple's neighbors – known in zoning parlance as "abutters" – who resolved the latter problem, at least temporarily.

"After the first week we were really freaking out," Klucznik said. "And the neighbors came to us and said 'we have a solution for you.'"

Additional parking is now available off the road, up against a stone wall across the street. A nearby field can accommodate 40 cars.

The arrangement has allowed the brewery to accommodate all its customers without running afoul of local regulations, Klucznik explained with a grateful nod to the community.

Klucznik and Mullen said they will be developing and seeking approvals for a permanent parking fix on their property this winter.

The problem of running out of beer – as happened with one of Klucznik's newest additions, Billy Beer, in a matter of two and a half hours the first time it was unveiled – is also being addressed. He has added water tanks and ordered a 100-gallon kettle, which will allow him

to make full use of the 31-gallon fermenters in which the batches sit for a week. He can currently only brew enough beer to fill just over 20 gallons of each fermenter.

Until capacity is increased, the owners recommend visitors come out on the earlier side since the most popular beers tend to run out.

In addition to beer lovers, the couple welcomes children and dogs. The farm brewery boasts two goats and five chickens that have become a surprise hit with guests.

Mullen said the quirky combination of beer and beast has been taking off.

"People are posting pictures [on social media] of themselves with our goats all the time," she said. "I guess the goat thing is an attraction."

Fat Orange Cat Brew Co. is open Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. through Dec. 31. It reopens on April 1. The farm brewery can be found online at fatorangecatbrewco.com and on Facebook by searching "fat orange cat brew co."



The town's 17th annual Holiday Homecoming celebration was held last Saturday. Santa rode atop a decorated fire truck and traveled through several neighborhoods before ending his journey at the Town Green. Meanwhile, as a result of a successful "Save the Holiday Arches" sponsorship program, all 13 arches were on full display on the green, along with a Christmas tree decorated with thousands of LED lights.



Colchester Residents Celebrate Holiday Homecoming

by Julianna Roche

Despite the slightly chilly evening Saturday, Dec. 3, Colchester residents didn't shy away from their tradition of ringing in the Christmas season at the 17th annual Holiday Homecoming celebration.

According to Parks and Recreation Manager Cheryl Hancin, the event started as a way for the town "to celebrate Colchester and bring everyone together."

"The entire community has always been supportive from the start and [they] continue to assist at the event," she said. "It is the time of giving and we see that without hesitation from many [community] groups."

This year, as the sun began to set, townspeople started to gather on the Town Green, which quickly packed full of families, children and even dogs – many of whom were sporting charming holiday getups and reindeer ears.

While eagerly awaiting Santa Claus' arrival at 5 p.m., the St. Andrew Young People's Choir performed a sing-along with Christmas carols in the gazebo and residents satisfied their sweet tooth with complimentary cookies and warm refreshments or chatted by the blazing bonfire.

"The event warms your heart and gives you that 'glowy' feel," Hancin said. "You can't buy that."

Soon after the choir's performance came to

an end, sounds of a fire truck's siren were heard in the distance, with the giddy squeals of children growing louder as it drew nearer – just as they might if they heard Santa's sleigh bells flying overhead on Christmas Eve.

Finally – the jolly man in red was in sight, sitting atop a fire truck lit ablaze in thousands of multi-colored lights, making his way around the Town Green.

"The Fire Department gets really excited for the event," Hancin said, adding that this year, the fire truck also traveled through several neighborhoods before heading to the Town Green.

"Families were waiting for Santa to drive by their house... we received great feedback [and] plan to do it in future years," she continued.

Soon after Santa Claus' arrival, First Selectman Art Shilosky led a countdown to the simultaneous lighting of the 13 holiday arches and Christmas tree – a fantastic near 30-foot blue spruce lit up with LED lights (according to Hancin, extra strands of light were added to both the tree and fire truck this year).

The arches however, she added, were the "biggest highlight" of the night.

Back in early October, the Board of Selectmen had approved a "Save the Holiday Arches" sponsorship program, which gave town orga-

nizations and residents the opportunity to "sponsor" an arch.

