

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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**Fatal Fire...** Colchester firefighters responded to a deadly house fire Saturday night. The blaze killed one and left another seriously injured. See related story on page 12. Photo by Linda Akerman.

## East Hampton Officer Struck By Car

by Elizabeth Regan

East Hampton Police Officer Hardie Burgin is in good condition at Hartford Hospital after being struck by an SUV Sunday night at the intersection of Maple Street and Route 66.

Police Chief Sean Cox said Burgin's road to recovery will be a long one, but the officer is already on his way.

"[I'm] very happy to report when I left him last night, he was up and walking with some assistance," Cox said Wednesday.

The crash occurred around 8:17 p.m. Sunday as Burgin, 29, was providing support to an Eversource line crew dealing with a power outage in the area of St. Patrick Catholic Church, according to a state police accident report.

Michael B. Fraulino, 29, of Portland, was driving a 2004 Toyota RAV4 east on Route 66 when he hit the officer, the report said.

Burgin was transported to Marlborough Medical Center and then airlifted to Hartford Hospital with suspected serious injuries, officials said.

Trooper Kelly Grant, Connecticut State Police spokeswoman, said the investigation was



Hardie Burgin

handed over on the scene to the state police Collision Analysis Reconstruction Squad.

The accident report cited damage to the front of Fraulino's vehicle on the driver's side. Fraulino was not injured. His car was impounded at the Colchester state police barracks, the report said.

The investigation is ongoing, according to Grant. No charges had been filed as of Wednesday.

It was unclear if Burgin had been wearing any reflective markings on his dark uniform at the time of the crash.

When asked, Cox said only that he looks forward to the full report from the state police accident reconstruction unit as a way to help "identify any areas where we may be able to improve."

Cox and Town Manager Michael Maniscalco have been visiting Burgin regularly since the officer was admitted to the hospital.

"He's in good spirits," Cox said. Maniscalco said Burgin has been improving every day, but emphasized he has a long way to go. He said Burgin will likely be transferred to a rehabilitation facility once he's released from the hospital.

In a Monday Facebook post, retired East Hampton police officer Michael Green said Burgin is "built like a tank and tough as nails."

Green acknowledged his friend has a tough

See Officer Page 2

## Portland to Vote on Bond for New Park

by Elizabeth Regan

Portland voters coming out in November to choose their elected officials will have another issue to decide: whether the town should spend \$10 million for the long-awaited recreation park on Route 17 and several other longstanding infrastructure needs.

The Board of Selectmen Wednesday unanimously authorized a bond package that would appropriate \$6 million for a new park on Route 17, \$2.5 million for improvements to Brownstone Avenue and \$1 million to fix sidewalks on streets adjacent to town schools. It also sets aside \$500,000 for miscellaneous projects including repairs to roofs on the town garage and Fire Company No. 2 as well as police station windows.

The selectmen's approval came amid vocal community support for the recreation park that was muted at times by concern from some officials that not enough was being done to address the needs of existing infrastructure.

A Tuesday public hearing gave taxpayers the chance to state their case before the selectmen's deliberations the next day. At the hearing, resident Karen Labadia said adding a recreation park is crucial to attracting and retaining residents.

"We bought this property over 10 years ago for [\$510,000] for the specific purpose of providing a recreation park for the town of Port-

land. We owe it to our citizens in Portland to provide a park for the citizens in Portland," she said.

The town purchased the 37-acre property in 2006 to be used for "passive and active" recreation. In 2013, the town received a \$230,000 state grant to develop a plan for the park.

That plan from the design and engineering firm Weston & Sampson, which was delivered last year, includes 226 parking spaces, two natural turf soccer fields and two baseball fields. A playground, splash pad, fitness circuit, paved multi-use path and nature trail were designed to provide recreational outlets for all ages. Other attractions include a bocce ball court, horseshoe pit and multiple picnic areas. A recreation barn and a concession stand both have room for storage.

Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Ralph Zampano said he's attended almost 100 meetings on the proposed park since the idea originated. Through it all, he's touted the park as a way to end the town's reliance on leased facilities for its sports fields and to bring the town together through recreation.

He said area towns, such as Cromwell, Glastonbury and Colchester, offer a lot more to their residents than Portland does.

"It's constantly a challenge to stay relevant," he said.

But Long Range Capital Improvements Com-



**A proposed plan for a 37-acre recreation park in Portland shows a wide array of amenities, including sports fields, trails, a playground and a splash pad. At an expected cost of about \$6 million, the project makes up a significant portion of the \$10 million bonding package that will go to voters as a referendum question on Nov. 8.**

mission Chairman Michael Agogliati said the selectmen's \$500,000 appropriation for miscellaneous capital expenses did not come close to addressing the town's immediate infrastructure

needs.

Capital improvements refer to long-term or one-time expenses.

See New Park Page 2



**New Park cont. from Front Page**

The commission provided a list in early August, at the request of selectmen, that detailed \$2.73 million in “absolute needs” to be addressed in one year or less. The list included 25 projects ranging from \$225,000 in improvements to Agogliati Field to \$500,000 for traffic safety upgrades in the parking and drop-off areas at Gildersleeve School.

The commission’s list of “needs,” which it defined as projects to be addressed in one to three years, came in at \$12.2 million.

The Board of Selectmen decided Aug. 26, at a meeting scheduled only a day in advance and attended by four out of seven members, to prioritize four of those “absolute needs” for inclusion in a \$10 million bond appropriation. In addition to the roof repairs and police station windows, the selectmen’s choices included condensing units for the library and furnaces in the town garage and Fire Company No. 1.

That’s also when selectmen appropriated \$2.5 million for improvements to a 3,500-foot length of Brownstone Avenue from Main Street to the entrance of Riverfront Park. That’s less than the \$3.5 million price tag estimated by Public Works Director Rick Kelsey in an Aug. 26 memo.

The \$1 million proposed appropriation for sidewalks falls short of the 7.8-mile, \$3.22 million project detailed in a separate Aug. 25 memo from Kelsey. The selectmen’s pared-down version focuses only on the streets adjacent to the town’s schools.

For Agogliati and Kelsey, the selectmen’s list of priorities and funding allocations weren’t sufficient.

“It does not reflect all the true needs which your directors presented and was reported to you,” Agogliati said.

Kelsey, in an email submitted to the public hearing in his absence, said he hoped the selectmen would look at “needs rather than wants” before they authorized the \$10 million bond and sent it to voters.

The recent flurry of town meetings – including the last-minute selectmen’s meeting on Aug. 26, the following week’s meeting with the Long Range Capital Improvements Commission and this week’s two meetings – were necessary to get the referendum question on the ballot in time for the presidential election, according to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

She told selectmen Wednesday she didn’t know a public hearing had to be held on the proposed referendum question, which forced the quick series of meetings and limited scheduling flexibility. But she emphasized that if members felt too rushed in making their decision, they could always wait and put the bonding question, or portions of it, to vote next year.

Any referendum questions had to be submitted to the secretary of the state by Sept. 8 to be included on the November election ballot. Putting referendum questions on the presidential ballot has been discussed by officials as the best

and most democratic option because of the high percentage of residents expected to show up at the polls.

