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News Bulletin

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Volume 41, Number 41

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

July 14, 2017



The East Hampton Senior Center won first place at the Old Home Days Parade for their 250th anniversary-themed float featuring an homage to bygone eras. The parade, which Old Home Day Association President Jim Vick called the longest ever, capped three days of revelry that has become synonymous with the town's unique spirit.

Old Home Days Draw Thousands

by Elizabeth Regan

The 39th annual Old Home Days brought thousands of revelers to the village center for three days of fun as part of the town's highly anticipated Glorious Celebration.

The event honored the town's year-long sescentennial observance with the theme "Celebrating East Hampton 250: A Rich History, A Bright Future."

Old Home Day Association President Jim Vick said the 250th anniversary helped make the event one of the most successful ever, driving up attendance at the carnival and bringing more marchers and floats to the Old Home Days Parade.

Already known as the longest parade in Middlesex County, Vick said this year's is the biggest one the association has ever put on.

Starting Saturday morning and lasting into the early afternoon, the parade was two hours of marching bands, fife and drum corps, extravagant floats, barefoot mariners and smiling faces.

The vibrant procession was coordinated by Catherine "Cap" Egan, who carried on in the absence of her husband and Old Home Day

Parade co-chairman, Dan Egan, who died in March at the age of 59.

Vick called Dan Egan a "burst of positivity that we all miss." He said Cap Egan has been working tirelessly and selflessly to make the parade happen even in the midst of her grief.

"We're moving on despite losing one of the nicest guys you could ever meet," Vick said.

That effort was evident and appreciated Saturday as thousands of people lined the streets of East Hampton from the high school to Center School.

Tracy Cotton and her children, 3-year-old Jeremy Royce and 13-month-old Olivia Royce, waited for the parade to make its way down Route 196 toward the Center School gazebo on Saturday morning. They were joined by family and friends including Shannon Royce, 18-month-old Benjamin Royce, and 4-year-old Hannah Nitkowski.

Cotton said it was her fourth time celebrating Old Home Days. She cited the extensive parade as one of the biggest draws.

"I don't like small parades," she said.

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Security Footage Holding Up Fire Investigation

by Elizabeth Regan

The East Hampton fire marshal's office continues to investigate the cause of a June 25 fire that disrupted a wedding reception on the marina side of St. Clements Castle.

The castle and its grounds, which comprise the bulk of the 90-acre site, are in Portland; the Port-Hampton Marina Club is located in East Hampton.

The investigation is being conducted by local fire marshals and the state fire marshal's office. Deputy Fire Marshal Joe Guest said Wednesday he is waiting for St. Clements' insurance company to hand over footage from the facility's security cameras.

The fire caused extensive damage to the exterior, attic area and roof on the kitchen side of the building, with smoke and water damage in the area where guests had been eating and drinking when the fire started.

Guest said he doesn't know how long it will take to release the cause of the fire.

"Until we get all our information, we don't close our investigation," Guest said.

He also would not confirm if the fire marshal's office is looking at a criminal aspect to the case.

Guest emphasized the state fire marshal's office currently has only a minor role while the East Hampton fire marshal's office leads the investigation – "but once I get the video footage, they'll be involved more," he added.

According to St. Clements Foundation President Dan Loos, the insurance company has already provided the fire marshal's office with "a flash stick with little segments" of security footage.

"When [the fire marshal's office] saw that, they wanted more from other cameras," Loos said Wednesday. But he added it's been complicated and more time consuming than anticipated for the insurance company to get the necessary footage off the hard drive.

He also said the insurance company wants more information about exactly what kind of footage Guest wants from the cameras.

Guest discounted that idea when asked for comment.

"They know what we want," he said. "They've been holding onto the hard drive."

Guest said he expected to speak with representatives from the insurance company at the site and come up with a way to access the footage on Thursday, after press time.

East Hampton Fire Chief Greg Voelker said from the scene the day of the fire that he heard the blaze was related to cooking equipment. The fire appeared to have started on the wooden deck between the building and a cement retaining wall, he said.

Documents in the planning and zoning department include a May 3 application for a mechanical permit to run gas piping for an outdoor cooking setup made up of two pot heaters, a grill and a fryolator.

A month later, the contractor told the planning and zoning department "the customer decided not to do the job."

Building Official Glen LeConche said he had visited the site the day after the fire, where he did not see any gas pipes but did see a barbecue grill and a turkey fryer with individual propane tanks on the back deck.

The 4.96-acre riverside parcel in East Hampton is approved by town zoning and building officials for use as a marina, but a paper trail going back six years shows planning and zoning department staff members have repeatedly told owner and founder Edward Doherty he is not authorized to use the property as a banquet facility.

Doherty is chairman of the Roncalli Institute, a nonprofit organization he has said was created to address the health and welfare of elderly people. Numerous nonprofit entities and trusts, as well as the for-profit St. Clements banquet facility, exist under the umbrella of the Roncalli Institute.

