

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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The late Lloyd Glasson, of Portland and New York City, was a figure sculptor and University of Hartford professor whose widely viewed statues sit atop the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch in Hartford's Bushnell Park. Here, he looks into the sculpted face of his wife, Cathy. It was his last major work.

## Preserving the Works of Portland Sculptor

by Elizabeth Regan

Sculptor Lloyd Glasson's last major work was a portrait of his wife of 47 years.

When he died in 2014 at the age of 83, Cathy Glasson didn't know what to do with the sculpture of her face that had not yet been cast in bronze. Lloyd had put down a deposit at the foundry, but that was as far as it got.

"I went ahead and had them complete it because I thought that was his intention. Everything I've done was based on what he intended," Cathy said earlier this month, from the secluded summer home the couple shared in Portland.

It took almost five decades for her to agree to sit for a sculpture because she'd never been able to keep a straight face long enough for her husband to capture her image. Only the far-sightedness that comes with age finally made it possible for her to withstand his close scrutiny without breaking into laughter.

"And less than a year later, he was gone," she said.

Lloyd's illness, which lasted a month from the first signs something was wrong to his final breath, left little time for planning.

In fact, he'd given her only one instruction from his deathbed at Hartford Hospital: to donate dozens of miniature statues to help raise money for the nursing profession he had immortalized in bronze years before.

By bestowing dozens of 10-inch replicas of

the archangels Gabriel and Raphael to Hartford Hospital, Glasson forged a philanthropic connection between two of his most locally-significant works.

The replicas are smaller versions of the eight-foot statues he sculpted 30 years ago to sit atop the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch in Hartford's Bushnell Park. The arch, made of Portland Brownstone, is a 130-year-old Civil War memorial restored for \$1.5 million in 1986 by the Bushnell Park Foundation. Gabriel plays two trumpets, which Glasson has said symbolizes the announcement of the final judgment. The other angel represents resurrection through the clashing of cymbals.

The artist's gift in support of nursing education builds on a foundation laid in 2000 when the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association commissioned Lloyd to create a statue for them. "The Caregiver" is a six-foot-tall nursing student with a crisp collar and cap who reaches out in mid-stride from her spot in the hospital lobby.

Cathy said Lloyd first shared his idea to donate the 10-inch replicas of the archangels when a nursing supervisor came to visit him in his hospital room. He wanted to recognize the care he'd received, according to Cathy, and to acknowledge the strong rapport he'd had with the

See Portland Sculptor Page 2

## Hebron Fair Returns Next Week

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The clinking of metal poles being set up for tent frames; the hum of lawn mowers and weed-wackers; the thud of hammers; the "beep-beep" of trucks backing up; the echo of voices yelling directions – these were some of the sounds that could be heard at the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds Wednesday, as preparations for this year's fair kick into high gear.

The 46th annual Hebron Harvest Fair takes place next Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 8-11. And once that opening day arrives, the above sounds will be replaced with laughter and the buzz of people talking; vendors beckoning fairgoers to fill their stomachs with their food; carnies enticing visitors to play their games at the thought of giant stuffed toys; screaming engines from the mechanical pulls; a variety of music; and the neighing and braying and bleating and clucking of animals.

"Everything's good," fair superintendent Mike Tarbell shared of the preparations this week. "There's always something [left to do] – it just comes down to, when it's time to open we open, and what's left we deal with. But we're in good shape."

Tarbell shared there isn't anything new this year, explaining instead that aspects already in place – such as the rodeo that was introduced last year – are being expanded.

"We've expanded on the rodeo; we have a professional group coming in on Friday and we

expect around 110 professional barrel horses," he said. "They were excited with our facility last year and they're expanding on it this year."

In addition, Tarbell said of the beer and wine garden, which was also added in 2015, "we've expanded a little bit, and our concessions are full – we're in pretty good shape this year."

Also taking place Wednesday was a safety meeting for the upcoming event that brought together representatives from the state police; key people related to the fair including Tarbell and individuals responsible for concessions, parking, and entertainment; individuals from the fire department; and a special event security company, USA Security.

Tarbell said there was "absolutely" a lot that went into ensuring the event is not only fun, but safe, and shared the Lions spent \$130,000 on state police and USA Security alone – "just that aspect. I don't think people understand that."

Overall, he said, "the fair costs hundreds of thousands of dollars – that's no exaggeration. ... This is quite an endeavor and it would not be possible without the help of local organizations."

Tarbell said it was important to mention none of the members of the Hebron Lions Club are paid for the work they put in to make the fair a success each year.

"We donate all our time and except for what

See Hebron Fair Page 2



These food trucks may look empty now, but prepare your taste buds, because the Hebron Harvest Fair makes its return for the 46th year next Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 8-11. And, along with it, fairgoers can expect an assortment of food sure to please everyone, from fair classics like fried dough and hot dogs to mouth-watering options such as lobster rolls, apple crumble with ice cream, and grilled cheese sandwiches.

**Portland Sculptor cont. from Front Page**

nurses since he sculpted their icon over a decade prior.

The “Angels of Peace” statuettes had already been cast – complete with delicate trumpets produced by Precision Plastic Products of Portland – and mounted on wooden bases. Before he got sick, he’d intended to sell them.

“I found 40 pairs that he had created,” Cathy said.

The sets are being offered for a minimum donation of \$500 toward nursing education at Hartford Hospital.

Lloyd Glasson’s career in clay began in Chicago in the early 1950s when a professor asked him what he could do for 24 hours without getting tired, Cathy said. That’s when the dispirited philosophy student realized molding clay while studying kept him alert even in the face of the driest text.

A 1995 interview in the *Hartford Courant* described how Lloyd dropped out of Southern Illinois University with the intention of enrolling in the Art Institute of Chicago, but was promptly drafted into the United States Army. He served one tour in Korea during his two-year military stint.

According to Cathy, his wartime experience had a profound impact on his art.

“Being in a war zone, he saw so much death and destruction that he made a conscious decision to create things rather than destroy,” she said.

Lloyd earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Art Institute of Chicago and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Tulane University upon his return, then took a job affixing glass eyes to mannequins in New York City. He had worked up to sculpting the mannequins themselves before he left for a job as an exhibits designer at the Newark Museum in Newark, N.J., Cathy said.

It was around that time he began taking on students in the full-floor, lower Manhattan loft he rented for \$60 a month from the pawn shop owner on the ground level.

“He got a handful of students and one way or another, between the jobs and the teaching on the side, he made a living,” Cathy said.

He came to the University of Hartford in 1964 as a sculpture professor, where he remained until 2009. Also in the mid-1960s, Lloyd – who maintained a loft in Manhattan – met Cathy in New York, and they later wed.

In 1970, the couple bought their house in Portland atop Reservoir Creek.

The remote property, teeming with woodchucks and red squirrels, is reachable by car via a tight, winding driveway with a sheer dropoff on one side and then, on foot, by a wooden bridge to the front deck.

Cathy is surrounded both by nature and her husband’s work.

“I live with beautiful things. He wanted to create things after being in the war, and so I live with all those beautiful creations,” she said.

The sculptures throughout the Bridge House include that last plaster casting of Cathy’s face, intermingled with female figures of all body types in positions ranging from laid back to regally upright.

Cathy said her husband subscribed to what he called the “ripe tomato” theory of sculpting.

It’s a term evoking something voluptuous and complete, she explained: “The forms are bursting from the inside out.”

She cited Lloyd’s sculpture of a lithe dancer – sitting naked and straight-backed on a high pillow with thighs parted – as his masterpiece. The model, Yoko, was a dancer from the Martha Graham School in New York, with such training and strength that she was able to hold her pose throughout the whole modeling session, according to Cathy.

The sculpture received two gold medals, one in 1986 from the National Academy of Design and one in 1985 from the National Sculpture Society.