Voter turnout in Portland for the last presidential election was 79.9 percent, according to the secretary of the state’s office.

David Eisenthal, the town’s financial advisor for the bonding package, put the impact on taxpayers in perspective at Tuesday’s meeting.

According to Eisenthal, the \$10 million appropriation would mean individual taxpayers with homes assessed at \$150,000 would start paying for the 20-year bonding package in 2018, with \$17 of their total property taxes going toward the bond payment. That amount would rise to a high of \$169 in 2022 before scaling back to about \$130 for the last 10 years of debt.

The bonding package garnered the approval of all selectmen despite reservations from members Kitch Breen Czernicki and Ben Srb.

Czernicki lamented she was unable to attend the hastily-scheduled special meeting in August during which selectmen decided on the amount of the appropriation and how it would be divvied up. She said she would have advocated for spending more than \$10 million in order to address a longer list of capital needs as well as the park, which she enthusiastically supports.

“I’m left in a position now where I think one portion of this looks really good,” she said. “I think the rest of it omits needs that we have, absolute needs that we have. And I wish there was a way we could address them. We’re stuck now. A decision was made at the final hour.”

Srb said selectmen never had a chance to decide the final price tag or talk about the capital priorities as a full board because the crucial meeting was scheduled at the last minute during the late summer when it was difficult to get everyone in the room at once. Srb, Czernicki and selectwoman Kathy Richards were all absent from that meeting.

“I’m not trying to kill a park. I like the park. It’s not about that,” he said.

While selectmen discussed other options, including holding off on authorizing an appropriation completely or sending only the \$6 million park appropriation forward in time for the November ballot, no motions were made to alter the proposal discussed at the public hearing.

The bonding package will go to town meeting on Oct. 26, to be forwarded to referendum on Nov. 8.

The question on the ballot will read: “Shall the town of Portland appropriate \$10,000,000 for construction of a new public park located on Route 17, reconstruction and repair of town roads and sidewalks, and miscellaneous capital expenditures, and finance the appropriation by issuing the town’s bonds, notes and other obligations in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000?”

there are usually only two on duty at any time, the town had to bring in the state police to help respond to calls for a brief period immediately following the crash.

When an officer is incapacitated on duty, assistance from the state police gives the department enough time to get another East Hampton officer on the streets, Cox explained. He said it usually takes between 15 and 45 minutes to resume independent operations.

“We were able to call in officers from leave to assume patrol so we could provide regular service,” Cox explained.

He credited troopers from the Colchester state police barracks with helping to ensure “continued service during a very stressful time for this agency.”

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

A couple of months ago, in our sister paper, *The Glastonbury Citizen*, editor Jim Hallas wrote about a contest he’d come across that the Glastonbury Historical Society ran in about the 1940s, seeing who could make the most individual words using the letters in ‘Glastonbury.’ He couldn’t find how the contest ended, so he shared how many he had come up with, then invited the public to try to beat him.

A week or so after that, a man came into the office and shared that, spurred by Jim’s column, he sat down and tried to come up with a list. It so happened that his son was visiting from out of state, and he found the word-hunt intriguing too, so he joined his father in cracking out a pencil and paper and coming up with a list. The father and son had so much fun with the exercise that, on the son’s drive home, he thought up still some more words and, upon arriving home, called his dad.

The whole thing was a lot of fun. I enjoyed reading Jim’s periodic updates in his column – and the father-son bonding moment really struck me as sweet. I was curious to see where the search would go next.

Well, recently a reader wrote into Jim and put a joyless kibosh on the whole experiment. There was no point in any of it – the internet had solved it all.

Turns out, the reader shared, there’s a website called [litscape.com](http://litscape.com) that lets you plug in a word or group of letters and see how many other words can be created from it. (Spoiler alert: ‘Glastonbury’ yielded 565.) Yeah, it was quick, and yeah, the computer program was able to find more words than anyone else had found, but – geez, what a buzzkill!

It was a bummer, and actually got me thinking as to how often similar things happen these days. Don’t get me wrong; the internet is fantastic. Its benefits – not the least of which is its ability to help me not get lost driving – far outweigh its demerits. But there are times its omnipresence can be a little disappointing.

How many times have you been out to dinner with friends or family, a debate starts to ensue, and then somebody whips out their smartphone, looks up whatever it was a discussion was starting to ensue about, and bludgeons the whole thing with facts or history or whatever some blogger wrote. Conversation over; fun zapped before it starts.

I’ve fallen guilty to the same thing myself. I’ve found myself watching an old *Law & Order* or something, wondering “Who is playing that attorney?” – and then taken out my phone, looked up the particular episode I’m watching, and found the answer. Yeah, now I know – but I often come away a little disappointed in myself too, that I hadn’t just tried to figure it out on my own.

Dating back to when I was a little kid, I always liked figuring things out on my own. The joy was often in the hunt – and when the hunt yielded what you had hoped it was, it was a sweet reward. I think that joy in hunting is part of what attracted me to journalism; getting your hands dirty, trying to get to the bottom of something and then that wonderful “a-ha!” moment – it can be a thrill.

So when the answer to so many things is just a few clicks on your keyboard – like I

said earlier, it’s quite often a fantastic tool, a real boon to mankind. But sometimes, you just want to sit down with a pencil and paper and figure something out on your own.

\* \* \*

Well, the damage that was supposed to come with Tropical Storm Hermine – which was Hurricane Hermine when it made land-fall in Florida last week – never really affected us in Connecticut. It was only supposed to be wind and rain anyway, but, as the storm tracked further east than forecasters had first thought, we got mostly some breeze and a couple sprinkles.

But, as the hurricane swirled around the Atlantic for much of last week, Hermine was in the news. Which begs the question (at least it begs it for me anyway): Why Hermine?

Believe it or not, Hermine has been destined to be the name of this storm since 1979.

Since 1950, hurricanes had exclusively been given female names. But in 1979, according to *The New York Times*, a new method of naming storms in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea was devised. An international panel of meteorologists sat down and came up with six rotating lists, which contained men’s and women’s names. According to that list, the Atlantic’s eighth named storm in 2016 was to be named Hermine.

And so it was.

Do hurricane and tropical storm names have any meaning? Not really. The World Meteorological Organization told the *Times* the storms are not named after any particular person. Rather, the organization said, names are chosen that are “familiar to the people in each region.” The group added that “the main purpose of naming a tropical cyclone/hurricane is basically for people easily to understand and remember” the storm.

Interestingly – although not all that surprising, since there was a finite number of names generated for these storms back in 1979 – the storm names often get recycled. Hermine was used for tropical storms four previous times, most recently in 2010, and is scheduled to be used again in 2022.

Sometimes names do get retired, though. The National Hurricane Center told the *Times* retirement occurs when a storm is “so deadly or costly that the future use of its name on a different storm would be inappropriate for reasons of sensitivity.”

A total of 80 names have been retired – including Andrew, Camille, Hugo, Irene, Katrina and Sandy. Also on the retired list is Gloria, the first hurricane I remember, which hit the area in 1985. I still remember going outside after the storm and seeing the damage on the street I grew up on, and I recall going to my elementary school to see what it looked like there.