Doherty has said he was trained at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell. He did not immediately respond to a request for comment on this story.

Cease-and-Desist

As the fire marshal's office investigated the fire, a concurrent inquiry by staff in the Building, Planning and Zoning Department resulted in a cease-and-desist order issued Wednesday by Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli.

DeCarli said Doherty can use the property – which existed as a marina before current regulations turned the area into a single-family residential zone – for anything that "would be reasonably expected at a marina."

But holding banquets, weddings and special events that aren't marina-related is an "illegal expansion" of the site's grandfathered status, according to DeCarli.

DeCarli went on to say the building that

caught fire was permitted, constructed and assessed as a storage facility.

"Using the facility in any manner other than the allowed storage, office or warehouse use related to the marina is in direct violation of the East Hampton Zoning Regulations and Connecticut state law," he wrote.

But Loos said the business is entitled, through a 2010 water supply agreement with East Hampton, to hold the same kind of events at its marina that it holds on the castle side of the property in Portland.

Loos was a building inspector in Hartford, Manchester and Portland, among other smaller municipalities.

The town paid Doherty \$673,000 in 2010 for the right to use two wells on his property. The town also paid for the remediation of contaminated soil and building removal with the goal of using the wells as part of a public water system that has not yet come to fruition.

The agreement allows Doherty to use the area north of the easement area for purposes "accessory to" functions at the castle, such as taking marina guests to and from the castle or using the land as a location for wedding photography.

"Nothing in the easement agreement should be construed as allowing a use beyond that which is a part of the marina," DeCarli wrote.

He said the marina "should not be marketed for banquets, receptions, or other non-marina uses on the St. Clements website or any other public medium."

There are also no permits on file for the large

See Security Footage page 2



Kellen Garvey, 7, pictured here with East Hampton Police Officer Jason Wishart, had a place of honor in the front seat of the Humvee that cleared the way for the parade. Police invited Garvey to hitch a ride as thanks for the young boy's year-long support of the department.

Old Home Days cont. from Front Page

For Shannon Royce, the event has been a life-long tradition.

Royce said her brother, now an adult, was born the week of Old Home Days - just in time to become one of the youngest attendees just days later.

This year, the East Hampton Police Department Humvee cleared the way for the parade that greeted a whole new generation of Royce children as well as thousands of other visitors.

Kellen Garvey, a 7-year-old police enthusiast who donated the proceeds from his tomato and pepper plant/lemonade stand to the department, was a guest in the Humvee. Police Chief Sean Cox said officers thought it would be nice to give Garvey a spot in the police vehicle to thank him for his support. Garvey, along with his 3-year-old sister, had also provided officers with doughnuts and bagels earlier this year.

With the VFW Post 5095 Color Guard leading the procession, Grand Marshal Red McKinney represented the town's rich history while fellow parade marshal Molly Bentley personified its bright future. McKinney is the longtime parade announcer and Bentley is a 2017 graduate of East Hampton High School; both are active community volunteers.

Elected officials marching in the parade included members of the Town Council, Judge of Probate Jennifer Berkenstock, state Sen. Art Linares, R-33, state Rep. Melissa Ziobron, R-34, and U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal.

The town's emergency services were represented by the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association and the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department. Sirens and horns blared while lights flashed as several trucks - including this year's new ladder truck - wound their way down the street.

What followed included free T-shirts tossed from the Old Home Days float; seniors dressed up in costumes representing different facets of the town's 250-year history; Zumba enthusiasts dancing in the streets; and convertibles carrying honored citizens like the East Hampton Lions Club Citizen of the Year, Irene Kuck, and the Rotarian of the Year, Sharon Hull. Potted flowers from Paul's and Sandy's Too were handed out to parade goers along the route.

A crowd favorite was the New London-based 7th regiment Drum and Bugle Corps, a youth marching unit that wove and dipped to raucous beats before stopping in front of the gazebo for

a restrained but moving performance. The Ancient Mariners, a fife and drum corps with a theatrical edge, featured a cannon, barefoot sailors and a drunken pirate who broke free into the crowd at various points. The group was joined this year by its European component, the Swiss Mariners of Basel.

The first place award for best float went to the East Hampton Seniors; the Girl Scouts of the USA came in second with their patriotic, tree-filled float; and third place went to the Boy Scouts of America with their huge, floating bell.

The parade complemented a host of other events that have made the Old Home Days celebration a traditional favorite. The carnival lured children of all ages throughout the three-day run, with a Family Night focus on Thursday. Friday night's Glorious Gallop 5K saw 429 runners crossing the finish line at Center School.

The fastest time in the men's division was Rob Weston, 28, of Middletown, with a time of 16:00.9. Kristina Miner, 32, of Newington, was the fastest female with a time of 18:17.6.

According to race results, East Hampton's own Cynthia Peterson, 84, was the oldest competitor.

Vick said expanded food options and an array of crafters were well received by attendees. Three days of music with a local focus provided a rocking soundtrack throughout the grounds.