Despite the professional accolades, the work created a public furor when it was installed for a show at the Westchester County Courthouse in 2006. As recounted in a *New York Times* article called “Is This Any Way to (Not) Dress for Court?,” a county executive agreed to move it from its space at the base of the courthouse’s main stairway – but he did not remove it completely.

It was a source of amusement shown in a limerick penned by Lloyd and provided to the *Rivereast* by Cathy.

“When a sculpture named Yoko came nude  
Some cheered while others thought her lewd:  
‘Please show us some pity,  
we’re not the big city,

So put her where she’ll barely be viewed.”

Lloyd’s sculptures, in his later years, began to show the growing influence of the American southwest landscape. Cathy described the striated mesas and buttes of Monument Valley as the inspiration for pieces that leaned more toward the textured than the fluid.

But precursors to his later, more rugged work could be seen all along. “Sally” sits, haunted and smooth, on a jagged spire. There’s the liquid, languid “Leda” grasping a swan on a rock outcropping.

Cathy is working now to find the right homes for many of his pieces of art. One gift involved four-foot versions of the angels Lloyd sculpted for the top of the Soldiers and Sailors Arch. Cathy made sure the set, which had been on loan to the University of Hartford, was turned into a permanent gift. She is still figuring out what to do with the other set of four-foot models.

“I just think these are a very important part of Hartford history, Connecticut history,” she said. “I have the last remaining four-foot castings and that’s it. There will never be any more.”

Part of her plan involves the donation of one set of the 10-inch Angels of Peace to the Portland Public Library.

She said she’s been working with First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and Library Director Janet Nocek to figure out how best to showcase the gift. A glass-encased display now holds the statuettes, some news articles, and items relating to Precision Plastic Products, the local company that produced Gabriel’s horns for the statuettes.

While Lloyd was not the type to seek recognition, Cathy said she thinks it’s important to preserve his legacy now.

“After I’m gone, what’s going to happen to these pieces? While I’m alive, I really want to do something to honor him,” Cathy said.

**Hebron Fair cont. from Front Page**

we need to put on the fair the next year, the rest of [the money raised] is donated,” he said. “I think that gets lost sometimes.”

The fair is the Lions’ largest fundraising event and net proceeds are distributed to local and national nonprofit organizations, and are used to fund grants and scholarships.

At next week’s fair, guests can expect to find activities and events to suit every interest, whether it be looking at the prize winning pies and quilts in the arts and crafts tent, checking out the animals in the livestock shows, cheering on the demolition derby, participating in one of the contests like the horseshoe tournament or garbage can pong, or spending the day going on as many midway rides as possible.

If music is the main incentive for attending the fair, there will be live performances each day including ‘70s rock tribute band Vinyl Revolution on Thursday; pop-rock group Venus Mars Project on Friday; country acts Branded Country that Rocks, Houston Bernard Band, and Jessica Lynn on Saturday; and country singer Frankie Justin Lampry Sunday – as well as this year’s main act, the country rock group Parmalee.

Made up of four members – two brothers, a cousin and a longtime friend – Parmalee currently has five songs on Billboard’s Country Airplay chart including the single “Carolina,”

*From the Editor’s Desk***Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

I’ve been sort of taking a break from writing about the presidential race in recent weeks. I’ve made myself pretty clear on these pages where I stand and how I feel, and that hasn’t really changed. If anything, each passing week seems to bring more evidence as to why Donald Trump would be a very bad choice for president. Much of this evidence comes from the mouth of The Donald himself. In a lot of ways, the guy seems to be his own worst enemy – and I hope he continues his “talk first, think later” approach right up until Election Day.

But I have to briefly break my silence to say this:

“Vote for me. What the hell do you have to lose?” is not exactly a great campaign slogan.

\* \* \*

I’m happy to report Marlborough’s own A.J. Pollock is back on a big-league diamond. The 2006 RHAM High School graduate, as you may recall, broke his elbow on the eve of the 2016 season. He had surgery, and began a long rehab process – one that ended last Friday, when A.J. once again took the field for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

A.J. had already been making a name for himself – in fact, he made the National League All-Star team – and he was set to only build upon that success this year. So I’m sure the injury must’ve been devastating for him, especially since he’d already dealt with his share of major injuries in his young career, including breaking that very same elbow in 2010. But, in all the interviews I’d read, he maintained a positive attitude – and vowed to come back this season, if possible.

He worked hard, and after a successful rehab assignment – one that saw him hit over .400, of course – he rejoined the team. Just the fact that he did says a lot about him. After A.J. went down in early April, the Diamondbacks proceeded to have a poor season, one that featured injuries to key players, and just plain disappointing performances by others. When A.J. took the field last Friday, Arizona was a full 20 games under .500, at 54-74. It would’ve been easy for A.J. to take the rest of the season off, rest up, and get ready for next season.

But that’s not A.J.’s style; he wanted to come back. “I didn’t think for a second that I wasn’t going to play this year,” he recently told the sports site *Today’s Knuckleball*. So he worked through the long recovery process and here he is, helping the Diamondbacks win ball games.

He certainly did so on Sunday, when, in just his third game back, he went 3-for-5 with two runs scored and two stolen bases in the D-Backs’ 11-2 rout of the Cincinnati Reds. (On a more personal note, that performance also led me to victory in my fantasy baseball matchup for the week that ended Sunday. I’d drafted A.J. pretty highly back in March –

which is currently number 1. Three of the five songs are also currently on the Billboard Hot 100 list.

Also to be found aplenty at the fair is food, with vendors selling fried dough (basically fried everything, in fact, from Oreos to Twinkies, peanut butter and jelly, pickles and beyond), chicken lollipops, pulled pork sandwiches, baked potatoes, burritos, Thai food, onion blooms, ice cream, apple fritters, cannoli, calzones, lobster rolls, pierogis, hamburgers, hot dogs and more.

When the sounds switch over next week to those that will make up the 46th annual Hebron Harvest Fair, Tarbell, who grew up in town, attended the very first fair and has “seen it change and grow,” said he was looking forward to good weather, and a fair the entire family enjoys.

“I’m looking for everyone to have a good time, and good weather,” he stated.

\* \* \*

The fair takes place next Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 8-11. Hours are: Thursday, 4 p.m.-10:30 p.m.; Friday, noon-midnight; Saturday 9 a.m.-midnight; and Sunday, 9 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Admission is \$12 Thursday and Friday, and \$13 Saturday and Sunday. On Friday, from noon-4 p.m., seniors (age 65 and up) are admitted free.

For more information, visit [hebronharvestfair.org](http://hebronharvestfair.org).

not because he’s a native of *Rivereast*-land, but because he’s simply that good of a player – and had stashed him on my team’s disabled list until he was ready to come back. Hopefully, he’ll help me in this stretch run, as I try to hold on for a playoff spot.)

Hopefully A.J. goes on to have a great last month of the season – and hopefully this is it as far as major injuries for him go. He’s a great guy and has a ton of talent – both offensively and defensively – and deserves to become a superstar in this game.

\* \* \*

Regular readers of the *Rivereast* there’s almost always a good local meal to be found in our towns on the weekends. And I’m not just talking about dining at one of the many fine restaurants in the area; rather, I’m talking about the churches and historical societies and other non-profit groups that regularly host dinners. A quality meal, usually at a price you can’t beat, and often to support a good cause.

Floating across my desk this week was an announcement of a meal in Colchester that, quite frankly, sounds too good to pass up. On Saturday, Sept. 24, Westchester Congregational Church will host what it’s calling an “International Dinner and Silent Movies of Colchester” at the church, which is located on the corner of Route 149 and Cemetery Road, across from the Day Pond State Park sign.

The event will feature food from Poland, Italy and Mexico, along with silent, black-and-white movies of Colchester from the early 1900s.

The menu will include: pierogis, kielbasa and sauerkraut; meat or vegetable lasagna, salad and garlic bread; and Tamale Pie, guacamole dip with corn chips, and flan. There will be an international dessert table to choose from and coffee/tea or punch.