By the way, as meteorologists often tell us this time of year, just because the weather may be starting to cool, hurricanes and tropical storms can still pop up. The season runs until Nov. 30. And in case you’re wondering, the rest of the names scheduled to be used for this year’s storms are, according to the *Times*: Ian, Julia, Karl, Lisa, Matthew, Nicole, Otto, Paula, Richard, Shary, Tobias, Virginie and Walter.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

**Officer cont. from Front Page**

recovery ahead of him, but wrote, “I’m relieved and grateful to know that he will live to bust my balls mercilessly for years to come.”

As Burgin recovers, the small police department will have to adjust to a temporarily depleted force.

There are 15 sworn officers in the department, including Cox.

“It does put a strain on our current staffing levels in order to provide the proper level of service to the community,” Cox said. “But I’m very confident our staff is capable of rising to the occasion.”

Officers work a schedule of four days on, two days off.

Because the low number of officers means



# Wrong Turn Leads to New Restaurant in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

Katie and Tony Yang were on their way to Mohegan Sun Casino late last year when they took a wrong turn and ended up in East Hampton.

The couple, who had already decided to open their own place after working in the restaurant business for many years, noticed the large Stop and Shop parking lot filled with cars. Then they saw the sign on the corner: "Space available."

It took just over half a year for the Yangs, along with another business partner, to open Tang Asia Bistro.

"Sometimes mistakes are the right ones," Katie Yang said.

The Japanese and Asian fusion restaurant features an extensive menu including sushi, sashimi, noodles, rice, and a diverse array of entrees ranging from General Tso's chicken to Thai Seafood Delight.

According to Yang, sushi is one of the restaurant's most popular menu items. The raw seafood – like tuna, eel, shrimp and king crab – is delivered fresh every day, she said.

Appetizers such as Thai chicken wings, fried dumplings and Harumaki spring rolls are some favorites of the customers who have been coming in since the restaurant opened at the end of July.

"One father said he'd bring the whole family back just because of the Thai wings," Yang said.

Yang explained that the level of heat in the dishes labeled "hot and spicy" can be adjusted according to each customer's tastes – either to kick it up a notch or take it down.

She said she noticed early on that most of her customers weren't too adventurous when it comes to spicy foods.

"When we say 'spicy,' it's not something you can't take. It's pretty mild," she said.

The eatery is waiting for its liquor license so

it can stock the full bar lining the wall on the side of the restaurant near the entrance. A large flat-screen television is ready to greet sports fans who want to grab a drink while watching a game.

The rest of the space is filled with booths and tables for lunch, dinner or special events. The restaurant can host parties or business meetings for up to 20 people.

While the liquor license is being processed, Yang said customers are invited to bring their own beer or wine to enjoy with their meal.

"We hope people know we're here," she said. "They can try our food, see how they like it."

Yang has experience in restaurants in Wallingford and North Haven. Born in China, she moved to Connecticut in 1992 with her restaurateur parents.

"It's in the family. You grow up in the restaurant, you can even close your eyes and know what you're doing," she said.

For Yang, family is the most important thing. A large, extended group of aunts, uncles and cousins have helped to make Connecticut home.

"Anything happens, one phone call and they can be there for you," she said. "Any help you need, they'll be there for you."

Yang explained that conversations with her customers have shown her there are many people who have moved to East Hampton for work or for the good school system without their own network of family nearby.

"I tell them, 'You're always welcome here,'" she said. "Maybe throw a party if you need it!"

Tang Asia Bistro is located at 11 East High Street in the Stop and Shop Plaza. Hours are: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Sunday. It is closed Mondays. The phone number is 860-467-3948. The restaurant is dine-in or take-out.



Katie Yang, co-owner of Tang Asia Bistro in the Stop and Shop Plaza on Route 66, said a wrong turn ended up being the right move for East Hampton's newest restaurateurs.

## Hebron Selectmen Approve Peters House Uses

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The Board of Selectmen last week voted in favor of a list of approved uses for the Peters House.

Located on East Street near the entrance to Burnt Hill Park, the house, which was built between 1750 and 1790, has been restored due to the ongoing efforts of the town, volunteers and the Historic Properties Commission. But just what the building should be used for following those renovations had been undecided – until now.

On Thursday, the board voted unanimously to approve uses that fall under four categories: educational, cultural, income-generating, and occurring outdoors on the property.

Educational uses include as a museum with exhibits, scheduled open house tours, school visits, and historic workshops and lecture programs; cultural uses include art shows, chamber concerts, historic craft workshops, as a venue for catered functions in conjunction with park use, as a place to view movies in the ballroom, for fundraisers, and special seasonal activities such as Christmas tree decorating, an Easter egg hunt and Halloween parties for kids/seniors.

Meanwhile, income-generating uses can include renting the facilities, small catered functions, private celebrations and community group meetings; and outdoor uses could include private functions with a tent and caterer, historic workshops, a farmers market, flea market, and festivals/fairs.

The home is believed to be the one-time residence of Cesar and Louis Peters, two slaves who were captured and then rescued by Hebron residents in the late-18th century.

"We've narrowed [the list of uses] down,"

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said at the meeting Sept. 1. "If [the board is] comfortable with this we could take action."

He added with a smile as he alluded to the length of time selectmen had been, off and on, discussing potential uses, "It only took, I think, a year and a half to decide."

"I'm ready to get this passed and move on," Board of Selectmen Chairman Dan Larson said.

"I'm comfortable with this," selectwoman Gail Richmond agreed.

The motion to approve the list of uses passed unanimously.

\* \* \*

Also last week, the selectmen scheduled a public hearing for Thursday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m. in the town office building to receive comment on a proposed ordinance amendment that would increase the tax exemption for local veterans from \$10,000 to \$20,000; a senate bill passed this year that allows municipalities to increase exemptions up to that amount.

Assessor Deb Gernhardt shared at the meeting there were 347 veterans in town in 2015; she added in a letter to Tierney and Finance Director Elaine Griffin 19 property owners applied and qualified for the \$10,000 exemption – which is income-based – for the 2015 grand list.

Under the current mill rate of 35.64, that equates to \$6,771 in revenue loss to the town.

"We have local options to accommodate farmers and firefighters, but veterans get very little," Gernhardt stated. "And these are men and women who gave a lot."

Tierney added, "It's a show of good faith that we're doing what we can [for veterans]."

"I think it's the least we can do," Richmond

agreed.

The board voted unanimously to schedule the public hearing on the matter.

\* \* \*

In addition last week the board voted to enter into an agreement with Connecticut Green Bank to join the C-PACE program.

Recommended by the town's Citizens Green Committee, the program is a financing tool that provides low interest loans to commercial property owners looking to make energy upgrades.

Committee Chairman Mike Harder said at the meeting, "There's no real downside to it."

In correspondence he sent to Tierney last month he added "it sounds like the program would benefit the town, its businesses and property owners."

Green Bank Commercial and Industrial Programs Manager Nicholas Zuba explained at the meeting the C-PACE program, which stands for Community Property Assessed Clean Energy, is a financing tool that allows for energy upgrades in commercial buildings to be financed with third party capital. C-PACE financing covers 100 percent of the project costs with no money down.