"It was a peaceful Old Home Days," he added. "No arrests, no fights. That's a big bonus for us. But that's typical, actually."

Vick hailed the Old Home Day Association team of about 16 volunteers who pull off the event each year.

But he cautioned about a third of them - if not half - are ready to retire from the group.

"We really need new people," he said. "I say this with all caution, but this could be the last Old Home Days if we don't get some new people to take over committees."

The excitement and enthusiasm of those three days carries over into the next year of planning, as Vick describes it.

He said help is needed at the helm of the fundraising, giveaways and soda booth committees. Other committees, including the parade's, need more members.

"It's a great group of people to work with. It's a fun thing. It's not like going to work," he said. "And you're playing a role in throwing the biggest party that this town has every year."

Security Footage cont. from Front Page parking area next to the "storage building," according to DeCarli. A permit from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency and site plan approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission is required.

The East Hampton facility also lacks a food service license, according to Chatham Health District Director Don Mitchell.

Fire Commission Asks Questions

East Hampton Fire Marshal Rich Klotzbier responded to questions about the fire and the site's inspection history from members of the Board of Fire Commission at their regular meeting on Monday. He told them he treated the building as an "assembly occupancy" instead of a storage facility when he conducted his annual inspection.

The building was grandfathered in as a storage facility, he told commissioners, but "St. Clements took it upon themselves to convert it to assembly occupancy, so that's how I inspected it."

He said fire marshals inspect buildings based on the potential for the greatest hazard - and "the greatest hazard to life was people inside the building and a fire occurring."

Fire marshal inspection reports acquired through a Freedom of Information request show three inspections were conducted in 2016: on Feb. 1, Oct. 25 and Nov. 17. Violations, which were all corrected, included the need for an emergency light and exit sign in the bridal suite and repeated instances of a fire extinguisher in the kitchen that needed hanging.

Klotzbier told commissioners the town has sent out "numerous letters" telling Doherty to refrain from using the building as a banquet facility, but clarified those letters did not come from him.

"I cannot do that," he said. He cited the build-

ing, planning and zoning department as the appropriate entity to send out cease-and-desist notices.

Council Seeks Answers

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Town Council, Councilor James "Pete" Brown brought up his concerns about the town's potential "exposure" related to the fire at an unpermitted and unlicensed facility.

Brown told reporters after the meeting he had asked Town Manager Michael Maniscalco for a better understanding of the permit and inspection history of the facility as it pertains to fire safety and building inspections, zoning and public health.

Brown said Maniscalco, who supervises the building and zoning officials and serves as the town's liaison to the Chatham Health District, was able to report back on those areas.

Maniscalco does not oversee the Office of the Fire Marshal, however; The Board of Fire Commission does.

"We appoint the fire commission and they should be the ones to get the information, to bring it back to the council," Brown said.

The council agreed to send a letter inviting the fire commission to a future meeting to discuss the issue, but rejected a draft by Maniscalco that said the purpose of the meeting would be to discuss complaints about the fire marshal's office.

Brown will work with Maniscalco and Councilor Mark Philhower to revise the letter for a vote by the council at its July 25 meeting. If approved, the commission will be invited to a subsequent meeting.

"I have no criticism about the fire marshal regarding the handling of the St. Clements," Brown said, adding that he doesn't have enough information to formulate an opinion either way.

The Lion King Jr. Preparing for the Stage in Colchester

by Julianna Roche

In both animated and live action form, Disney's musical *The Lion King* has enthralled audiences worldwide for more than two decades – and next weekend, a slightly-abridged version of the highest-grossing Broadway production of all time will be performed by members of Colchester Community Theater's (CCT) Children's Summer Workshop in Bacon Academy's high school auditorium.

The production of *The Lion King Jr.* – which was adapted from its original script to be more manageable for middle-school aged performers – boasts a cast of 60 members ranging from second-graders to ninth-graders.

"Each year, we always try to pick a show that will be really exciting to the kids and can accommodate large numbers," theater director and CCT's vice president Wallis Johnson explained.

She added that while cast size for these productions typically ranges anywhere from 80 to 100 people, this year's was slightly smaller due to *The Lion King Jr.*'s licensing regulations, which require that cast members be no older than ninth-graders.

The show is an adaptation of the Tony award-winning Broadway musical, which in turn was based on the 1994 animated hit, and tells the story of lion Simba as he grows from a cub to an adult.

To prepare for the show, Johnson said campers spend three hours each day for two weeks rotating between stations where they are taught about different aspects of production – including choreography, singing, and set and costume design.

Onstage, an ensemble of campers get into formation as the "Circle of Life" song is played and they are guided through the scene's choreography, while in the hallway outside the auditorium, a cluster of cast members sit among a mishmash of craft supplies designing their costumes.

"The craft is not an aimless 'let's just color pictures' craft," Johnson said, explaining that each year, campers create their own costumes and build props for the set themselves.