The arches, which were purchased over 16 years ago, were severely breaking down, with frayed wires, and were in dire need of repair. As there were no funds budgeted to purchase new arches, the Parks and Recreation Department turned to the community for help.

"I was not sure if we were going to pull it off, but it all came together in the end," Hancin said, adding that all 13 arches were sponsored and it was all made possible by the "great community and business support."

The feedback from the community and sponsors was so great, she continued, that the Parks and Rec. Department plan continue selling sponsorships throughout the year for another eight arches which will continue along the pathway with the other arches.

According to Hancin, the Public Works crew was also "ecstatic" as the arches "took much less time to set up and they didn't need to pull out the 'duct tape'."

While the holiday lights and music are always great fun, Hancin said the Holiday Homecoming is even more so meant to "help people get into the real holiday spirit – the spirit of giving and compassion."

And there was giving aplenty – as the Colchester Lions accepted donations of non-perishable food items for the Colchester Food Bank during the event, and the Colchester Police Department asked the community to help them fill an empty cruiser with toys for local youths in need.

"We are all bombarded these days with what is happening around the world, the commercialization of Christmas," Hancin said. "And at times humanity feels broken – so the desire to feel safe and connected where we live is becoming more important."

A variety of community organizations contributed their services at the Holiday Homecoming this year, including the Lions and Leos Clubs, the St. Andrews Choir, Bacon Academy's dance teams, Colchester Civic Orchestra, the police and fire departments, the Historical Society, Subway, Old Bacon Academy and more, according to Hancin.

"We really do have a great community," she said. "I think people really want to connect with those in their neighborhoods and community more than ever as our world is changing [and] I have always been happy to provide a place and experience to make that happen."

Everett Acquitted of RHAM Manslaughter Charges

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The trial for former Hebron resident Elizabeth Everett concluded Thursday when Judge James Graham found her not guilty of three of five charges related to the March 2014 death of RHAM Middle School teacher Dawn Mallory – including the two second-degree manslaughter charges.

On the morning of March 14, 2014, Everett, 52, who now resides in Wethersfield, struck Mallory, 65, of Groton, when she was backing up her sports utility vehicle in the middle school parking lot after dropping her son off at school. As a result of the accident Mallory suffered a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain. She passed away two weeks later, after her family removed her from life support.

On Thursday morning, Graham found Everett not guilty of both second-degree manslaughter with a motor vehicle and second-degree manslaughter due to recklessness with a motor vehicle. Everett was also found not guilty of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

Everett was found to have a blood-alcohol content of 0.07 following the accident; the legal limit for intoxication is 0.08.

According to reports from the *Journal Inquirer*, Everett said during her testimony Tuesday that after her husband got home around 10:45 p.m. the night before the accident, they consumed two bottles of wine together – ap-

proximately five to six glasses each – and stopped drinking around 12:30 a.m. She said she didn't consume any alcohol prior to drinking with her husband, nor the morning of the accident.

Meanwhile, Everett was found guilty Thursday of misconduct with a motor vehicle by criminal negligence and unsafe backing, the two counts she was originally charged with when she was arrested in July 2014, before the charges were upgraded in June of this year to include the two manslaughter charges as well as two counts of illegal operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

However, following a motion made earlier this year by Everett's lawyer to suppress the evidence that Everett had alcohol in her system at the time of the accident, Graham dismissed one of the counts.

Assistant State's Attorney Charles Johnson explained this week, "As a result of that motion the evidence was admissible to most of the counts but not one, so that count did not survive the motion for judgment of acquittal so that count is no longer included."

In explaining the reasoning behind each of his decisions, Graham said Thursday he reached his verdict by "having weighed the evidence," assessed the credibility of the witnesses, and viewed the site of the accident.

He said he considered each count separately, and by doing so determined first that the evidence proved beyond a reasonable doubt that Everett backed up her motor vehicle into Mallory, resulting in her death.

The question then, Graham stated, "is whether the defendant committed one or more of the crimes alleged with a motor vehicle."