Zuba explained projects through C-PACE are developed so that the energy savings exceed the cost of financing. Once in the program, business owners receive an energy assessment on their buildings from which a scope of work is developed, and a list of recommendations is brought to Green Bank for approval. These could include: new lighting, upgraded HVAC equipment, the installation of solar systems, wind and fuel cell technologies – "any kind of renewable energy sources" Zuba stated.

Participants in the program repay the invest-

ment over a length of time up to 25 years, and payments are determined through an assessment of the property tax bill; the tax collector works with Green Bank to help administer billing and collections once the project is complete.

Zuba said interest in forming a partnership with Hebron came about after the owners of Ted's IGA expressed an interest in utilizing the program to make energy saving improvements.

Entering into an agreement would allow not only Ted's, but other commercial business owners – as well as non-profit groups – to take advantage of the program's financing.

"It looks straightforward," Tierney said at the meeting. "We can charge [Green Bank] for any administrative costs but that looks minimal."

"We're hoping to champion economic development here," Zuba said. "The idea is that we're trying to find ways to keep business in your town so you can have a more stabilized tax base." In addition, he said the idea is for building owners have an increased net income coming into their business so they can stay in the area and potentially expand and hire more residents.

"I think it's another opportunity for the town to work to put something out there for our economic development," Selectman Brian O'Connell stated.

The board voted unanimously in favor of the resolution to join the C-PACE program and forwarded it to town meeting for approval.

\* \* \*

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.



# Mother and Daughter Realize Dream with New Salon in Hebron

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Walking into PerSNIPity salon in Hebron, customers are greeted with a vibe owner Suzi Stula describes as “fancy-cozy-eclectic.”

The walls are a deep teal called Antigua (“because we’d all rather be there” Stula said with a laugh this week), which is coupled with accents in white, gold and brown from the furniture and décor. Along with the vibe, patrons encounter an atmosphere upon entering meant to make everyone feel welcome.

“The staff is happy,” Stula stated. “We just wanted to have that good energy, that good vibe, so that anybody who walks in the door is going to be comfortable.”

Her mother Lisa Yopp, who runs the salon with her and has been doing hair out of her home for family and friends for the past 30 years, added, “You can come in here dressed up or you could come in here in your sweats and you’re okay.”

The new salon, which opened its doors July 26, was something both women said they’d been talking about for quite some time.

“This is something we always talked about doing,” said Stula, who has been a licensed hairstylist for 15 years and spent the last five working in Colchester. “Then this spot was available, we were talking and were like, ‘Let’s do it! Let’s open a salon.’”

And so, that’s precisely what they did, transforming a space in the Ted’s Foods plaza at 127 Main St. from a dentist’s office to a full service salon in around three months’ time.

“It all just came together; it was like once the door opened we couldn’t stop it,” said Yopp.

And getting everything ready involved the efforts of not just Stula and Yopp but other family and friends as well.

“It was just a very easy process and my best guy friend [Chip Temple, who owns a construction company] was the one who did all the construction for us – after their full-time jobs they’d come in every night to help,” Stula said. “And we had fun doing it.”

Temple “and all the guys at CT Construction” were a “key part” of getting PerSNIPity

open, Stula stated, as was another friend, electrician Dave Boucher, who “spent a lot of late nights here to bring it up to code.”

“If it wasn’t for them and their businesses this wouldn’t have happened,” she shared.

But happen it did, and PerSNIPity is ready to welcome customers – old and new – to experience all the salon has to offer, including women’s haircuts, men’s haircuts and cuts for kids; highlights and coloring; perms and blow-outs; and wedding and prom hairstyles.

In addition, the salon offers a one-hour spa pedicure in chairs the two women touted for their sanitary design; each tub gets a liner that’s replaced between customers.

“We wanted to offer the best,” said Yopp.

The pedicure chairs are also in a semi-private area of the salon, separated from the rest of the hubbub by a low wall.

“We liked having it private so if someone just wants to come and relax, or if you want to come in with your husband or a friend, you’re not out there” in the main portion of the salon, Stula shared.

Along with the above, PerSNIPity offers regular manicures, Shellac manicures, and facial waxing. A makeup line is also expected to arrive at the start of the new year, and the goal is to begin offering massages around the same time.

Taking care of the customers who venture into the salon is a staff that includes, along with Stula and Yopp, hairstylist Kelly Pattison who’s been doing hair for 12 years – the last five in Hebron.

She said this week of working at PerSNIPity, “I love it here – it’s my salon family.”

In addition, staff includes stylist Carli Holland who’s new to the industry but, according to Stula, is “super talented – she just has that natural instinct.”

Also on staff is a barber, Lou Fernandez, who has more than 30 years’ experience. Yopp’s son CJ also helps after school answering phones, as does Deb Kotomski, a longtime customer of Stula’s who “wanted to be part of the family.” And, speaking of family, Stula’s grandmother



**There’s a new full-service salon in town: PerSNIPity opened July 26, offering an array of services to make you look polished from your hair down to your toes. Ready to welcome customers with a smile are, pictured in back, barber Lou Fernandez; in the middle row, from left, owners Lisa Yopp and Suzi Stula, and hairstylist Kelly Pattinson; and, in front, hairstylist Carli Holland.**

Susan Gunas also helps out, stopping by each day to fold towels.

Yopp called the response to the salon, “overwhelming. It’s just nonstop in a good way.”

“Everyone is just so excited... the support from the town is just incredible,” said Stula.

Speaking to their hopes for their new venture, she said it was “just to have fun.”

Her mom furthered she wants to “get to keep doing it.”

“It feels like we’re playing beauty parlor,” she said with a smile. “When [Stula] was little we used to play beauty parlor – it feels like

we’re doing that but grownup.”

“It doesn’t feel like we’re at work,” Stula concluded. “And I love doing hair because I like to make people feel good, so just all the new clients we’re getting and all the people that are leaving with a smile – it’s great.”

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PerSNIPity is open Tuesday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, visit [facebook.com/persnipitysalon](https://www.facebook.com/persnipitysalon) or call 860-530-1172.

# Hebron School Board Approves Feasibility Study

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Enrollment in the town’s two elementary schools is dipping – since the 2009-10 school year, combined enrollment at Hebron Elementary and Gilead Hill schools has fallen from 1,170 to 703 – and the Board of Education Wednesday voted to spend up to \$12,000 for a feasibility study that would provide options to consider in response to that declining enrollment.

The unanimous decision by the board came following a presentation by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) on just what that study would entail.

NESDEC Team Leader John Kennedy led the presentation, and congratulated the district for engaging in the planning process.

“Anytime a major decision comes along, planning is a major piece,” he said.

The NESDEC feasibility study, which is expected to take around three to four months, includes an enrollment analysis that takes a look at enrollment data over the past 10 years including public schools, private schools, homeschooled students and charter schools; and includes an analysis of variables impacting past and future enrollments such as projected construction in the town, projected home sales, as well as what the Baby Boomers and Millennials are doing.

Kennedy elaborated on that last point, explaining in some areas Boomers are

downsizing, which leads to vacant three- to four-bedroom homes – homes that younger families are likely to buy, impacting enrollment. As for Millennials, Kennedy explained they now make up a larger portion of the population than Baby Boomers nationally, but have the lowest birth rate of previous generations thus far.