This year for example, campers are making jungle vines to hang onstage from the ceiling, as well as lion, gazelle, zebra or giraffe masks and shirts for their costumes.

The most challenging part of this year's production for campers, Johnson explained, is probably the choreography.

"They're all [playing] animals, so the kids are having to learn how to move their bodies like animals," she said. "They'll have to change their bodies into a gazelle, or a bird, an elephant, or a zebra."

The theater director added that Kristine Pekar – a music teacher and longtime member of CCT's adult productions (she played lead roles of Lady Beaconsfield in last year's production of *Jekyll & Hyde* and Marian in CCT's 2000 production of *Music Man*) – donated her assistance to host a workshop with the kids to help teach them character development.

John explained that in addition, of the 12 counselors helping with campers this year, most are former CCT campers themselves who have returned each summer since to lend their help to the production.

"The fact that kids who came to camp for eight to 10 years, then come back and give up two weeks of their summer where they don't get paid is sort of the greatest thank you that we [CCT] get," Johnson said.

That group includes Laura Plourde, who serves as a counselor and was a former camper herself.

Plourde, who this fall will be a sophomore at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa., explained she has returned every year since eighth grade to help direct the campers.

"I come back every year," she said. "I don't care if I don't get paid for it. I love doing it."

A self-described "theater junkie," Plourde said that, paired with her interest in music education, is what drives her return to the Bacon auditorium each summer.

"In a two-week timespan, it's a miracle to me how it works," she explained. "We come here and all the kids are in 'la-la land' and all of a sudden, two weeks later, we put on a show ... it's incredible to see how much kids can



Cast members of Colchester Community Theater (CCT) Children's Summer Workshop rehearse the "Circle of Life" scene from this year's production of *The Lion King Jr.*

grow."

Starring in this year's musical are incoming fifth-grader Oliver Markham as Simba, seventh-grader Isabelle Richards as Nala, seventh-grader Gavin Emmons as Mufasa, and fifth-grader Cate Grasso as Rafiki – with both Markham and Emmons returning to camp for their fifth year, Richards for her second, and Grasso for her fourth.

For Grasso however, this is her first lead in a production.

"The hardest part is singing by myself," she explained, adding that while she sometimes gets nervous her "voice is going to crack," Grasso overall felt prepared since she spent the two weeks prior to dress rehearsal going over lines with her older sister.

The other three leads agreed that "memorizing lines" has been the hardest part for them so far.

"There are so many lines, especially for the

four main characters," Markham said, adding however that memorization hasn't deterred him from returning to camp.

"I just love expressing myself, and singing, and dancing," he exclaimed.

Grasso agreed, adding that she felt with theater and particularly with *The Lion King Jr.*, "everyone comes to life onstage, because you don't have to be [scared] to be yourself up there."

"It really comes to life," Grasso said. "It's magical!"

* * *

Disney's *Lion King Jr.* will take place Saturday, July 22, at 2 p.m. in the Bacon Academy High School Auditorium, 611 Norwich Ave.

Tickets are \$6 each for adults and children, and can be purchased at the door on the day of the performance. For more information, call Wallis Johnson at 860-267-1023 or Laura Brown at 860-537-3259.

Marlborough Finance Board Considers Adopting Social Media Policy

by Julianna Roche

Town officials and employees may soon be required to follow a specific code of conduct when posting on social media and writing letters to the editor, according to First Selectwoman Amy Traversa.

Traversa explained during this week's Board of Finance meeting that a draft of policies is currently under legal review by town attorneys.

During Wednesday's meeting, Board of Finance Chairman Doug Knowlton had originally presented board members with a list of policies pertaining to their conduct specifically; however, the first selectwoman said that while she would submit the draft to be reviewed by lawyers, there needed to be a unified policy "across all boards and commissions."

"The more we can provide a broad, single policy, the more it will be adhered to and understood," she added.

Knowlton explained that drafting the policy list was spurred by a request from board member Dieter Zimmer, who had asked there to be a review of board members' conduct when commenting in public whether through social media or letters to the editor.

While Knowlton explained that "every person has the right to express their own opinion as a matter of their freedom of speech," he furthered that, as elected officials to the board, members also needed to "recognize that expressing personal opinions can easily confuse the public and invite angry responses and personal, bullying-like attacks."

"It's hard to come up with the right balance of freedom of speech and maintain some sort of order," Traversa said – and referencing Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart in the 1964 *Jacobellis v. Ohio* obscenity case, added "when you're reading a letter or post that has crossed the line, it's like pornography... you can't define it, but you know it when you see it."

In addition to asking board members "not to disparage, bully, deprecate or otherwise attack" any other officials or members of the public, Knowlton's policy list also included items such as requiring board members to state prior to posting that while they are on the finance board, they are speaking as individuals; to not represent a position contrary to an approved motion in such a manner that implies that it is the Board

of Finance position; to ensure any information in their posts or letters is accurate and complete; to not announce anything with respect to upcoming meetings prior to the formal issuance of meeting agendas; and to avoid using emojis, half-thoughts, hashtags, links and even incomplete sentences as "not everyone understands these, even though they are commonly used in social media."