Cost is \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors (65 and over) and \$5.50 for children (12 years and under). All proceeds will go to the church’s general fund.

There will be two seatings – one at 4:30 p.m. and the other at 5:30 p.m. Reservations need to be made by calling the church at 860-267-0480. Leave your name, contact information, the number of reservations needed, and the preferred time.

It sounds like an awesome night. To be honest, the notice had me at “pierogis and kielbasa,” as I love both of those – but it looks like you can’t go wrong with any of the food offered that night. And those historical movies of Colchester sound like they could be very interesting too.

So I definitely recommend checking this meal out. For more information, call the church hall at 860-267-6711 or the parsonage at 860-267-0480.

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See you next week.

# RHAM Superintendent Announces Retirement, Reflects on Tenure

by Geeta S. Sandberg

RHAM Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski, who has helmed the Region 8 district since 2005, recently announced his intent to retire at the end of the 2016-17 school year.

Siminski submitted a letter to the Board of Education Aug. 15, but asked the news be kept quiet until he had the chance to tell teachers in person when they returned to school this week.

Siminski talked about his decision last week, sharing, "It's time to go off and do some other things. I'm looking forward to doing some traveling and spending more time with my grandchildren. ... I'm not saying I'm not going to be active, but I've been working to get some positions on some volunteer boards and will be doing some teaching. So I think those things will keep me off the streets," he laughed.

Siminski said he was also looking forward to a change of pace, and exchanging night meetings for time enjoying the company of his wife.

"I want to have supper at home with my wife," he stated.

In addition, Siminski shared he'd lost some close friends lately, "and it makes you think of your own mortality and what you want to do – that's what really went into it. I've got five lovely grandchildren and I want them to get to know me."

Looking back on his time at RHAM, Siminski said he was proud of the academic achievement in the district as well as those students who were able to receive their diploma through the Adult High School Credit Diploma program, offered through EASTCONN during the evening at the school.

"There's a group of kids I'm especially close to: those who were able to complete their diploma requirements in the evening program," he stated. "These are kids who were potentially

dropouts who would not have their high school diploma, and my personal belief is once they get their diploma so many doors open to them – for example, the Army won't even take you now if you don't have a diploma."

Siminski said he was also proud of the new Inquiry Academy, which is getting underway this year and offers personalized learning to a group of seventh graders who applied to participate; as well as the district's per pupil expenditure.

"I'm very proud of that; we've been able to increase achievement in a very economic way."

He added the district was also able to "move forward through some pretty difficult times [around 2009-2012] when things were really in a mess economically."

"We were able to move on and do some enhanced programming and increase offerings and really make the transition smoothly into technology."

He elaborated in his letter to the board, saying, "I am very proud of the fact that RHAM High School is called one of the thousand best high schools in the nation, by the recognition of the achievement of our students both in the number of students taking the advanced placement tests and their scores on tests, the [New England Association of Schools and Colleges] accreditation report, and most recently on the SAT that was given statewide. These results could not have been achieved without the hard-working staff in both the middle and high school."

Siminski continued, "We've got some talented people with whom we've worked that have made this all possible," and added in his letter, "I must thank the devoted administrators, teaching staff, and support personnel whose dedication to the students and their willingness

to go above and beyond ordinary expectations allowed the students of Region 8 to maximize their potential."

For the most part, education has always been a part of Siminski's life. His career has spanned 52 years, and he's worked in central administration since he was 26 years old. In addition, Siminski said that at the start of his career he also "did five years in prison" – teaching, that is.

"Early in my career I was director of education at two prisons and one of the things I saw was a lot of young people who had difficulties in school," Siminski said. "One young man could read at the third-grade level. How could he get a job? And that's why we've got to put things in place to help all the kids."

He added "obviously, [the prisoners] are not there because they went to church every Sunday, but on the other hand, if you're going to help that problem and say 'why' and 'what are we going to do with it?'," then education is part of the solution. He added working in prisons "taught me more than I taught those people."

Along with all he learned during his stint in jail, Siminski shared two quotes that have been "kind of bellwethers and guiding lights for me."

"The first one is, 'The children that we work with will be the messengers to a future that none of us will see,' and I want that message from us to be a good one. The second one is that, 'The teacher effects eternity.'"

Wise words to continue to live by as he begins his final year at RHAM – and wise words to leave behind to guide others as he moves on to the next stage of his life.

"I met so many interesting people... and a lot of good kids," Siminski concluded. "I'm very proud and honored to have touched their lives."



**Bob Siminski, who has been the RHAM superintendent of schools since 2005, recently announced his intent to retire at the end of the 2016-17 school year.**

## No Center School Municipal Hub After All in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

Some town officials say it was a great idea at the time: Turning Center School into a municipal hub to include town hall offices and the police department.

But now the Town Council says that time has passed. By a 2-5 vote at a Tuesday night special meeting, the council struck down a motion that would have sent a \$250,000 cost study to voters at referendum on the November election ballot. The meeting was filled with a sudden sense of urgency and vague references to "another option," "a different direction," and "windows of opportunity."

Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson and Councilors Pete Brown, Melissa Engel, Josh Piteo and Kevin Reich voted to quash the referendum and essentially kill the project.

The move was an abrupt reversal of the council's decision only three weeks prior to approve the appropriation and set a town meeting so taxpayers could weigh in on the issue. At that time, only Piteo and Reich opposed the motions.

It was later determined the motions did not contain enough information to send to voters at a town meeting, so an item to approve a formal resolution was added to Tuesday's agenda.

The council's decision not to move the project forward also contradicted an Aug. 15 recommendation by the Board of Finance to send the appropriation to voters. The endorsement was supported by three of the five finance board members present at that meeting.

Preliminary cost estimates from project management firm Colliers International have been available since April. The firm said it could cost anywhere from \$36.22 million to \$44.40 million to retrofit the 1913 Center School facility to accommodate town hall offices and the police department and to renovate Memorial School to fit the displaced students.

From outward appearances, it was Engel who was responsible for the council's sudden shift. She said she recently changed her mind despite having advocated for the hub since her tenure

as council chairwoman in the late 1990s. She called it a "hard and painful decision."

While she explained the idea made sense in better economic times before the full renovation of the high school, it is no longer as "neat and tidy" as it once was.

"We can't be faulted or blamed for not having done our due diligence. We've researched this every six ways," she said. "But you know what? To spend \$250,000 on the plan to then present that plan – which they've already told us is anywhere between \$35 and \$44 million – is just too much money. I love the plan. I just can't put that on the backs of taxpayers."

The \$250,000 appropriation would have been used for architectural, engineering, environmental and project management fees. The resulting "feasibility study" would have provided the estimated project cost.

This week's chaotic meeting started with a motion by Ted Hintz to approve a resolution adding specificity to two Aug. 9 votes that authorized the \$250,000 appropriation and set a date for the town meeting.

The motion did not immediately receive a second. After some confusion, during which Anderson sought clarification on parliamentary procedure and Engel said she couldn't hear what was going on two seats away, Engel finally ended up seconding the motion "if it's necessary for discussion."

After Engel expressed her concerns about the cost of the project, Brown explained his change of heart as well.

"I was a proponent of having the town hall in the Center School. I ran when I was elected on doing something and getting this thing off the dime," he said.

But, ultimately, the cost was a deal-breaker, he said.

Philhower, on the other hand, said the town could easily spend \$44 million on resolving concerns with the town hall, police department and Center School in the future if it doesn't do so now.

"To not do it, I'm not sure that's in the best interest of the town," he told councilors. "I know it's a lot of money, but one way or the other, you will spend this money. It might not be this year, it might not be next. But you will go through \$44 million on any of the future projects quite easily."

Philhower also said he would not be interested in any other plan that would move the police department out of the center of town.

Hintz then initiated a series of motions to bring the appropriation to voters at a referendum instead of a town meeting. He said it's the best way to gauge how most resident feels about the project.