“The wild card question is, when the Millennials turn 30, as many are now, will they expand their families?” Kennedy said. “We want to get that information so you [the district] get a really good sense of what’s happening in Hebron.”

Along with looking at enrollment, a facility study will also be conducted that includes an analysis and appraisal of the present and future educational needs of the district to learn “the facilities ability to accommodate 21st century needs,” Kennedy explained.

After the analyses, a list of possible options for the district to consider will be developed. Kennedy said of those options “we would be taking the information that we gained and we would be analyzing options based on best practices, and to the extent that it’s feasible, they would provide for adequate facilities at each educational level and provide quality educational opportunity.”

The options, he said, would also include information on enrollment, grade organization and how the current programing would be ac-

commodated, as well as a list of advantages and challenges for each.

NESDEC, which is based in Marlborough, Mass., and deals with approximately 300 school districts throughout New England, has recently worked on similar studies in Connecticut towns including Simsbury, Rocky Hill, Ellington, Stafford Springs and Tolland.

“Each community is unique and has its challenges but we enjoy the work and knowing we helped the districts,” Kennedy concluded.

Prior to voting on the motion to enter into a contract with NESDEC for the feasibility study, board secretary Kevin Williams shared his thoughts on the possibility. “I think it’s important,” he said. “We’ve got to have tangible data behind the decisions we make; the process makes sense, the information makes sense – our goal is to make sure we have an open, transparent process.”

Board member Carol Connolly agreed, saying, “I think it’s a good idea to have the study. Anytime we want to make a change we need data.”

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Also Wednesday, the board voted unanimously not to move forward with the proposed solar project at Hebron Elementary School as per the recommendation of Superintendent Tim Van Tassel.

At the beginning of last year, Van Tassel ex-

plained the board had multiple conversations and a presentation on the project which had the potential to bring savings to the district by adding solar panels to Hebron Elementary School.

But this project, he said, was different from the project at Gilead Hill School that put more than 400 panels on the building in 2012. In that project, the panels were owned by the company that installed them, DBS Energy, Inc., who then sold electricity to the district at a lower rate.

The Hebron Elementary School project was a design/build project where the town would own the panels following a repayment plan over five years, with electricity savings used to offset the cost.

Work was done on the project to bring it forth for state bonding in July of this year but Van Tassel said that money wasn’t received since the project wasn’t “shovel-ready.”

“The project was pushed back for a different year so now we’re at a different juncture,” he stated, explaining prior to the next bonding session electrical rates may change, as could the credits the district might receive, as well as the project savings.

“Do not take my recommendation as meaning we should not look at other options, but [with] this project – all things have changed,” Van Tassel said. “It could end up costing more money we don’t have.”



# Facebook Group Spurs Kindness in Colchester Community

by Julianna Roche

For the last four years, Michelle Noehren and her 5-year old daughter Lillian have made random acts of kindness a favorite mother-daughter pastime. From handing out flowers at the playground on Mother's Day to leaving Post-It notes with positive messages scattered across town, the two have made spreading kindness their mission.

It was only natural, then, for Noehren to create Colchester is Kind, a new Facebook group which has turned into a volunteer project focused on fostering a community of kindness and compassion in town.

While the group has been active for just under a month, it already has over 630 members, which is impressive, said Noehren, especially for a town Colchester's size. The hope, she added, is to help spread more positivity around the community – which would be a huge contrast to many other town-oriented Facebook groups, which can have a tendency to focus on the negative.

"That's where the idea came from," she said. "It's really to get to know people in the community, but also to highlight acts of kindness. ... My hope is it will cultivate a community of compassion and kindness in town."

After losing a friend to colon cancer in May, member Alyson Davis said there was something about the group's mission that inspired her to join.

"I became very involved in sharing [my friend's] message of believing in hope, kindness and service, and also raising money for colon cancer research with my own fundraiser," she said. "Something about Michelle's group resonated [with me]."

Group member Jessica Eveleigh had similar sentiments.

"When I saw that we had a group called Colchester is Kind, I did not hesitate for a moment [to join]," she said. "If you watch the news, the world can seem like such a scary, dark place these days. Spreading kindness helps to shine a little light and brings out the best in people."

According to Noehren, since its creation, fellow members (who she calls "kindness warriors") have been posting both about acts of kindness they've witnessed or been recipients of, as well as suggestions of what the group can do to help those in need. Posts have included everything from thanking a stranger for paying for a coffee at Dunkin' Donuts, to asking for help for a single father with two young kids in

finding affordable housing after toxic mold destroyed their home.

"If someone knows someone who is down on their luck in town, they can post that in the group," Noehren said.

Recently, group members posted about the Lebanon Avenue house fire that left a local family without a home, asking what they could do to help. As a result, one member was able to get in touch with the family who said most of the children's clothing was destroyed in the fire. Currently, a list of their children's clothing sizes is posted on their timeline, so residents know what to donate to the family.

Noehren said the group has also been implementing acts of kindness around town. For example, she said, they are most well-known for their three kindness rock gardens, which are an extension of a kindness movement that started anonymously in Cape Cod called The Kindness Rocks Project.

The rock gardens are filled with a myriad of rocks, each with a positive message or word painted on it, such as "Forgive," "Enjoy life," or "You matter."

"Those are spots where people can bring painted rocks with positive words or sayings, and leave them there or they can take one if it has meaning to them," Noehren explained.

Currently, there are three gardens in Colchester including at the Town Green, the Colchester Air Line Trail Spur, and the entrance of the Air Line Trail on Route 149.

Tomorrow, Sept. 10, group members will also have an opportunity to paint their own rocks at the Colchester is Kind group's first in-person event at Cragin Memorial Library from 10-11:30 a.m. According to Noehren, it will be a "kindness, story time and craft-making event," and the rocks painted there will eventually be used for two new rock gardens at the senior center and youth center.

"This is a volunteer project and that's how I plan to continue it," she said. "It's really exciting though because kindness can be so many different things and you don't have to spend money to be kind. ... I really do believe that the most important thing is how we treat other people because in the end, that's all that really matters."

"The group has really taken off," Eveleigh added. "Kindness rock gardens have popped up around town. We are starting to see cars with [Colchester is Kind] bumper stickers, and more



This "Kindness Rock Garden," located at Colchester's Air Line Trail Spur is one of three gardens in town. According to Colchester is Kind's founder Michelle Noehren, visitors can leave painted rocks with positive messages or take one that means something to them. Photo by Michelle Noehren.

and more Colchester residents are joining the Facebook page and posting positive messages and ideas on how to spread kindness."

"This group opens up so many possibilities to Colchester," Noehren said. "I want it to be a community project where people feel invested

in it, and are there for others when they need help in the community."

For those interested in joining, visit Colchester is Kind on Facebook or contact Michelle Noehren at [colchesteriskind@outlook.com](mailto:colchesteriskind@outlook.com).

# Colchester House Fire Leaves One Dead, One Injured

by Julianna Roche

A Colchester man is dead and another seriously injured after a fire ripped through a two-family home at 32 Mill St. on Saturday night.