Regarding the charge of unsafe backing, Everett said she backed up her vehicle "not with reasonable safety."

As for the charge of misconduct with a motor vehicle due to criminal negligence, Graham explained criminal negligence "concerns the defendant's failure to realize a risk."

And that, he explained, was proven when Everett backed up from the school bus zone at a time when teachers and students would be present "so she failed to recognize a risk."

The location – at the entrance to the school – as well as the time of day should have all caused Everett to act with caution, he said. At the same time Graham explained, "no person walking would expect a car to be backing up out of the bus zone."

As for the two second-degree manslaughter charges, Graham said to be found guilty it would have had to have been proven that Mallory died as a result of Everett being intoxicated, and that "was not done."

"Did [Everett] back up instead of forward because she was intoxicated or because of common impatience as so many have today? Did she hit Mallory because of a blind spot or because alcohol impaired her vision?"

The state, he concluded, "failed to prove without a reasonable doubt that it was the alcohol."

Finally, regarding the last charge of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence, of which Everett was also found not guilty, Graham explained under the subsection of the law which Everett was charged, blood-alcohol level should be submitted for testing only if the defendant requests it and "she did not."

In addition Graham mentioned conflicting statements from witnesses as to whether or not Everett had an aroma of alcohol about her at the time of the accident, as well as conflicting statements from troopers as to whether or not there was a scent of alcohol coming from the coffee cup in her SUV.

Everett's sentencing date is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 28. As per her conditions of release, leading up to her sentence Everett is not allowed to leave the state for more than two weeks at a time. As per Johnson's request Thursday – to which her attorney agreed – it was also added that Everett is not allowed to drive within 10 hours of consuming alcohol.

Andover Holiday Fair Coming

by Geeta S. Sandberg

With Christmas fast approaching it's time to check off the names on that gift list, and there's an upcoming event in town that will help people do exactly that: the Andover Holiday Fair.

Sponsored by the Andover Farmers Market Committee, the fair will take place Saturday, Dec. 17 from 9 a.m.-noon in the town hall community room and features 28 different crafters offering a variety of goods.

Farmers Market Committee Co-Chairwoman Cathy Palazzi shared this week, "It's going to be an awesome fair. It's our first one but we just feel excited about it because we've had such a response from our crafters."

She added, "We were wondering if we'd have enough and it ended up that we had to stop accepting vendors because the room would be too full!"

The types of items that will be available run the gamut. There will be cosmetics, candles and jewelry, organic cleaning products, handmade cards, an artist who paints on rocks and another who sells themed baskets filled with goods. There will be crocheted items such as animals, blankets and scarves; knitted wares like slippers and sweaters; and other soft goods including blankets, bags, and dish mats for dogs and cats.

In addition, representatives from Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple, Mary Kay and Thirty-One will be present selling their products, as will different groups selling edibles, like Western View Farm who will offer up jams, jellies and pickles; and Procter-Hall Farm selling pig

meat.

The Andover Elementary School student council will also be selling baked goods, with the money raised to be put towards the school garden the council maintains.

Meanwhile, the Andover Farmers Market Committee will be selling children's books and coffee during the fair, with plans to donate their profits to the Andover Food Pantry.

Palazzi explained, "Any profits from the books will be given to the Food Pantry because they need money for the holidays, so that's what our plan is so I hope we do relatively well."

This year the pantry is hoping to provide holiday meals to approximately 135 families and is currently collecting donations; distribution for the Christmas meal is Friday, Dec. 16, but even after the holiday, the need for donations remains.

The upcoming holiday fair will also feature a kids' booth "to entertain the little ones in hopes the parents will go shopping," Palazzi stated.

And, despite his busy schedule this time of year, Santa Claus is expected to stop by at 10:30 a.m. to say "hello" to the kids and pass out candy canes.

"I'm getting excited about it," Palazzi said of the fair. "I think everyone should come – there's something for everyone I can tell you right now."

She concluded, "We want people to come and enjoy themselves and have a good time – that's what we're all about."