Anderson responded that she supported letting voters decide on the appropriation at a referendum, but the presidential election is too far away.

"I think our police chief and our town police need a resolution sooner than this. If this is to go on, we need to get pretty quick on another option," she said.

That's when Hintz proposed having a referendum as early as statutory public notice and voting requirements would allow, which would be in late September.

But Engel said she didn't want to add to taxpayers' burden with the cost of a special referendum on top of the \$250,000 appropriation request.

It takes about \$3,000 to put on a referendum, according to the "Citizens' Guide to the Budget" published this year by the finance board.

She added that the council "could decide to go in a different direction" sooner than November or even late September.

Philhower said spending \$3,000 to hold a referendum only 30 days before an already-scheduled – and already-budgeted – presidential referendum is a waste of money.

According to Reich, there's no need to send the exorbitantly expensive project to voters either at referendum or a town meeting.

"I think there are other windows of opportu-

nity out there to do everything we need to do and not put everything into this plan," he said.

In the end, votes by Hintz and Philhower were not enough to add the municipal hub idea to the ballot for the presidential election.

Anderson, when asked after the meeting if there were other ideas being considered to address the outdated and undersized town hall and police department, said it's something that will have to be discussed.

"Now this is not going to the people to vote on, so we do have to come up with an alternative idea," she said.

When pressed about whether or not there's an alternative plan already under consideration, she said "there is no specific plan that I'm aware of."

Hintz and Philhower, reached by phone Wednesday, both said they've heard rumors that some members of the council had been exploring other options while the Center School municipal hub plan was still slated for a public vote.

Hintz said that kind of behind-the-scenes maneuvering "has to stop."

"I'm frustrated, to say the least," he said. "I am at the point where I lost faith in any of my fellow council members."

According to Maniscalco, the most important thing is that the town's crumbling infrastructure is addressed – and soon.

"We had a half-inch of water in the finance department last week," he said. "We have consistent issues with our well and [the Department of Public Health] potentially closing us down. We've got a wall that has no sill plate underneath it and is probably sinking into the ground. Something needs to be done with our facilities. If it's not going to be the Center School project, it's got to be something."

And that's not including the problems in the police department, he said, which are so numerous there aren't enough pages in the *Rivereast* to list them all.

# New Technology Abounds at Belltown Schools

by Elizabeth Regan

Students starting a new school year in East Hampton next week will find innovative new spaces for learning not only at the high school, with its renovation about 80 percent complete, but also throughout the district.

This will be accomplished in part by designated “makerspace” at the schools and, at the middle school, through the use of Chromebook computers handed out to every student.

Members of all facets of the school community teamed up last year to analyze the results from 350 surveys about what a quality education means in East Hampton. The result was a 7-pronged vision statement filled with words like “compassion,” “creativity,” “adaptability,” “curiosity,” “community” and “resourcefulness.”

Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith said this year is the time to put those words into action.

One of the ways to do that is through makerspaces that will replace or enhance computer labs and libraries, he explained in an interview last week.

The concept involves areas devoted to creation and creativity that use evolving technology – and old standbys – for a hands-on approach to learning.

In the new high school library that will greet students on the first day of school, there will be a designated makerspace with wireless computers, a 3D printer and, as time goes on, other resources aligned with students’ interests.

“I’m hoping the students tell me what they want in there,” Smith said.

What students create in a makerspace is up to them, and can involve anything from screenplays to computer code to robots to invention prototypes.

“It’s a very informal space,” Smith said. “The librarian oversees it, but you’re not assigned to the space. It’s before school, after school, during study halls. It really builds on the passions of individual students.”

East Hampton High School Principal John Fidler said the school’s library and media technology integration specialist, Katie Tietjen, introduced the makerspace concept last year.

“The kids got very excited about it,” Fidler told members of the Board of Education at their meeting last week.

Another highlight at the high school is a new space, dubbed the “T-Bell,” that combines lecture space for up to 60 students with plenty of room for collaboration.

T-Bell is shorthand for Teacher-Based Learning Lab where guest speakers can share their insights and students can present their work.

“It’s a space perfect for TED Talk-sorts of things,” Smith said, referring to popular conference model featuring presentations on technology, education and design that are as brief and engaging as possible.

Students in the T-Bell can then break into groups to take knowledge gleaned from presentations to the next level with the help of multiple digital screens along the back wall.

“It’s not just paper and pencil anymore,” Fidler said, describing a scenario in which students can build off each other’s ideas as they take turns mirroring work from their own laptop onto the larger screen.

At East Hampton Middle School, an initiative to revamp technology education includes a new makerspace for sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

Principal Jason Lehmann told Board of Education members the department will now focus on moving away from the traditional technology education framework to a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) model. A key component will involve Lego robotics, a program through which students build robots, program them and use them to solve problems.

Other areas of focus will include coding and pre engineering.

Lehmann said existing technology education resources, like woodworking tools, will be repurposed in the new makerspace along with newer computer technology.

“Kids will be able to really utilize those to be able to tinker and work and build and learn,” he said.

The makerspace replaces the video studio where the daily Good Morning EHMS broadcast is produced, according to Lehmann. The video studio will move to an old computer lab.

Memorial School Principal Mindy Wilkie said a computer lab at the pre-kindergarten through grade three school has been remodeled “so it looks a lot more kid-friendly.”

With an interactive whiteboard, a document camera and an enhanced wireless network, Wilkie said the school is “now ready to move toward a makerspace over the course of the year.”

Center School Principal Mary Clark said the school is working hard to increase access to technology for its fourth- and fifth- graders. The school has used fundraising proceeds to buy more internet-based laptops, called Chromebooks, and has plans to buy more with funds from the Parent Teacher Organization.

Clark said she hopes to have enough Chromebooks to fill carts for each fourth grade classroom and each fifth grade literacy class.

But one of the district’s biggest changes is taking place in the middle school, where each student will be able to grab a Chromebook during homeroom to use the whole day.

It’s known in educational parlance as “one-to-one technology” - the availability of one laptop for every student in the school.

A \$39,980 state grant made it possible to purchase 160 of the \$250 Chromebooks to supplement the school’s existing supply, according to Smith.

“As the program expands, I’d be excited to allow the children take them home,” Smith said. “In its early stages, while we learn the ins and outs of one-to-one technology, they’ll check them out in homeroom and they’ll return them at the end of the day.”

The availability of a computer for each stu-



**With its renovation almost 80 percent complete, East Hampton High School now boasts a new, state-of-the-art lecture space referred to as the “T-Bell.” It stands for teacher-based learning lab, a space Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith says is perfect for presentations and workshops in the style of the popular TED Talks series.**

dent helps make it possible for a pilot program in eighth grade social studies that will replace the traditional textbook.

The blended-learning approach combines teacher instruction with online content.

“It’s your eighth-grade curriculum, online,” Smith said. All the materials are in the form of videos [or] readings. Then the teacher moves the students through the pacing.”

The internet-based laptops will also complement digital platforms in math and reading during the school day. And while students won’t be able to bring the devices home right away, they can always use their personal login information to access the programs on their home computers.

Offerings include the MyON digital library of 10,000 books purchased by the Parent Teacher Organization and piloted last year in two third-grade classrooms. Seventy percent of the available books are nonfiction while the remainder is fiction. This year, the online library will be available to students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Smith said the application makes recommendations for progressively advanced books based on each student’s reading history.

With their own laptops, students will have easy access to supplementary reading and math programs if they finish their regular classwork early.

“A lot of times you hear about how we’ve lost the gifted and talented program, but this meets those needs,” Smith said. “For a kid who is really a gifted reader, we’re going to give them the resource in school and at home to read

as many books as they want.”

The district-wide focus on technology extends to school security, with the introduction of new software to screen visitors and create identification badges.

The program runs each name through sex offender registries in all 50 states and will screen for those with restraining orders or custody issues, according to Smith.