"Above all, remember that you are representing the Board of Finance even if you say you are writing something as an individual," Knowlton furthered. "You cannot separate yourself from your membership on the board. You can only separate your opinion from being the opinion of the board."

While board members seemed to generally agree with the policies, members of the public expressed some concerns, including resident Carole Shea, who is a member of the RHAM Board of Education but stressed she was speaking as an individual during the public comments portion of the meeting.

Shea explained that while the RHAM board had similar policies – including that the chair-

man is the "official spokesperson for the board and that includes any contact with the press" – it's difficult to enforce them.

"We had some individuals going to the press and giving their own spin ... [so you] need to be very specific about the types of action taken [if someone violates the policies]," she said. "You need to have some way that it's enforceable and that the process is clear."

Selectman Dick Shea, who also spoke as an individual during public comments, noted that while he appreciated the "effort" of the social media policies to "maintain respect and civility," he felt having a single spokesperson for boards and commissions may not be beneficial.

"If you have a very contentious issue and members of whatever board have input on that issue, [but] policy says only the chairman can speak for the board, then you may lose some valuable input on other aspects or other viewpoints that deserve consideration," he explained.

"There's a lot of grey area," Traversa said, adding "but, there needs to be [a policy] clearly stated looking at all boards and commissions."

New Program Aims to Keep Kids Off the Streets in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

A new community initiative, which will be most visible at Sears Park on Wednesday nights, gives kids in town somewhere to go and something to do throughout the summer.

The “Teen Scene” program kicked off this week as a way to fill a gap in programs and activities available to middle and high school students during vacations.

Resident Sheryl Dougherty came up with the idea after a series of incidents last summer during which a group of middle school-aged children would run out into the road in front of cars or, in some cases, lay in the street.

“They’re doing the negative things for some type of attention,” she said in a recent interview. “What the town needed to do was change the attention that was given to them.”

The plan builds on an outlook Dougherty described last year when the dangerous behavior by a handful of kids in town was getting heavy coverage on social media and from print and television news outlets.

“Many positive things can come of building relationships – and sometimes that’s just con-

sistent visibility,” she said at the time. “When a kid sees an adult or group of adults consistently showing up for them, it breaks down barriers and builds trust.”

Now, Dougherty has put that philosophy into action with weekly events at Sears Park and a six-week slate of activities at businesses throughout the village center.

The free teen nights at Sears Park are held Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. through Aug. 16. Offerings include swimming, basketball, ping pong, chess and yoga.

Dougherty said part of the community-building approach involves casual visits by officers with the East Hampton Police Department as a way to build a rapport between kids and law enforcement.

Police Chief Sean Cox said this week that his department is looking forward to the opportunity.

“It’s definitely a demographic we have little connection with, but we’d like to strengthen it,” he said.

He said a key component to the effort will be the town’s K9 officer, known around town as Ringer. The German shepherd goes by the name Ardo while working with his partner, Officer John Wilson.

“I have no doubt Officer Ringer, working the evening shift, will probably be our best ambassador to building those bridges,” Cox said.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Hall said Sears Park was a natural choice for the weekly gatherings since many teens congregate in the area. He described the six-week program as a starting point.

“We’ll see how it takes off, see what the response is. We’ve already come a long way in a matter of a year. Hopefully this will continue to grow and become something we can add on to later on.”

The program also hinges on the involvement of business owners along the route from Sears Park to the public library. Dougherty said 16 businesses are offering free or reduced-cost events or specials through Aug. 18.

“Some of the activities are for fun, others teach skills that can be of value to their future; such as finances, fitness, and how to handle a bully situation,” Dougherty said. “All of them bring value to the community.”

Free offerings include yoga at Radiant Yoga Wednesdays from 4:30-5:45 p.m.; bike repair classes at AirLine Cycles Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11 a.m.; open play at Sports on 66 Fridays from 4-5 p.m.; financial literacy lessons at Liberty Bank on Wednesdays from 9:30-10 a.m.; and one-hour fly fishing lessons at Sears Park that can be scheduled between 4-8 p.m. on Mondays.

Discounts are available for opportunities like Zumba, weight training, martial arts, bowling and kayaking.

“The program really is about relationships with the youth in our community, to offer open doors to them when they might otherwise feel like there is nowhere to go and nothing to do,” Dougherty said. “The key is consistency and being there for them to build a relationship.”

Meet the New RHAM Superintendent

by Lauren Yandow

It may be summer vacation for many – but it’s not for Patricia Law, who’s busy settling into her new position as superintendent of schools for Regional School District 8, the RHAM middle and high schools.

One thing Law’s most excited about as superintendent is her office itself – the room is literally in the high school.

“For me, it’s being out in the building, seeing what’s going on,” she said. “That’s what I want to spend my time doing... actually seeing the teaching and learning going on in the building.”