Fire officials said the initial call came in at 10:10 p.m., with firefighters responding to the scene six minutes later and arriving to reports of occupants still inside the building.

Officials have not released the name of the deceased victim, but according to Fire Marshal Sean Shoemaker, his body was found on the second floor of the building upon a secondary search of the home.

"Another occupant also jumped from the second floor to the side yard," he said, adding the second victim had first- and second-degree burns. He was initially transported to Marlborough Clinic, but later flown by LifeStar to Shriners' Hospital in Rhode Island.

Land records indicate the house is owned by Broadway and Clark II, LLC, of Bozrah. It is unclear how many lived in the home.

According to Deputy Fire Marshal and Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company Deputy Chief Don Lee, the main body of the fire had been knocked down by 10:55 p.m. and firefighters were off the scene just after 2 a.m.

"This was a very intense fire, especially on arrival to pull up and see that much fire in a building, and especially in the center of town," Lee said.

Shoemaker agreed, adding, "We had very heavy fire coming out of the second floor, but

this was a really good attack on the fire considering its size."

According to fire officials, the first floor of the home was being used as an office, while the second floor was used as living space. Shoemaker said the first floor sustained water damage and the second had heavy fire damage. However, he said the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

"We're still waiting to speak with the occupant [of the house] when he is released from the hospital," Shoemaker said. "We've ruled out criminal intent, but there are some details we still need to fill in."

Two firefighters also sustained heat-related injuries while fighting the blaze on scene, Shoemaker said. They were taken to Marlborough Clinic, and were treated and released Sunday morning.

"We were very fortunate we were in a hydrant district, so water wasn't an issue logistically here," Lee said, referencing the Lebanon Avenue fire on Aug. 23, where there were no nearby fire hydrants due to the rural location, making it more difficult for firefighters.

"We just required more mutual [aid] and more specialized equipment here," he added.

A total of 35 Colchester firefighters responded to the blaze. Also, Lee said, fire departments from Columbia, East Haddam, East Hampton, Gardner Lake, Hebron, Marlborough, Salem and Yantic's rapid intervention team provided mutual aid services and assisted



On Saturday night, a fire tore through a two-family home on 32 Mill St., leaving one victim dead and another seriously injured.

on scene. American Ambulance and Middlesex Hospital paramedics also provided aid.

"[We] have to give lots of praise to our mutual aid teams," said Lee. "Without them, what

we do wouldn't be possible. We all come together and work seamlessly. Through their efforts and ours, we were able to put that fire out."



# Marlborough Teen Playwright Wins National Competition

by Julianna Roche

Growing up, Emma Filosa never saw playwriting in her future.

While she had done a lot of stage work, being involved with theater groups from the time she was 5 years old, writing a play just never interested her. However, Filosa said she heard about a playwriting competition and on a whim, decided to try her hand at writing and submitting her own work.

The 18-year-old RHAM High School graduate was one of the eight playwrights selected to participate in this year's national VSA Playwright Discovery Program. Filosa traveled to Washington, D.C. from Sept. 2-4 to participate in rehearsals and professional development programs for her winning play, *Missing Pieces*, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Each year, the national VSA Playwright Discovery Award Competition invites students nationwide, both with or without disabilities, to explore the disability experience through scriptwriting for stage and screen. Participants can write scripts based on personal experiences, create fictional characters and settings, or write abstractly about the disability experience.

A panel of theatre professionals and educators for the competition then choose eight of those plays, giving the writers the opportunity

to partake in a weekend-long intensive workshop with distinguished theatre professionals.

"It was a cool experience," Filosa said, adding one of the highlights was working with actor and theatre director Michael Patrick Thornton, who is perhaps best known for his role as Dr. Gabriel Fife on the former ABC series *Private Practice*.

"I got to work with other playwrights," Filosa said. "There were people there both with and without disabilities, so it was really interesting to talk to everybody and see where they got their ideas from and what inspired them to write their plays."

Filosa said she wrote *Missing Pieces* to help raise awareness about the autism community and also to lessen any negativity or misconceptions that many autistic individuals might face.

According to the teen playwright, the play focuses on a 17-year-old autistic girl named Emily, and her reaction to her older brother and his girlfriend visiting home from college – an event that, according to Filosa, takes Emily completely out of her daily routine and comfort zone. Her character is depicted by both her physical being, as well as her inner voice which is only audible by the audience.

"I think a lot of times in movies or plays, the focus is on an autistic person's relationship with their parents, but I think their relationship with

siblings is something no one has really talked about so that's what I wanted to focus on," Filosa said regarding her inspiration for the play. Before she began writing, she said she did intensive research on the topic, even interviewing people with autistic siblings.

"I tried to see what their view was, and how they handled that," she said.

Filosa said she also has years of experience working with children and teenagers on the autism spectrum. She also served as program director for RHAM's Drama Unified Program, which brings middle and high school students, both with and without disabilities, together in one community theater group.

"When I was in preschool, my best friend also had Down syndrome and looking back at it, I don't remember even noticing she had it," Filosa added. "She was just my friend – not someone with a disability. She just had to live her life a little differently, but everybody lives their life differently... so with *Missing Pieces*, I just wanted to bring awareness to that."

Filosa recently started her freshman year at The College of Saint Rose in Albany, N.Y. While she plans to obtain her bachelor's degree in music industry, she says she plans to continue writing plays in her spare time, and hopes to eventually turn *Missing Pieces* into a full-length stage piece.



Emma Filosa received a VSA Playwright Discovery Program award for a play about a 17-year-old girl with autism called *Missing Pieces*.

## Vote Next Week on Colchester Senior Center Buy

by Julianna Roche

Residents will have the opportunity next week to vote on whether the town should buy the Colchester Senior Center building at 95 Norwich Ave. from its current owner, the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees.

The potential purchase was moved to referendum at a town meeting last week, and voting will take place Tuesday, Sept. 13.

Town officials have called the acquisition a "win-win." It would allow the Town of Colchester to give seniors and veterans a space to continue receiving services uninterrupted while a potential new senior center is being built; meanwhile, it would provide the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees with the funds necessary to begin restoration of Old Bacon Academy.

To make the purchase, the town would need to appropriate \$283,240 from the undesignated fund balance the acquisition; officials have repeatedly stressed – which 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.

Voting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 13 at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Persons qualified to vote in town meetings who are not electors shall also vote at Colchester Town Hall. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's Office.

## East Hampton Police News

8/16: Chandler Wojick, 18, of 3 Whittier Rd., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, failure to drive right and failure to carry driver's license, East Hampton Police said.

8/26: Brett Allen Saunders, 26, of 99 Comstock Tr., was arrested and charged with second-degree threatening, reckless endangerment and second-degree disorderly conduct.

8/28: Jessica A. Spearin, 31, of 157 Daly Rd., was issued a summons for traveling unreasonably fast and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, police said.

8/30: Nicholas Scott Kensey, 32, of 55 David Dr., Colchester, was arrested for driving under the influence, police said.

## Marlborough Police News

9/2: State Police said Michael J. Gionfriddo, 58, of 25 Highgate Rd., Newington, was arrested and charged with reckless driving over 85 m.p.h., operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and possession of narcotics kept only in its original container.