The school will not do a criminal background check, he added.

Visitors planning to go beyond the main office of any school for the first time will be required to show their driver’s license or government-issued identification card, which will be used to run the check of the sex offender registries and to create badges to be worn throughout the visit.

“This system is secure for visitors as the scanner only compiles the data necessary for screenings,” Smith said in a newsletter to parents this summer.

Smith also explained the system retains the identifying information, which means visitors only need to show their license once during the school year. On subsequent visits, the background check is conducted and a badge produced based on the stored information.

“That era of just saying ‘We’re a nice little neighborhood town’ is in the past,” he said. “We’ve got to make sure all the adults in the building belong in the building and will have a badge identifying that they belong there. We’re trying to create the safest situation possible for our students.”

*The first day of school is Tuesday, Sept. 5.*

# Colchester Senior Center Purchase Moves to Referendum

by Julianna Roche

Town Hall was filled with more supporters than usual Wednesday night during a special meeting, as residents voted to send the potential purchase of the current senior center at 95 Norwich Ave. to referendum, which will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

“I feel great about it because it was more people [showing up] than we normally get for something like that,” said First Selectman Art Shilosky.

If the vote passes, seniors and veterans will be able to receive services at the center uninterrupted while a new senior center is being built. Additionally, the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees will also have the funds necessary to begin the restoration of Old Bacon Academy.

“We’ve been doing this for six to eight months and it’s getting closer and closer,” said First Selectman Art Shilosky. “This is one step closer.”

To make the purchase, the town will need to appropriate \$283,240 from the undesignated fund balance towards the acquisition – which means it will not be coming from new taxpayer dollars. While the purchase price of the building is set at \$275,000, \$8,240 will also be needed for closing costs and legal fees, including title review, title insurance and any other costs related to the transaction.

According to Bacon Academy Board of

Trustees member Arthur Liverant, it’s a win-win situation for all parties involved.

“This is something that has been in the works, but this is the time that the trustees need to move forward on this issue because we really need to start working on Old Bacon Academy,” he added.

The 95 Norwich Ave. property, which is currently owned by the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, has been the town’s senior center since the 1980s. However, it was initially the Bacon Academy Arts and Sciences building when Bacon Academy itself was located at its original location at 84 Main St. In 1962, Bacon Academy moved to what is now the middle school and finally to its current home at 611 Norwich Ave. in 1993.

“Students who used it would actually travel and walk from Old Bacon to the new building, where arts and science classes were,” Liverant said. “Students would trek back and forth in the winter between the two buildings.”

Though the town has been renting the building to use as the senior center for \$16,000 each year, originally it was not charged a penny.

“The Bacon Academy Board of Trustees basically let the town use the building for no charge for 30 years or so,” he said. “We thought it was the proper thing to do to share our building with the town for the seniors and the veter-

ans... but we decided to put the building up for sale because we want to start fixing up Old Bacon Academy, which needs some desperate work. In order for us to do that, which is our mission, we need to come up with some money.”

That, paired with the fact that the town’s elderly population is growing drastically (within the next 10 years, 40 percent of Colchester’s total population is expected to be 55 and older), the consensus among town officials and the trustees has been that the town’s purchase of the building is an absolutely necessary step to building a new senior center and satisfying both parties.

“This would actually make it so the seniors can stay in that building until the planning, location and building of the new senior center takes place,” Liverant said. “So the benefit is that the town gets a great piece of property adjacent to the town hall, the seniors and the veterans can still remain there until a new senior center is built, and the Board of Trustees gets funds that we can use to start the planning and restoration of Old Bacon.”

Once the sale goes through, Liverant said the first step to the Old Bacon restoration will be to hire a historic architect – someone who understands how to restore older buildings while

also maintaining their historical integrity. Considering the building’s history – it opened in 1803 – as well as its architectural importance, finding the right person for the job is important for its historical preservation.

As part of the restoration process, Liverant said the trustees will replace the old bathrooms, put in an elevator, and make the building more efficient and usable for the town, perhaps even for educational purposes, he added, since it’s currently being used for Bacon Academy’s alternative education classes.

Before the trustees can focus on the restoration, however, Liverant said they will have to wait to see what the final results of the referendum vote are. Voting will take place on Sept. 13 at Town Hall from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

“The [senior center] property was appraised by both the town of Colchester and the Board of Trustees,” Liverant said. “This is a fair price that has been negotiated and agreed upon. ... It’s been approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance. They are both supportive and anxious for this to get moving.”

Shilosky agreed.

“I have a very good feeling about it and I haven’t had one negative reaction,” he said. “I’m getting real excited and I feel confident it’s going to pass at referendum.”

# Discussion on Marlborough Kindergarten Class Size Continues

by Julianna Roche

Last month, the Board of Education made the decision to maintain three kindergarten classes for the 2016-17 year rather than add a fourth section and teacher, despite enrollment numbers teetering on the edge of recommended class sizes.

However, the discussion on what to do moving forward hasn't been put to rest just yet.

In fact, at their meeting last Thursday, board members set aside time to discuss class size guidelines and taking possible action, with Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz giving a presentation to help define what a small class size means exactly – though he emphasized it being a very relative concept.

"It's so tough to find definitions of what class size really means, because it means so many different things to so many different people," he said, adding that what is considered a small class in an urban area, for example, is much different than a small class in a rural area.

This year, 61 students are enrolled for kindergarten, meaning that each of the three classes will have either 20 or 21 students, including one teacher and one para-professional for each classroom. The established guidelines say kindergarten classes should be between 16 and 20

students.

"Twenty [kids in a class] across the country is considered a middle-sized class," Sklarz said. He said that while adding "seven to 10 more students in a class would have an effect," putting just one or two more students in a class would not make a difference.

"The only way class size makes a difference is if it's individualized and differentiated teaching with each kid," Sklarz said.

Sklarz said that when the Board of Education in February discussed class size guidelines and what to do if enrollment surpassed 60 by one or two students, it decided the first step would be to put a para-educator in the classroom for added support – which it has done – rather than immediately jump to spending an additional \$78,000 for a fourth section and teacher.

Sklarz noted that the recommended class sizes are just that – recommendations.

"The conversation was especially about saying that these are just guidelines," he said. "These are something to give us some sense of building a budget, based on some research."

"Putting a para in was the first move," added board member Louise Concodello during the

discussion. "But [the kids] do have a lot of support with the other people who come into the classroom... they're taken out for art, for gym – they're not stuck in that classroom all day long."

During the presentation, Sklarz also emphasized that Marlborough's kindergarteners receive quite a bit of additional support compared to many other schools, mentioning the high-quality teachers, classroom technology, support services, and even the fact that many come from a home with educated parents.

"A rich home environment where a child receives support is just an extension from the classroom," he said.

However, board member Theresa Brysgel expressed concern about students who may not come from that type of home.

"I get worried about the kids that fall through the cracks – the lower socioeconomic status ones that need the most help," Brysgel said. "In my opinion, maybe not today, maybe not next month, but I would like to see some changes to the classroom guidelines for [grades] K-1."

Board member Mimi LaPoint agreed.

"Yes, there are a lot of people in this town

who are highly-educated and have the opportunity to help children in their home, but that's not the case with everyone," she said. "The most important thing about public education is that we have to think about everyone."

Both LaPoint and board vice chair Wes Skorski also said they would like to see more research regarding the differences between classes with para-professionals and those without, since each kindergarten class this year will have one.

"I think we should focus on what's best for our children," said Brysgel. "We are here as a check and balance. We're not here as a rubber stamp... not to rabble-rouse or cause unnecessary angst, but to bring forth other ways to look at things or question things."

While the meeting featured what Sklarz called a "healthy discussion," the board ultimately took no action – opting to table the issue until its next meeting Thursday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m., in the Marlborough Elementary School's media center.

"I wasn't trying to sell one [viewpoint] or the other," he said. "In a perfect world, every educator would want it both ways."