Colchester Firefighters Battle Gill Street Fire

by Julianna Roche

On Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 23, fire officials battled a small house fire at a single family home on 131 Gill St.

Fire officials said the initial call came in at 10:35 p.m. from a neighbor and friend of the house's resident who reported seeing "a possible furnace problem and smoke coming from the basement."

However, according to Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company Deputy Chief Don Lee, who is also the town's deputy fire marshal, the neighbor called back less than a minute later to report "it had quickly upgraded" to a "house fire originating in the living room."

Firefighters were on scene within five minutes and "had the fire knocked down within 15 minutes," said Fire Marshal Sean Shoe-

maker, adding it was "a very quick knock-down."

According to Shoemaker, officials are deeming the cause of the fire to be electrical stemming from problems with wiring in the floor.

Though the majority of the damage was in the living room, Lee said there was also "extensive and smoke damage throughout the whole building."

Only one person resided in the home, Shoemaker said, but there were no reported injuries as he was not home at the time the fire started.

Mutual aid was provided by East Hampton, East Haddam, Hebron, Marlborough, Salem, and Bozrah, with Yantic's rapid intervention team also assisting on scene.

East Hampton Police News

11/7: Three juveniles (two 13-year-olds and one 14-year-old) of East Hampton were each issued summons, East Hampton Police said. Two of the juveniles were charged with sixth-degree larceny and criminal mischief. The other juvenile was charged with criminal liability for criminal mischief.

11/19: After an investigation into a three-car motor vehicle accident in front of 97 Middletown Ave., Austin Reed Wellman, 20, of 131 Hog Hill Rd., was issued a summons for following too close, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating an uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

11/20: Brendan J. Cusack, 27, of 55 Rogers Rd., Griswold, was issued a summons for traveling unreasonably fast and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, police said.

11/23: Two juveniles of East Hampton (one 17-year-old and one 14-year-old), were each

issued a summons for shoplifting (sixth-degree larceny).

11/23: Brian Lorentson, 46, of 7 Mill Plain Rd., No. 202, Branford, was arrested and charged with failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police said..

11/25: Teresa Tomasino, 24, of 9 N. Maple St., was issued a summons for improper use of registration, insufficient insurance and operating a motor vehicle while registration is revoked, police said.

11/26: David E. Jurek, 30, of 100 Sunbright Dr., South Meriden, was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to obey a traffic control signal and failure to drive right, police said.

11/29: Michael Joseph Gambardella, 28, of 53 Westbrook Rd., Deep River, was arrested and charged with second-degree reckless endangerment

Colchester Police News

11/30: State Police said Linda Carr, 39, of 10 Main St., Apt. 204, Berlin, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

11/30: State Police said Michael D. Tancredi, 41, of 35 David Dr., was arrested and charged with violation of probation/conditional discharge.

11/30: State Police said at approximately 10:50 a.m., they received a report of a theft from

a construction site on Old Hartford Rd. According to the victim, an unknown person stole his 400-pound orange Mikasa MVH-150 reversible plate compactor sometime between Nov. 27 and Nov. 28.

12/3: State Police said Megan M. Mills, 32, of 92 Lake Hayward Rd., Apt. B, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It took me a little bit to get into it, I think perhaps because Thanksgiving came so early this year, but this week I found myself fully in the Christmas spirit – which means non-stop Christmas music blaring out of my car stereo.

I own several CDs of Christmas music, from Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra to The Carpenters to even Taylor Swift, and while I'll often pop one of those in my stereo during the Christmas season, sometimes there's just no substitute to listening to the variety on the radio, which fortunately has multiple stations turned over to non-stop Christmas tunes.

I have my favorite Christmas songs, as well as songs I frankly don't much care for. (Sorry, I've never really warmed up to "Marshmallow World.") And I enjoy finding out what friends' favorites and least-favorites are.