## Colchester Motorcycle Crash Leaves One Injured

by Julianna Roche

Colchester Police are investigating a single motorcycle crash that occurred on Cabin Road on Sept. 14 at approximately 11:30 a.m.

According to police, a Royal Continental driven by Gordon Laing, 63, of 50 Bushy Hill

Rd., Ivoryton was traveling northbound on Cabin Road when it turned right off the southbound road and shoulder.

Police said Laing was transported by Colchester Hayward Fire Department to Marlborough Clinic for possible injuries.

## Freight Truck Crash in Colchester Results in Fuel Leak

by Julianna Roche

A tractor-trailer rollover left a portion of Route 2 closed for six hours early last Friday morning.

According to state police, at approximately 3:15 a.m. on Sept. 2, a tractor-trailer was traveling eastbound on Route 2, near the Exit 19 and Exit 20 split, when its operator, Adrian M. Sarmiento, 36, of 50 Rinaldi Blvd., Poughkeepsie, N.Y., lost control of the rig.

The tractor-trailer, which was carrying frozen goods, subsequently struck a metal Department of Transportation (DOT) sign and rolled over, blocking the right lane of travel.

State police said it sustained significant damage to its front end, right side, right wheels, front axle and undercarriage.

According to police, no injuries were reported; however, multiple organizations were called to the scene, including the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for a fuel leak, the Department of Consumer Protection for frozen cargo, and DOT for the downed sign.

Route 2 was closed until 9 a.m., as officials cleared the scene.

## Colchester Police News

8/29: Colchester Police said Skyler T. Shephard, 18, of 256 Quinipiac Ave., North Haven was arrested and charged with third degree burglary and fifth degree larceny.

8/31: State Police said Billy McNamara, 42, of 59 Birch St., was arrested on an active PRAWN warrant and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

9/4: Colchester Police said that Monica Piette, 32, of 164 Norwich Ave. was arrested

and charged with breach of peace and violating a protective order.

9/5: Colchester Police are investigating a residence burglary on Norwich Ave. which occurred sometime between Sept. 2 and Sept. 5. Police said forced entry was made to a rear door and the victim reported that jewelry and art work were stolen from the residence. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Colchester Police at (860) 537-7270.



# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Doris P. Corriveau

Doris P. Corriveau, 79, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Sept. 1, surrounded by loved ones.

She was the beloved wife of Ronald for 60 years; devoted mother of Barbara (Paul) Price of Colchester, Linda (Gary) Getty of Salem, Gary (Lisa) Corriveau of East Hampton and the late Glenn Corriveau; doting grandmother of Lindsey Day of Colchester, Christopher Day of Lebanon, Melissa Getty of Hawaii, Miranda Getty of Niantic and Jacob Getty of Salem; and sister of Dudley St. Jarre of Southington, Beatrice Dufour of Madawaska, Maine, and the late Leo, Jr., Wallace and Donald St. Jarre; as well as an aunt, cousin and friend to many.

Born Feb. 13, 1937, in Frenchville, Maine, she was the daughter of the late Leo and Odile (Dubois) St. Jarre. On Aug. 6, 1956, she and Ronald were married in St. Lucy Church in Frenchville. Early on, they lived in New Britain, then moved to East Haddam and finally in Colchester in 1978.

In addition to being a devoted wife and mother, she had worked for "Go Fly a Kite" in East Haddam and went on to work for "The Leather Man" in Deep River before her retirement. In her spare time, she loved tending to her flower gardens, crafting and caring for her family.

Visitation was held Monday, Sept. 5, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral assembled starting at the funeral home Tuesday, Sept. 6, before the celebration of the funeral liturgy that morning, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. She will be laid to rest with her son, Glenn, in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

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

## Portland

### William C. Heeber

William C. Heeber, 83, of Bloomfield, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Sept. 6, at his home. Born in Bloomfield to the late William G. and Helen (Urbanavage) Heeber, he was a lifelong resident of Bloomfield and graduated from Bloomfield High School with high honors in 1951.

William served his country proudly with the US Army Military Police during the Korean War serving in Korea, France and Germany. He was on the US National Military Basketball team in France in 1953-1954 and worked with Bob Hope's traveling USO entertainment team for troops in Spain, France and Germany from 1953 to 1955.

William was a member of Boy Scout Troop 138 of Bloomfield for 5 years and Scout Master of the same for 45 years. He was the winner of Scouting's Bronze Pelican Award, Silver Beaver Award and Outstanding Scouter for four years. His troop holds the district record for 40 consecutive wins in camping competition.

William retired from AETNA Life & Casualty Insurance Co. in Hartford where he worked as an auditor for 36 years and was the co-owner of Tall Tale Antiques in Portland since 1960.

He will be missed by his relatives and friends. William is survived by his cousins, Marilyn Austin of Bloomfield, Donna Kidd of Windsor, Henry Heeber of California, Bruce Heeber of South Carolina and their children.

He lived in a close community in Bloomfield, neighbors helping neighbors, and we are grateful for all their help. A special thanks for friendship goes to the Misunas family, the Cipkas family and the Hacia family, and especially to Jerry Groeper, his close friend and business partner for over 56 years, his closest BSA friend Robert Froebel, and to all those customers and friends of Tall Tale Antiques in Portland.

A funeral service will be held at 11:30 a.m. today, Sept. 9, at the Carmon Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor, followed by burial with military honors in St. Bernard Cemetery, Tariffville. His family will receive friends prior to the service today from 10-11:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please make a memorial donation to the Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance Fund, 785 Park Ave., Bloomfield, CT 06002 or Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, 103 Vision Way, Bloomfield, CT 06002.

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



## Colchester

### Helen Mary Brusseau

Helen Mary Brusseau, 92, of Norwich, passed away at Harrington Court in Colchester Wednesday, Aug. 31. She was born in Norwich Aug. 14, 1924, to the late Leon and Eva (Sakowich) Kutia.

Helen was a member of the "Greatest Generation," having worked as a production line worker with her husband at Hamilton Standard Propeller during World War II. She then went on to retire as a housekeeper from the Norwich Hospital. She was a communicant at Bozrah Center Congregational Church.

Helen is survived by a son, Frederick G. Brusseau and his wife Carol of Chelmsford, Mass.; a daughter, Barbara Contino and her husband Richard of Bozrah; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Family and friends visited Church and Allen Funeral Home, 136 Sachem St., Norwich, Tuesday, Sept. 6. A funeral home service was held Wednesday, Sept. 7, followed by interment at St. Nicholas Cemetery in Norwich.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Bozrah Center Congregational Church, Route 163, Bozrah, CT 06334.

Visit [churchandallen.com](http://churchandallen.com) to leave an online condolence for the Brusseau and Contino families.

## East Hampton

### Kevin B. Smith

Kevin B. Smith, 44, of East Hampton, formerly of Niantic, died Friday, Sept. 2, after a long illness. He was the son of Paul and Mary Ellen Smith of Niantic.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Thomas L. Neilan & Sons East Lyme Funeral Home, 48 Grand St., Niantic. There will be a service at noon after the visitation.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to either the Dana Faber Cancer Institute or to the Cancer Connection in Northampton, Mass.