## Another Sunny, Successful Marlborough Day

by Julianna Roche

It was a clear day with bright blue skies and the sun reflecting off Lake Terramuggus last Sunday, Aug. 28 at Blish Park, where Marlborough Business Association (MBA) hosted the 10th annual Marlborough Day.

"Everything went great," said MBA administrative assistant Shannon Bielaczyc, who estimated being around 800 attendees this year, which was up 300 from last year's numbers.

"The whole day was physically beautiful – the lake is enticing, the weather was very comfortable, everything worked out as best as it could," added MBA member and It's So Ranunculus owner Craig Robinson, who also chairs the Marlborough Day Committee.

As with every year, returning vendors lined up colorful booths in a large semi-circle on the green, with some newer faces in attendance as well, such as The Farm at Carter Hill, which set up shop with vibrant baskets full of fresh produce for sale from their farm including peaches, berries and corn. Eversource and Clean Energy Communities were also new to Marlborough Day with professionals demonstrating to the public how to use energy-efficient equipment at their booths.

Children with painted faces, some carrying balloons, excitedly flocked from booth to booth all afternoon, with parents closely in tow. The face-painting booth and the Roaming Railroad, two of Marlborough Day's staple activities, proved to be especially popular.

Marshall from the popular Nickelodeon children's show *PAW Patrol* and Captain America were seen strutting around the park taking photos with children. Residents were seen lined up at the henna tattoo artist and the photo booth as well. Nearby, the Monster Mobile Arcade gave kids the chance to play arcade games and win tickets to exchange for prizes at the prize walk.

Both the Cub Scout Pack 39 and the older Boy Scout Troop 39 also had booths, along with a monkey bridge set up, where the scouts helped

children climb across. Nearby was a large table with Legos scattered across it for children to play with and build their own creations.

Early in the afternoon in the pavilion, the Commission on Aging presented residents Craig Williams and Shirley MacLachlan with Marlborough's first ever Senior Citizen of the Year Award as a token of appreciation for their dedicated services to the town over the last several decades. State Rep. Gayle Mulligan and state Sen. Cathy Osten presented the winners with certificates.

Throughout the day, prizes from the Tea Cup raffle were won, including gift certificates from organizations such as The Lucky Goat Butcher Shop, Paul's and Sandy's, Red Door Boutique, and Marlborough Pilates Studio Plus. Additionally, the MBA also awarded resident and Parks and Recreation Director Ray Bull with the 2016 Marlborough Day raffle grand prize, a \$500 Trek bike.

"I'm very comfortable with the support that happened," Robinson said. "I want to thank people that donated and made this thing a community event that was very well-received."

During the remainder of the afternoon, residents took seats at pavilion picnic tables with lunch and fried dough, or grooved to live music by local bands and musical acts Jim Ferguson, Halley Rose Neal, The Modern Riffs and Gravy Train, who kept the mood lively and energetic throughout the day.

"The entertainment – the bands and the characters – were very popular as usual," Bielaczyc added.

In addition, the audience watched a dance performance by the returning Hot Stepz Dance Academy, and new this year was a show by the recently revived group, Marlborough Junior Ancient Fife & Drum Corps, who also had a booth set up.

Throughout the day, hungry residents also had their pick of delicious eats from either Marlborough Pizza or The Whey Station, a



**Marlborough Day returned last Sunday, Aug. 28, featuring local businesses, community organizations, food, entertainment and more. The monkey bridge (shown here) set up by Boy Scout Troop 39 was a big hit with children, who crossed with help from scouts. See [facebook.com/rivereastnewsbulletin](https://www.facebook.com/rivereastnewsbulletin) for additional photos.**

mobile food truck serving up cheesy bacon tots and gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches like the "Mutt" (potato sticks, bacon and béchamel cheese sauce) or the "AvoMelt" (cheddar, bacon, truck-made guacamole and creamy Chipotle).

Over by Lake Terramuggus, some residents relaxed in the shade under trees with their family or sat on towels on the beach. Kids and adults alike took dips in the lake to cool off throughout the afternoon.

Meanwhile, others joined in on L.L. Bean's Discovery Tours, where instructors offered up

free paddleboard and kayaking lessons and demonstrations for the third year in a row. Close by, the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department was also on site once again with a fire truck, giving residents the chance to watch hose demonstrations – with their new location allowing them to be even more visible this year.

"I think the vendors there were pleased as [I] did a little walk around," Robinson added. "They were all wonderful and the general disposition of everyone there seemed good; I saw a lot of smiles."

# Lake Pocotopaug Reopens to Swimmers

by Elizabeth Regan

Public swimming areas at Lake Pocotopaug have reopened just in time for Labor Day weekend now that the summer's algae bloom appears to have subsided.

Chatham Health Department Director Don Mitchell said levels of blue-green algae in a water sample taken last Friday needed to come in under 70,000 cells per milliliter in order to lift the swimming ban, which had been in effect since Aug. 8.

The results came back Tuesday with good news for holiday revelers: levels had fallen to 69,000 blue-green algae cells per milliliter.

The health district cautioned that an advisory remains in effect. That means it's up to swimmers to decide if they want to risk exposure to the potentially toxic cyanobacteria.

Low amounts of exposure to an algae bloom can cause allergic-type reactions, skin irritation or nausea and diarrhea in humans and animals, according to the Department of Public Health. The agency cautions that swallowing relatively large amounts of tainted water can cause liver damage and nervous system effects.

A blue-green algae bloom is an unsightly mass of bacteria that can multiply fast in hot and bright conditions where certain nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorous, are concentrated. It's characterized by green or brown water that may be cloudy or even thick like pea soup, according to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The level of blue-green algae had been as high as 210,000 cells per milliliter in mid-August.

Public beaches on Lake Pocotopaug were closed last year for three weeks starting on Aug. 5 due to an algae bloom. The ban came about a month earlier than the prior year, when an algae bloom shut down public lake access over Labor Day weekend.

Joe Carbonell, a member of the Conservation-Lake Commission and the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, said a comprehensive plan to address the lake's longstanding problems will be presented to the Town Council in October.

The watershed management plan, which includes a five-year timeline for recommended fixes that could cost around \$2 million, was written by the town's lake consultant, George Knoecklein.

Carbonell said he will be working this fall to engage the town and the lake's 16 private associations in rallying behind the plan to save what he called East Hampton's "number one prized possession."

"We will be looking to lock in some type of plan that does not require going to council for annual funds," he said. "There should be a bond or fund set up that allows corrective measures to address the problems once and for all, and bring back improved life to the body of water that brought life to East Hampton."

## Hebron Fire Started by Discarded Ashes

by Geeta S. Sandberg

A fire in town Monday afternoon was caused by discarded charcoal, Fire Marshall Randy Blais said Wednesday.

Blais explained the call came in for a fire at 69 Country Ln. at 1 p.m. Aug. 29. The shed at the residence, where items such as a garden tractor, lawn mower and snow blower were stored, was found to be on fire.

"The shed was a total loss and there was heat damage to the siding of the house," Blais said. "They're going to have to reside the

whole house."

No injuries were reported.

The fire, he stated, was found to have started from charcoal ashes the family had discarded after cleaning their grill Sunday afternoon and placed near the shed.

To safely discard ashes, Blais said they should be placed "away from your house and in a metal bucket with lots of water. And make sure it's put out."

## Fallen Limb Causes Hebron Power Outage

by Geeta S. Sandberg

A broken limb resulted in the loss of power in town for much of the morning Monday, according to Fire Marshall Randy Blais.

Around 7:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 29, Blais said alarms at various buildings in town alerted the fire department of the outage. A tree branch was found to have landed on the power lines at the intersection of routes 85 and 66, taking out power to around 60 percent of the town.

"It was a dead limb that just broke and fell off the tree," Blais said of the incident. "There was no wind, nobody hit anything."