So, on that note, I was intrigued when I came across a list *Billboard* recently published, of the 10 most downloaded Christmas songs of all time, according to Nielsen, which began tracking downloaded songs in 2003. Now, downloading music is typically a younger person's game, and I freely admit I tend to have older-person tastes when it comes to my Christmas music, so I wasn't sure how much, say, Bing Crosby or Mel Torme would be on the list. But I figured I'd look anyway. And here they are, in order from 10 to 1.

10.) "Last Christmas" by Wham! I'm not surprised this '80s hit made it; it's everywhere this time of year, it seems. Not a bad song either.

9.) "Jingle Bell Rock" by Bobby Helms. Spoiler alert: This ubiquitous 1957 hit is the oldest song you'll see on this list.

8.) "Feliz Navidad" by Jose Feliciano. I don't remember a ton of the Spanish I learned in school, but this 1970 hit ensures I'll always know at least a handful of words.

7.) "Where Are You Christmas?" by Faith Hill. This 2000 song is actually from the soundtrack of the movie version of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

6.) "Christmas Canon" by Trans-Siberian Orchestra. No, this isn't the rock instrumental song you, like me, were probably thinking of when you saw TSO on here. (That's later on.) This is the 1998 song in which the band took a children's choir and gave Christmas lyrics to the classical work "Canon in D Major." Still don't know what I'm talking about? "On this night, on this night, on this Merry Christmas night." Trust me, you've heard it. Probably a lot. It's very peaceful.

5.) "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" by Brenda Lee. This song came out in 1958 and, though you'd never guess it by listening to it, singer Lee was only 13 years old when she recorded this.

4.) "Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber. I'm not familiar in the slightest with this 2011 song. Even when I listened to it for this piece, I didn't recognize hardly any of it. I.....wasn't missing much.

3.) "Christmas Eve (Sarajevo 12/24)" by Trans-Siberian Orchestra. This is likely the song you associate with TSO and Christmas music. It's a rocking instrumental from 1996, that incorporates adaptations of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "Carol of the Bells."

2.) "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" Yep, this song from the recent animated hit *Frozen* doesn't really have anything to do with Christmas, but then, neither does "Baby It's

Cold Outside," the aforementioned "Marshmallow World" or several other songs you hear this time of year.

And the number one most downloaded Christmas song of all time is.....

1.) "All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey. No shock this 1994 song topped the list. It seems to only grow more popular each passing year, and is super catchy.

* * *

The rise in "fake news" has been heavily reported on lately. In the weeks leading up to the election, the sharing of fake news stories particularly spiked. Some credit this with helping Donald Trump win the election, as many of the fake news stories were pro-Trump and/or anti-Clinton, such as "Pope Francis Endorses Trump for President" (except he didn't) or "FBI Agent Suspected in Hillary Email Leaks Found Dead in Murder-Suicide" (that didn't happen either).

The spread of fake news got so bad that, according to a recent Buzzfeed graph, in the final three months before Election Day fake election news stories were being circulated more on Facebook than real news stories from legitimate sources like *The New York Times*, *Washington Post* and NBC News. And many fake news stories are written as if they were real news. Add in talented web designers who know how to make their sites look very professional (to paraphrase Maxwell Smart, if only they used their computing skills for niceness instead of evil), and you've got fake news outlets that too many folks believe are legit.

If fake news influenced the outcome of the election, that's bad enough. But earlier this week, we saw just how out of hand this spread of fake news is getting.

A North Carolina man, Edgar Maddison Welch, was arrested Sunday after he walked into a popular pizza place in Washington, D.C., armed with an AR-15 assault-style rifle and a handgun, and began firing, according to Washington's NBC affiliate Channel 4. Nobody was injured, thankfully, and Welch was arrested and charged with assault with a dangerous weapon.

Why was Welch there? He was investigating a news story he'd read that claimed Hillary Clinton and her presidential campaign chair, John Podesta, were running a child sex ring out of the back of the restaurant.