## Haddam Neck

### Patrick J. Murray

Patrick J. Murray, 56, of Haddam Neck, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Sept. 3. He was born Feb. 10, 1960, in Bristol, and was the son of the late Francis J. and Margaret (Malley) Murray.

Patrick was a graduate of WCSU and was the nursing manager of the Diabetes LifeCare Unit at Hartford Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, Laurie Sherman of Haddam Neck; his stepdaughter, Christine and her husband Brian Martin of Ohio and their children Dominic, Joshua and Brayden; his stepson, Michael and his wife Sabrina Cormier of Long Island and their children Mia and Michael; his brother, Paul and his wife Susan Murray of San Diego, Calif.; his sister, Theresa and her husband Ted Johnson of Farmington; and many extended family members.

He was predeceased by his sister, Agnes "Annie" O'Shea.

Patrick was a wonderful, caring and very simple kind of man. He was always giving and helping others. He enjoyed traveling with his wife and spending time with family and friends. In his spare time, he spent many hours outdoors. He loved nature and all that went with it.

Patrick made many memories hiking with the grandkids; sharing his knowledge and interests with them. He was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan. Patrick could light up a room with his presence. He had a manner about him that was larger than life. He will be forever loved and missed.

Calling hours were held Thursday, Sept. 8, at O'Brien Funeral Home, 24 Lincoln Ave., Bristol/Forestville, followed by a funeral service that evening.

Memorial donations in his honor may be made to: American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454 Alexandria, VA 22312 or online at [diabetes.org](http://diabetes.org).

To leave an online message of condolences, share a memory or photo, visit Patrick's page at [OBrien-FuneralHome.com](http://OBrien-FuneralHome.com).



## Colchester

### James J. Milewski

James J. Milewski of Colchester passed away Saturday, Sept. 3, at age 61.

He leaves his beloved daughters, Andrea Milewski of Glastonbury and Julia Milewski of North Haven; his brother, John Milewski and his wife Lynn of Blowing Rock, N.C.; his sister, Lori Rybolt of Virginia Beach, Va.; his Uncle Leo Milewski of Glastonbury; and several nieces and nephews.

Jim started his career as a chef at Marlborough Tavern, a job he loved and at which he excelled. After the death of his wife Anne, he studied nights to become a plumber. He earned his master plumber's license and worked in this profession for many years. In the last decade he was employed at Tallwood Country Club in Hebron.

Jim loved cars, especially the Mustang and, specifically, the Shelby GT 500. He shared this love with his girls, taking them to many car shows. Owning and restoring several Mustangs during his life was one of his joys. Andrea became quite the mechanic, learning alongside her Dad.

Though no longer a professional chef, he was most happy in the kitchen listening to James Taylor and Jimmy Buffett, making Andrea and Julia their special birthday and holiday meals. He was a history buff, loving to read and watch documentaries on a variety of historic events. His quirky sense of humor was enjoyed by all who knew him.

There were struggles in Jim's life and dark times. His daughters were the one good constant in his life. May he now find peace.

Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, will have calling hours from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Online condolences may be left at [mulryanfh.com](http://mulryanfh.com).

## Hebron

### Aceynath Louise Porter

Aceynath Louise Porter, of Hebron, died peacefully Saturday, Sept. 3. Affectionately called Ene, she was 97 years old, born June 4, 1919. She was the daughter of Claude and Natalie Jones.

Aceynath was married to her high school sweetheart, David K. Porter, for 71 years. She and her loving husband were wed Nov. 8, 1944. Aceynath was a lifelong Hebron resident, spending her childhood on her parent's dairy farm. She enjoyed horseback riding and attending country fairs. Aceynath was a graduate of Windham High School, Willimantic and Morse College School of Business, Harford, which prepared her for work as a medical secretary.

Aceynath was a traditional wife and mother of her generation. She enjoyed duckpin bowling in the winter months and spending summer vacations at the shore. Aceynath and her husband also took much pleasure in traveling and spending time with their growing grandchildren. Aceynath was kind and patient and happiest being with her family.

For over 50 years, Aceynath was a member of the American Legion Auxillary, Hebron Post 95. She was a communicant of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and served as clerk on the church's vestry for many years. Aceynath was a longtime member of the Hebron Historical Society.

In addition to her husband David, Aceynath leaves two caring daughters and son-in-law, Claudia Haeckel, and Denise and Edward Jankovic; four cherished grandsons, Matthew Jankovic, Michael and Jillian Jankovic, Stephen and Kelly Haeckel, and David and Jenni Haeckel; three precious great-grandsons, Landon, Jaxen and Kaden Haeckel; and many nieces and nephews.

Aceynath was predeceased by her sister and brother-in-law, Merle and G. Earl Porter.

Aceynath loved her family, friends and neighbors, and she will be dearly missed.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Sept. 8, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church St., Hebron, with burial following. There were no calling hours.

Memorial donations may be made in Aceynath's name to St. Peter's Episcopal Church; or American Legion Auxillary Post 95, 18 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248.

To sign the online memorial book, visit [potterfuneralhome.com](http://potterfuneralhome.com).



## Portland

### Michael E. Estabrook

Michael E. "Mike" Estabrook, 60, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Sept. 3, at Hartford Hospital. He was the husband of Laurie (Hale) Estabrook, his beloved wife of 36 years. Born Sept. 8, 1955, in Middletown, Mike was the son of Gilma Estabrook and the late Maxwell E. Estabrook.

He was a longtime resident of Portland and was employed as an elevator/escalator mechanic for Otis Elevator. Known as the "Escalator Man," Michael was lucky to love the work he did for over 30 years. He and his Hale family have owned and operated Bud's Café in Portland since 1968.

Mike loved spending time with his entire family, weekend trips to Vermont, and outings with his partners in crime; his brothers-in-law. He was a member of the VFW. Mike liked to fish, golf, snowmobile and ride his motorcycle. He followed NASCAR and was an avid Joey Logano fan. His love for his wife, his kids, his dogs and granddogs was only surpassed by their love for him.

We can proudly say that Mike made a lasting impression on everyone he met. His mischief, kindness and sense of humor are what his friends and family will remember most. Michael was a loving son, husband, father, brother and friend. He will be greatly missed. Bud's will never be the same without him.

Michael is survived by a son – Mike H. Estabrook; two daughters, Jessica L. Estabrook and Amy Sue Estabrook and her fiancé Justin Brochu, all of Portland; a brother, Philip Estabrook and his wife Sue of Madison; three sisters, Carla Strycharz and her husband Peter of Portland, Linda Berube of Portland, Lori Tollmann and her husband Mark of Lebanon. He also leaves behind three sisters-in-law, Susan Colby and her husband Gary, Nancy Dube and her husband Bob and Wendy Penkes and her husband Bill – all of Portland; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and his faithful companions, his dogs: Reba and Sierra "Kitty."

He was predeceased by his brother-in-law, Gene Berube, and his nephew, Jason Strycharz.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects today, Sept. 9, from 4-7 p.m., at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Michael Estabrook may be made to the Portland Fire Department, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