Despite the outage, Blais went about his business Monday morning conducting safety inspections at each school for the start of the new year. He was at Gilead Hill School when power returned there at around 10 a.m., he said. Power to the rest of the town returned around noon.

He added, "We're lucky it was then and not today [Wednesday] when school was starting."

Following the incident, the entire tree is being removed.

## East Hampton Police News

8/18: Cynthia Suater Paduch, 52, of 220 Valley St., Willimantic was taken into custody pursuant to an active warrant and charged with criminal attempt of issuing a bad check and criminal attempt to commit identity theft, East Hampton Police said.

8/21: A 15-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for third-degree burglary, sixth-degree larceny and third-degree criminal mischief.

## Portland Police News

8/25: Rhonda Torres, 43, of 74 Deepwood Dr., East Hartford, was charged with sixth-degree larceny and illegal use of a credit card, Portland Police said.

8/26: Patrick Turner, 19, of 165 South Main St., Middletown, was charged with interfering with police, police said.

## Tuttle Pleads Guilty in East Hampton 1998 Killing

by Elizabeth Regan

Almost 20 years after the body of a local woman was found in a stream off Tartia Road, a former East Hampton handyman has pleaded guilty for the crime.

Gerald Brian Tuttle, 53, didn't admit guilt but instead acknowledged the state had enough evidence to convict him when he pleaded guilty to reduced charges of first-degree manslaughter and second-degree kidnapping under the Alford Doctrine. He appeared Tuesday at Middletown Superior Court.

He will be sentenced on Dec. 6, according to the state judicial branch.

Tuttle was charged with murder in 2013, fifteen years after police say he abducted and strangled 60-year-old Gertrude "Trudy" Ochankowski. Her car idled outside a Main Street Laundromat all night and into the next day as authorities say she was strangled to death in a remote apartment above the self-service laundry and taken to the stream on the east side of town.

Ochankowski was found naked from the waist down in that stream on Jan. 12, 1998, according to court documents.

Tuttle has been held on a \$1 million bond

since he was arrested at his home in Surfside Beach, S.C., on Dec. 10, 2013. He is incarcerated at the Bridgeport Correctional Center, according to the Department of Correction.

The arrest was the result of an investigation conducted by the East Hampton Police Department in conjunction with the office of State's Attorney Peter McShane and the cold case unit from the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, according to the state Division of Criminal Justice.

The case had been handled for nearly 16 years by now-retired Sgt. Garritt Kelly of the East Hampton Police Department.

Tuttle was the building superintendent and a tenant in the building that housed the Laundromat, according to the arrest warrant affidavit. He had keys to all the rooms.

According to the *Hartford Courant*, Tuttle was arrested by state police in 1989 for sexually assaulting an elderly woman in East Haddam. The *Courant* said Tuttle grabbed the woman, whom he did not know, outside a Laundromat and sexually assaulted her before letting her go.

## Lebanon Avenue House Destroyed in Fire

by Julianna Roche

Early last Tuesday morning, Aug. 23, a family of four safely escaped from their residence at 429 Lebanon Ave. after a fire ripped through their home, leaving two firefighters injured.

One firefighter suffered a dislocated shoulder and the other suffered a back sprain, said Fire Marshal Sean Shoemaker.

According to Deputy Fire Marshal and Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company Deputy Chief Don Lee, firefighters were able to put the fire out in about 15 minutes. However, the home was left too damaged by the fire and deemed uninhabitable.

"We cleared the scene by 6:37 in the morning," he said. "We had very heavy fire conditions on the second floor when we arrived."

Due to the rural location of the residence,

Lee said there were also no nearby fire hydrants, which required calling mutual aid from Hebron, East Hampton, Marlborough, Lebanon and Bozrah (Bozrah sent a water tanker). The town of Yantic also sent in a rapid intervention team to assist with firefighters who may be trapped inside the residence.

As fire crews responded, Lebanon Avenue was closed for more than two hours.

According to Shoemaker, the origin of the fire was determined to be in the second floor bedroom; however, the cause of the fire remains undetermined.

"The cause is still undetermined because of where the origin was and the portion of the house it was in," Shoemaker said. "There's not enough forensic evidence to narrow down specifically what caused it."

## Colchester Police News

8/23: Colchester Police responded to a residential burglary on Taylor Road at approximately 7:15 p.m., where the victim reported an unknown intruder entered his residence while he was on vacation. Miscellaneous jewelry, \$5,000 cash and baseball cards were reported stolen from the residence, and there were no signs of forced entry. The case is still under investigation.

8/23: State Police said that Craig S. Rousseau, 53, of 30 Portland Rd., Marlborough, was arrested and charged with speeding on the highway up to 85 m.p.h. and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol

8/24: State Police said that Wayne Hampton, 54, of 87 Lebanon Ave, A1, was arrested and charged with failure to drive right at a slow

speed and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol.

8/24: Colchester Police said at approximately 9:32 a.m., a burglary was reported on New London Road, where the victim reported that some time over the previous night, an unknown person stole a snowblower valued at approximately \$1,000 that was chained up outside the business. The snowblower is a yellow, black and blue Cub Cadet 2x24 inches, HP Two Stage Snow Thrower. The case is currently under investigation.

8/25: State Police said Walter Eddy, 53, of 51 N. Main St., Meriden, was arrested and charged with reckless driving and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol.

## Marlborough Police News

8/18: According to State Police, a larceny was reported at approximately 9:20 a.m. on South Road, where a Stihl gas hedge trimmer and a Stihl gas pole pruner were reported missing from an enclosed landscape trailer that was parked on South Road. Anyone with information should call Officer Julius Ransom at Troop K in Colchester at 860-465-5400, ext. 4095.

8/24: State Police said that Joshua D. Hall, 28, of 219 Broadway, Apt. 3, Norwich, was arrested and charged of possession of drug paraphernalia and illegal possession of narcotics.

## Obituaries

### Colchester

#### Ronald McQuillan Anderson

Ronald McQuillan Anderson, 70, passed away Sunday, Aug. 21. He was born April 16, 1946, in New Britain, one of the 15 children of the late Chester and Olive (Hubbard) Anderson.

Growing up in a large family such as he did, it fostered in him a generous spirit with care and concern for others – and an incredibly strong work ethic. While still in high school, he took on full-time work at a brick yard to help support his younger siblings and met the love of his life, Vernetta Johnson.

In 1968, he enlisted in the U.S. Army to serve during the Vietnam War, attaining the rank of SP-4 with the 20th Engineer Brigade. In 1969, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism and earned six other medals during his two tours of duty through 1973. He gave so very much of himself (as many others did) to preserve and defend our freedom during the war.

Together, Ronald and Vernetta welcomed a son, James, and he now had a family of his own to provide for. He worked tirelessly, mostly in farming, to provide the best he could for them. Vernetta predeceased him in 1988. Later, he met and married Faith “Fay” Burdick in 1991 and the two shared 16 years before she predeceased him in 2006.

In addition to his son and daughter-in-law, James and Ashley Johnson of Lebanon; he leaves two grandchildren, Alexis Johnson and Blaine Bigelow, Jr.; three step-grandchildren, Elijah, Queen, and Davion; two great-grandchildren, Kolby and Carter; and eight siblings, Edie, Chester, Roy, Ollie, Tommy, Harry, Ralph and Terry; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Ronald was predeceased by three brothers, Billy, Lester and Dickie.

A graveside service celebrating his life will be observed 10 AM Saturday (Sept. 3rd) at Maplewood Cemetery, 184 Salem Tpke., Norwich, where he will be laid to rest with Vernetta. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the charity of one’s choice.

Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### Colchester

#### Laura Beth McKenna

Laura Beth McKenna passed away unexpectedly from natural causes surrounded by loved ones Saturday, Aug. 27, at the age of 53.