The story of course wasn't true, and frankly sounds incredibly absurd. That didn't stop Welch from believing it – and I'm sure countless others did as well. A lot of the time, people will believe what they want to believe, and I suspect that was the case here. Should Welch and others like him take the time to verify a story before grabbing a gun and flying off the handle? Of course. If something you read online sounds unbelievable, it may very well be false. Do a simple search of a trusted news outlet to verify it, or simply go to snopes.com (which, contrary to what some think, does not have a liberal bias; it's taken down both liberal and conservative "fake news" over the years).

Ideally, of course, people would stop getting their kicks by getting people to fall for their falsified news stories. This is more than just pulling someone's leg. We're seeing serious consequences of the fake news epidemic. It's time for it to end.

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

Portland

James Emmons Jr.

James Emmons Jr., 47, of Portland passed away unexpectedly Thursday, Nov. 24. Born Dec. 27, 1968, in New London, he is the son of James and Sue Emmons Sr. James lived in Portland for the past 18 years with his wife and daughter.

James is survived by his wife, Laura (King) Emmons; daughter, Kelsey Carabetta and her husband Damon; his grandchildren, Damon Jr. and Aubree; his beloved mother-in-law, Phyllis Bordonaro; a sister, Sebrina Batista; and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Family and friends paid their respects Monday, Dec. 5, in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

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

East Hampton

Nancy B. Schmidt

Nancy B. Schmidt, 77, of Glastonbury, formerly of East Hampton, beloved wife for 56 years of Richard Schmidt, died peacefully at Salmon Brook Center in Glastonbury. Born May 16, 1939, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Michael Brilo.



Nancy was raised in Glastonbury and had lived in East Hampton from 1969 through 2000. She had spent many years working as a CNA in Hospice Care and for the handicapped. Nancy loved her flower gardens that flourished beautifully in her care, along with her love of Burmese cats, the beach, Neil Diamond and her granddog Seven. She and her family spent many vacations in Niantic.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Richard; her sons, Daniel Schmidt of East Hampton, Todd Schmidt and his wife Patti of East Hampton; her sisters, Anne and Helen; granddaughters, Alexa and Lauren; and her precious kitty, Lilly Rose.

She was predeceased by her sons Timothy and Jeffrey, and her sisters Pauline and Doris and her brother Michael.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, Dec. 6, in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial followed in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Nancy's memory to Protectors of Animals, 144 Main St., Unit O, East Hartford, CT 06118.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Cecelia Achsah Rogers

Cecelia Achsah (Marvin) Rogers, 93, lifelong resident of Colchester, widow of the late Carlton, passed away peacefully Sunday morning (December 4, 2016).

Born Nov. 16, 1923 in Colchester, she was one of the nine children of the late Dwight Henry and Celia Achsah (Rathbone) Marvin.

She leaves her son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Teresa; daughter-in-law, Judith; six grandchildren, Dawn, Lisa, Sarah, Jason, Allison and Adam; 11 great-grandchildren; four siblings, Clarence "Bing," Flora, Frances and Reynold; and numerous extended family.

In addition to her beloved husband of 54 years, who predeceased her on April 29, 1999; she was predeceased by her son, William; and four siblings, Dwight "Bumble," Loren, Edith and Carolyn.

Per her wishes, there will be no services and she will be laid to rest privately in the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., Colchester 06415.

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

Portland

Dr. Daniel F.S. Crowther

Dr. Daniel "Pat" Francis Sullivan Crowther, 81, of Portland, passed away Monday, Nov. 28, at his home. He is the husband of Eleanor Crowther, his wife of 54 years.

Born in April 1935 in Fall River, Mass., Pat was the son of the late William Edward Crowther and Mary Augusta Sullivan. He graduated from Phillips Academy Andover in 1953, Harvard University in 1957 (B.S. in geology) and from New York Medical College in 1964.

Pat married Eleanor Olson in 1962 and they raised three children in Portland. He practiced his brand of primary care medicine for 39 years with Middlesex Medical Group in Cromwell.

Pat was an active member of First Congregational Church of Portland for over 40 years and was also a member of First Congregational Church of Nantucket. He loyally sang in the choir of both churches. On Nantucket, Pat annually "walked the plank" as the designated Pirate during The Toy Boat's Pirate and Mermaid Parade.