Being an active participant in the day-to-day classroom environment, she said, “will guide the next things” the district chooses to do.

RHAM marks the first superintendent job for Law – who has been working in education since 1991. She said her passions lie in teaching, listening and continuously learning.

When asked what initially drew her to RHAM, Law said, “there’s a lot of unique opportunities... it seems like people are creative thinkers here, they’re coming up with ideas for kids that work best for them and I like that creativity.”

With an extensive background in education, Law feels ready to take on the role of superintendent. “When I looked at RHAM, one of the things that really felt like a nice fit for me was the majority of my background experience has been in middle and high school,” she said, “and that’s what RHAM is.”

For the last 11 years, Law worked for Granby Public Schools – first as high school assistant principal, then director of secondary education and later as high school principal. She most recently was the director of curriculum and professional development for the school system.

From 2003-04, Law served as an assistant professor at her alma mater – University of St. Joseph – and taught graduate and undergraduate students, an experience she describes as “wonderful.”

Law worked with grades K-12 as a science curriculum coordinator for Suffield Public Schools. That experience, she said, “was a lot of fun” since science is her “passion area.” In her early career, she taught science at her childhood middle school – King Philip Middle School – in her hometown of West Hartford.

Law’s educational experience has led her to

see what “works well for kids” but, she admits, each environment is different. At RHAM, she plans to initiate ideas of hands-on learning and student-community interaction. It’ll be “a process that has a regular, sustained or systematic way that has community coming into our schools and our students going out into the community,” she said.

Creating connective learning opportunities is a topic Law strongly believes in. For example, “you don’t just do science,” she said. “There’s reading in science, there’s writing in science, there’s math in science – so they all come together.”

Stressing that people all have their strengths and weaknesses, she added, “We have to find ways of building our own strengths and then develop the skills of how to deal with those other areas where we might not be as strong in. I think that’s a hugely important thing for kids to learn,” she said.

It’s also important, she said, for middle and high school-age kids to explore who they are as a learner, as a person, and engage in self-advocacy. “It’s not just about learning the academics – which are very important – but it’s also about learning skills, problem solving, communicating, being patient,” she said. Those qualities, she added, are important skills that apply to real life.

How she’ll approach the needs of RHAM will be a team effort. “It’s having conversations and getting the voice of the teachers here, the students here, and asking, ‘how do you want to learn?’ ‘What excites you about learning?’ ‘What do you want to know more about and how can we make that happen?’... I think the answers to everything we want to do lie within the people that are here.”

Additional things that excite Law about the district include the evolving STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program and the opportunity to work in an individualized learning environment. “I think what we can offer in education is evolving so much,” she said. It’s the real life experience of mentorships, personalized learning, and students engaging with the community that will prepare them better for the real world, she added.

As the new superintendent, Law said she will work with the RHAM school board to develop an updated strategic plan for the district. “I’ll be working with [board members] to outline a



Dr. Patricia Law is the new superintendent for Regional School District 8 – a.k.a. RHAM.

process that will bring the school, the teachers, community, everyone into the process of strategic planning for the district because all of their voices are important.”

Strategic planning means making sure there’s a clear vision and mission for the district, she explained. It allows RHAM, she said, to measure what the district wants for kids. That data is then used to ensure students are provided with a personalized learning experience. The strategic plan maintains accountability to the work Law and the school district do.

When it comes to accountability, Law added, “I think that’s important in particular when we look at budgets.” With a budget struggle felt statewide, being transparent in the work the district is doing and helping people understand that work is “one of the most important parts to strategic planning,” she said.

Later this month, a meeting will take place to discuss the strategic learning process. With feedback from that meeting, Law said, she hopes to roll out the strategic plan to the com-

munity by the start of the school year.

“Whatever comes from the strategic planning I think will guide a lot of the work moving forward,” she said.

Some strategies that will be discussed – making sure learning is happening within and outside the walls of RHAM, adapting to technological advances, and making sure curriculum meets the standards to give students a high-quality education.

Law lives in Simsbury with her husband, Randy, and rescue dog, Dudley. She has a son and daughter, Brendan and Lauren, both in college – and said she visits them whenever she gets the chance.

When looking to the future, Law said she sees her new endeavor as a journey. “I don’t know exactly where it’s going to take us but I know that we’ll develop a vision for where we want to go and we’ll all get there together and it’ll be a tremendous experience for everyone – the kids most importantly,” she said.

A 91-Year-Old Hebron Story Discovered

by Lauren Yandow

In the 1920s there were no computers, no ballpoint pens even. There was perhaps a pencil or a quill to write with – but it was a whole different era.

And that was when Hebron socialite Etta Josephine Hollister Martin decided to sit down and tell the story of a baby bird she rescued.

Today, more than 90 years later, that story is finally being published.

Martin penned the piece in 1926. It was discovered in an old family archive by Martin's great-grandson, Maine resident Tom Fill.