She leaves to mourn her passing but cherish her memory the family to which she was ever devoted; her loving husband of 29 years, Kenneth McKenna, Jr.; her cherished children, Kenneth III of Naugatuck and Erin of Colchester; her mother, Dolores (DeJohn) Brown of Palmyra, Va. (she was predeceased by her father, James Brown); James Brown Jr. (and his wife, Phyllis) of Coram, Long Island, NY and Michael Brown of Palmyra, Va.; and numerous extended family and friends.

Laura worked as a dental assistant, nail technician and most recently as a licensed massage therapist. Laura’s greatest joy was taking care of her husband and children. She also enjoyed cooking, baking and knitting. She was a true friend to all who knew her. Her infectious smile and personality will be truly missed.

The family would like to offer special thanks to the Cardiac ICU staff at Hartford Hospital for their kindness and care, and to the Colchester Hayward Fire Department for their continued support. Also special thanks to Judi Didato, Debbie Marvin, Terry Kowalski and Dave Martin in their tireless efforts in assisting the family over the past few days.

Visitation was held Wednesday, Aug. 31, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Thursday, Sept. 1, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, followed by burial in the parish cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Colchester-Hayward VFD, 18-54 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).



### East Hampton

#### Joe Barber

While those left behind wish we had him for another Sunday, we are deeply saddened to announce that Patriot Joe made his final touchdown at the age of 58 on Sunday, Aug. 28, and left us to all ponder what it means to be someone who can always be depended on, a true fan, faithful partner, best friend, proud father and grand Poppy.

A Patriots fan in its truest form since a very young age, Joe stood proud in his belief of the abilities of the New England Patriots and never wavered in his support. He adorned his Patriots gear with pride, carried Patriots symbolism wherever he went and truly enjoyed his many trips to see them play in Foxboro, Buffalo, Houston and Green Bay. We hope he’s found where they’re playing heaven’s Super Bowl.

He was proud to serve our country as a corpsman in the U.S. Navy and of the many roles he held during his service to the VFW. The comradery he shared with the members and Auxiliary of Fowler-Dix-Park VFW Post 5095 meant the world to him. He was a fixture at many VFW functions and lent his expertise overseeing many events and projects. Despite his “barking,” those who worked with him enjoyed the challenge and always stepped up to make our VFW stand proud. His laughter and good cheer will be sorely missed. Let it be known that having the VFW Color Guard perform opening ceremonies at a Patriots game is a deed left to those behind to fulfill.

Joe served as assistant den leader and then den leader of Cub Scout Den 5, in Pack 8. With the help of only a few, in 1999 he restarted Boy Scout Troop 8 where he served as Scoutmaster for several years, and was presently Life to Eagle Advisor and Charter Liaison. He was a Buffalo in Woodbadge. He was so very proud of the accomplishments of all his scouts, especially those who attained greatness under his leadership and beyond. His scouts will always wear their hats “right.” Prior to his scouting days, he coached his son’s Little League teams. He was an employee of Imagineers, LLC for over 25 years.

He leaves his wife Kathy, and his children, Michelle, Kenneth, and Jessica who will greatly miss his quick wit and sparkling personality. He was the proud Poppy of Kylie and Alyssa, who will be inspired by his love for the rest of their lives.

He was predeceased by his parents, Leon and Mary Barber, and his sister Christine.

He is also survived by his stepbrothers, Leon and Dwayne and his should-have-been brothers, Randy and Mike.

He left his mark on many, many people. Joe’s love of the outdoors (those forest critters are safe now) took him to many wonderful places. His wish would be for all to remember that it’s not the destination that matters, rather, the journey you take to get there. While Joe’s journey wasn’t long enough, he did reach many destinations and made many friends along the way. Live the life you love, love the life you live. Stay young at heart – be that Toys R Us Kid!

Recognizing Joe’s love of sports, friends adorned attire of their favorite team and called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Thursday, Sept. 1. Services will be held at 11 a.m. today, Sept. 2.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to VFW Post 5095, 20 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

### Hebron

#### John Eric D’Amico

John Eric D’Amico, born July 18, 1988, passed from this world Friday, Aug. 26.

He is survived by his mother, Susan Heise of Amston; his father, John D’Amico of Atlanta, Ga.; his stepmother, Pamela D’Amico; his sister, Katie D’Amico; his brother, Ryan D’Amico; his stepsisters, Sarah and Caroline Jackson; and many supportive and loving friends and relatives.

Eric loved to write and camp and had a special affinity for music, the Red Sox and the Patriots. He was a graduate of Manchester Community College and worked with developmentally-disabled children before his death.

Calling hours were at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, Tuesday, Aug. 30, and a celebration of his life was held at Gilead Congregational Church in Hebron Wednesday, Aug. 31.

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



### East Hampton

#### John M. Durkin

John M. “Jack” Durkin, 88, of East Hampton, widower of the late Maria Assunta (Bordonaro) Durkin, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 31, at his home. Born Dec. 15, 1927, in Scranton, Pa., he was the son of the late John Charles and Agnes (Horan) Durkin.

Jack joined the Army Air Corps in 1946 and received an honorable discharge with the rank of corporal in 1947. Following his family to Connecticut, Jack enrolled in Hillyer College, where he achieved an associate’s degree and also where he met his future wife of 59 years, Maria Bordonaro. Jack also completed a course of study at the Yale Executive Program in 1980.

He was a lifelong Democrat, who supported the local Democratic Party for more than 60 years. Upon his retirement from his position as director of public relations at Mansfield Training Center in 1989, he became much more involved in town politics and public service. He served as police commissioner for the Town of East Hampton from 1983-87, he served on the Economic Development Commission from 1989-99, and also served as Democratic registrar of voters in East Hampton.

Jack and Maria loved to travel and were both longtime communicants of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton.

He is survived by his son, Brian Durkin and his wife Debra of Portland; four daughters Linda Legassie and husband Norman of Old Lyme, Debra Durkin of Ft. Kent, Maine, Elizabeth Jacobson and husband James of East Hampton, Martha Lawton and husband Kevin of East Hampton; nine grandchildren Shawna, Chelsea, Colton, Joseph, Melissa, Caleigh, Jessica, Jacob and Benjamin.

He was predeceased by his two sisters.

Jack’s family would like to thank the caregivers who lovingly cared for their father.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Saturday, Sept. 3, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The funeral procession will form at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home, followed by the funeral liturgy at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will follow in the family plot with military honors at St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Smile Train, P.O. Box 96231, Washington, D.C. 20090-6231.

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

### Hebron

#### David James St. Amand

David James St. Amand, 26, from Port St. Lucie Florida, formerly of Hebron, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, Aug. 25. He was born Sept. 14, 1989, in Middletown.

David was a 2007 graduate of RHAM High School in Hebron, where he played varsity soccer for all his high school years, helping the team make it to the state semi-finals in his senior year. David earned All-Conference and All-Academic Awards in his senior year as well as Best Offensive Player as voted by his teammates.

He began his soccer experience with Northeast United Premier Soccer Club where he played since he was 10. In 2006 his team won the Division 1 CISA state championship. David also played on the Manchester Community College Men’s Soccer team in 2007.

Besides his athletic abilities, David had an amazing gift of expressing his feelings in his collections of many poems and stories. Music was his greatest love and he was an avid Patriots fan. David touched the lives of everyone he met and will be greatly missed.

David is survived by his parents, David and Theresa Knapp of Okatie, S.C.; his birth mother, Lisa St. Amand of Middletown; his sisters, Marie St. Amand of Middletown and Cristina St. Amand of Massachusetts; as well as his niece, two nephews, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

David was predeceased by his birth father Richard Lull Jr. and his grandfather, Richard Lull Sr.

Family and friends may gather Tuesday, Sept. 6, from 5-7 p.m., at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by a service to celebrate his life at 7 p.m. Burial will be private, at the family’s request.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his name can be made to: The Bill Tabor Scholarship Fund c/o Northeast United Premier Soccer Club, P. O. Box 387, Storrs, CT 06268.