Pat was a proud American and loyal conservative. He loved dogs, especially poodles, and he and Ellie gave a home to many through Carolina Poodle Rescue. Pat was an accomplished model plane and car enthusiast and toy train aficionado. He was an ardent fan of the UConn Huskies women's basketball team. Pat was a humble, insightful, and intelligent man with a delightfully dry sense of humor.

Dr. Crowther is survived by his children, Lisi Lesch (Bob), Mark Crowther (Diane), Tina Purdy (Bill); six grandchildren: Hanna, Rob, Harry, Izzy, Mary Sullivan and Charlie; and two sisters-in-law, Edith Turkington (Ed) and Elizabeth Olson.

He was predeceased by his older brother William Edward Crowther Jr.

Family and friends are invited to attend his memorial carol service Saturday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m., at the First Congregational Church in Portland. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

Pat loved Christmas and never could pass a Salvation Army kettle without tossing in his spare change. In his memory, feel free to do the same.

Andover

William Ashworth

William "Bill" Ashworth, of Andover, passed away suddenly Friday, Dec. 2, at the age of 56.

He leaves his loving wife, Laurie (Mancini) Ashworth; children, Carly and William Ashworth; sister, Katherine Vinci and her husband Benjamin of Kensington; brother-in-law, William Mancini and his wife Laura Scrivano of Amston; four nephews, Benjamin, Michael, Lucian and Anthony Vinci; a niece (and his goddaughter), Alexa Mancini; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and a host of extended family and friends.

Born in New Britain Sept. 26, 1960, he was the son of the late Cecil and Eleanor (Seagrave) Ashworth and was raised in Kensington. A "Jack-of-all-trades," he truly had zest for life and especially loved the outdoors. His smile and laugh were infectious and will be greatly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

The family received guests Wednesday, Dec. 7, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. There was a time of remembrance during the visitation. Graveside services were observed Thursday, Dec. 8, at the New Hebron Cemetery, Wall Street (Route 316), Hebron.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Portland

Evelyn Muskatallo

Evelyn Fortin Muskatallo, 102, of Portland, passed away Friday, Dec. 2, at Portland Care and Rehab.

Evelyn was born July 17, 1914, to Albertine and Joseph Fortin and is the last of 13 children. She lived most of her life in Portland and loved her family, Jobs Pond, baseball and especially the Boston Red Sox.

She is predeceased by her husband, John, and her sons Norman and infant son David.

She is survived by her son, Ronald J. Muskatallo and wife Jane; grandson Ronald J. Muskatallo II and wife Carla; and great grandchildren John J. Muskatallo and Erin M. Muskatallo. She also leaves many nieces, nephews and friends.

Her funeral will be held Saturday, Dec. 10, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to pay their respects on Saturday morning from 9:45-10:45 a.m., at St. Mary Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Project Healing Waters, P.O. Box 695, LaPlata, MD 20646 (projecthealingwaters.org) or Portland Food Bank CT, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Portland

Lucille C. Paranzino

Lucille C. Paranzino, 87, beloved wife of the late Natale Paranzino, died Monday, Dec. 5, at Portland Care & Rehab. Born Aug. 21, 1929, in Newport, R.I., she was the daughter of the late Salvatore and Rose (Iunta) Carta.

Lucille was a longtime resident of Portland. She was a member of the Farmington Avenue Baptist Church in West Hartford. Lucille worked as a secretary for the Durham school system for many years, from where she retired. She liked to cook, country decorating and reading country magazine. Lucille loved her children and grandchildren dearly. She loved the Lord Jesus "first and foremost" and looked forward to meeting him.

She is survived by her sons, Nicholas Paranzino of Winsted, Peter Paranzino and his wife Mary of Portland, Stephen Paranzino and his wife Bernadette of Middlefield, Andrew Paranzino and his wife Debbi of Colchester; her daughter, Patricia Schiavi and her husband Steven of Hebron; eight grand grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects Saturday, Dec. 10, from noon-2 p.m., and attend her funeral service at 2 p.m., at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

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

Portland

Gail M. Nelson

Gail M. Nelson, 84, of Portland, formerly of Wethersfield, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 29. She was born June 15, 1932, daughter of the late George and Ruth McKinney.