Fill decided to revise the story and, as co-author, self-publish the book.

On June 30, *Oliver Robin and the Kind Lady* was officially published.

Martin was born in 1863 in Springfield, Mass. She moved to and lived in Meriden – which is where, Fill believes, she met her husband, the Rev. T.D. Martin.

Fill said his great-grandparents likely moved to Hebron together – where Martin was the preacher for St. Peter's Church. Together, the couple had two children – Horus and Marjorie.

Etta Martin was a librarian at Douglas Library from 1928-47. Later, her daughter Marjorie would take over the librarian role – and become the namesake for what is now called Marjorie Circle.

As the wife of a preacher, Fill said, Martin was well-known in town, a socialite and highly-respected.

"My great-grandmother was a very talented person," he said. "I think she accomplished what she set out to do and that was to save history."

Martin didn't just store pieces of family history; she saved moments from another time; preserving memories in photographs – writing people's names and dates on the back for future generations to see who was captured in the images, said Fill.

Fill inherited one-third of Martin's archive when his mother, Kathleen, passed away. The ancient mold-ridden chest had been stored in his mother's garage in Amston. The additional pieces were given to two of Fill's cousins – who

each inherited a third of their own.

Upon sifting through the chest he found photographs, notes, poems and published newspaper clippings. "What I found inside was mind-boggling," he said.

Then Fill discovered what he called, his great-grandmother's "crowning achievement," – *Oliver Robin*.

"When I found it and I started reading the story, I got goosebumps, that's how good the story was," said Fill.

Martin wrote the story about her personal experience of rescuing a baby bird that had fallen out of a big tree into a mud puddle. She then nurses the bird back to health so it can rejoin nature.

Fill first uncovered a series of dated notes depicting Martin's day-to-day relationship with the bird, 'Oliver.' But it wasn't just a series of accounts that created the story – Martin had taken her experience and jotted down a full-length hand-written story. She then typed it out on a typewriter, hole-punched the edges and tied the pages together with some pink ribbon.

Reflecting on how Martin's thought process may have gone while writing, Fill said, "she had the thought of, 'I found this bird and I don't know how to take care of it so I'm going to write some notes.'"

Fill then said Martin saw "the bird was doing little funny things [so she probably thought] 'let's write that down too.' Then [she] thought, 'hey, wait a minute, this could be a book – this could be a story – and then started taking pictures.'"

Those pictures were strewn throughout the story, hand-glued on the pages. That's what sets the book apart from others, Fill said. "It's got actual photos of her with the bird, her husband with the bird, other people with the bird."

Although he never met his great-grandmother, Fill said he senses her in many of his own interests. "I credit her genes for my hobbies," he said. She had many hobbies outside of writing – crafting a bird house for little birds only; she designed, built and embellished intricate furniture – each of which she dated and

signed – and cleverly saved things as a historian.

As co-author of *Oliver Robin and The Kind Lady*, Fill made several changes to the original manuscript. He fixed grammatical errors, added lines so the narrative would flow, and simplified parts to better translate to the current generation.

"The only word I added to the title of the book was 'kind,' " he said, "that's the type of woman she [Martin] was, so I called her 'the kind lady'... the deed she did for the bird was a kind deed."

Fill also rearranged and replaced some of the photos. Specifically, he added Martin's photographs of St. Peter's Church and the horse-chestnut tree from which Oliver plummeted from into the mud puddle. It's a mud puddle, Fill said, you can see in the picture.

"I did my best to make it really something that would be worthy of my great-grandmother's talents," he said. "This is all about her. It's a darling little book."

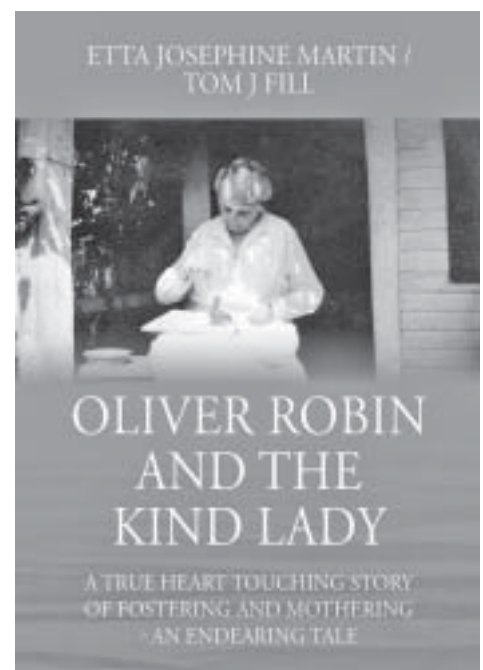
Publishing the book is what his great-grandmother would want, Fill said – and added that she likely had hoped to publish it herself. "I think she always wanted to but there were circumstances in her life that prevented her from it," he said.

When tragedy crept into Martin's life as an adult, her socialite lifestyle changed drastically. Her husband was struck by a car and killed; forcing Martin to move off church property and into a home on what is now Marjorie Circle.