Before her retirement, Gail was an LPN at Hartford Hospital and took great joy in taking care of the newborns in the nursery.

She was predeceased by her husband, Richard C. Nelson Sr., and a brother, George S. McKinney, Jr. She leaves behind her three children: a son, R. Craig Nelson Jr., daughter, Lori Zak and husband Piotr and their son Jesse Zak, and a daughter, Sandra Onderdonk and husband David, along with their two children, Amanda Williams and husband Page, and Jeffrey Onderdonk. Gail also leaves a very special great-granddaughter, Liliana Williams, and a dearly loved dog, Nellie, her constant companion, who was always by her side.

The family would like to thank all the nurses and CNAs at Portland Care & Rehabilitation Center on both the second floor and especially the first floor for their endless support, kindness and assistance.

A private family service is planned.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Shriner's Hospitals for Children at shrinershospitalsforchildren.org or the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at aspc.org.

Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, has been entrusted with her funeral arrangements. To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net

Marlborough

Nancy Jane Carroll Butler

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, Nancy Jane Carroll Butler's soul broke free of her failing body and bounded towards the warm embrace of God. Nancy, who is best known as the founding pastor of Riverfront Family Church, made it her life's mission to bring people closer to God, and in her last few days she felt God telling her that her mission on Earth had been completed.



Nancy grew up in Cazenovia, N.Y. It was there, in her fifth grade Spanish class, that she met Gregory Butler. They dated, got married and had two daughters. After graduating from Duke University, Nancy earned her MBA from the University of Maryland and worked in marketing and Human Resources for a number of years but eventually felt called to plant a new kind of church. She then received an M.Div from Yale University and was ordained in the American Baptist Church prior to founding Riverfront Family Church in Hartford. Nancy's progressive evangelical church – one of the very first evangelical churches in the nation to affirm gay marriages – is truly welcoming to all, and has led many to encounter the love of Christ.

In February 2015, Nancy was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (better known as Lou Gehrig's disease or ALS). As she faced a disease that she knew would end in death, Nancy was an inspiration to her friends, family, and the countless strangers who heard about her story. Her life motto had been "trust Jesus," and once again she did. She preached until her voice failed her, and continued to help guide the church and disciple congregants until her last days. Through the greatest challenge of her lifetime, her faith shined brighter than ever.

Nancy is survived by her husband of 33 years and best friend, Gregory Butler; her daughters, Elizabeth "Liza" Butler Arulampalam (Arunan) and Sarah Butler; grandchildren, Sahana (3), Theeran (2), Nivadita "Nivy" (1) and Dayanand Arulampalam (1); grand-puppies, Max E. Moose Butler and Addison Arulampalam; parents, John Benjamin and Jane Carroll; siblings, Woodruff Carroll, Jennifer Carroll Archie (Timothy), Susanne Carroll Duffy (Brian), Jonathan Carroll (Claudia) and Andrew Carroll; and 14 nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents, nephew and beloved dogs Kaylee and the inspiration behind the church mascot, Daisy Doodle.

She loved dogs, teaching kids about Jesus, vacationing in Ocean City, N.J., political humor, reading books, listening to music, working with refugees and most of all her family. Her laugh was infectious, her enthusiasm for life undeniable, and anyone who spent five minutes with her came away liking her.

As ALS stole her physical capabilities one by one, she was relegated first to a wheelchair and then largely to her bed. On the wall that faced her, she painted the names of many of her heroes along with the passage from Hebrews: "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." In the way that Nancy ran her race, and the way she finished it Nancy became a hero to so many others.

The funeral service will be Saturday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m., at Central Baptist Church, 457 Main St., Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Riverfront Family Church online at riverfront.church or by mail to 341 E. Center St., No. 123, Manchester, CT 06040.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.