Four years later, "she started to pick up the pieces," said Fill – until her only son, Horus, died of pneumonia. Horus left behind three children and Martin took them in and raised them.

"That to me makes her my hero," said Fill.

Fill's family history is rich in the Town of Hebron, seeping into some surrounding towns. In the 1970s, when Martin's daughter Marjorie passed away, the Town of Hebron named Marjorie Circle after her. Many deceased Martin family members – including Etta and Marjorie – are buried behind St. Peter's Epis-



***Oliver Robin and The Kind Lady* can be ordered directly from the publisher's website – Outskirtspress.com.**

copal Church. Fill's mother, Kathleen was the first school nurse at Bacon Academy in Colchester; inside the current academy building, there's a mural of Kathleen on the wall. Fill was actually living in Colchester when working on *Oliver Robin*.

"I think it'll be good for Hebron to have this book," he said.

Adding, he hopes people will like it enough to generate popularity around his great-grandmother. His overall goal is to get Martin inducted into the Women's National Museum of History.

"I think she deserves it," he said.

Oliver Robin and The Kind Lady can be ordered directly from the publisher's website – Outskirtspress.com.

Progress Made with Field Lease Agreement in Andover

by Lauren Yandow

Progress was made regarding a lease agreement with the Hop River Homes softball field at Wednesday's Board of Selectmen meeting. The lease – if approved – will allow families to use the ball field for recreational fun.

The previous lease agreement expired in 2006. Without a proper lease, the town hasn't been legally able to use the field – but people have still been using it.

Vice First Selectman Jeff Maguire stressed the importance of having a lease in place. "This needs to be dealt with, we have materials and equipment on that field," he said. "We don't have insurance, we don't have anything."

Maguire said his own child had played on the field for many years without a lease in place.

Burbank responded by saying, "the original lease was only for baseball and pee-wee league... so anybody using that field for anything other than pee-wee baseball it was never agreed to by anybody as far as I understand."

"I understand that," said Maguire, "but when my child was 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 he played baseball in this town on that field."

Currently, Hop River Homes has extended a lease agreement to the Town of Andover for a

total of three years, but last night the Board of Selectmen unanimously decided to pursue a five-year lease, at a fee of \$1 per year.

Board of Selectmen member Julia Haverl motioned to authorize First Selectman Bob Burbank to sign the lease; Board of Selectmen member Cathy Desrosiers seconded the motion – meaning the matter is now in Hop River Homes' hands.

Also Wednesday, the Board of Selectmen authorized Planning and Zoning Chairman Eric Anderson to apply for roughly \$300,080 grant from the state Department of Transportation. Anderson presented the plan to the board, asking to allow Andover to submit a grant application to the Connecticut DOT for pedestrian and bicycling access in Andover Center.

The access would include a crosswalk near the intersection of Long Hill Road and Route 6 with a pedestrian signal; a standard sidewalk extending down Long Hill Road and a smaller sidewalk along Route 6 that will provide wheelchair access to the library. Two bike racks will be added to the area – one at the library, the other at Long Hill baseball field.

Desrosiers said Anderson is "promoting what we need to promote" when it comes to getting

families active and enjoying the outdoors.

If the grant is awarded, it'll be the town's responsibility to spend approximately \$5,000 to complete the engineering portion of the project.

The town will also need to hold a public meeting prior to finalizing engineering due to DOT rules for gathering public opinion.

The Board of Selectmen crossed another item off its agenda when they set a date for a town meeting to approve town ordinances.

Those ordinances are a Hop River Home Tax Abatement Ordinance, an Abandoned Property Blight Ordinance and a Septic Ordinance.

If approved, the Hop River Home Tax Abatement would authorize a tax break on housing for low or moderate-income individuals.

The Abandoned Property Blight Ordinance would set up a standard to prohibit blight in the town. Blight includes abandoned premises, buildings that are unoccupied temporarily, structures with exterior openings and interior openings accessible to unauthorized persons, and places decaying beyond repair that present a hazard to the public.

Board of Selectmen member Jay Lindy said, "A lot of people in town are concerned

that what's in one person's eyes isn't blight and in another person's eyes it could be but the way it's going to be rolled out will spell it out."

The Septic Ordinance was brought to the board by the Andover Lake Association. The association is concerned some properties on the lake with septic tanks that are outdated or haven't been pumped could pollute the lake. The ordinance is still being worked out but if approved, would make it mandatory for homeowners to get their septic tanks pumped every undecided amount of years. Then, the homeowner would need to submit proof to the town.

Lindy said details within the ordinances aren't yet finalized. If all three of the ordinances aren't complete by the time of the town meeting, the board plans to present the ones that are.

Lindy stressed final decisions are always made by the townspeople. "The people run the town, they have a check and balance... they come to these meetings and tell us what they like and don't like."

The next Andover Board of Selectmen Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 2, at 7 p.m., in the Town Office Community Room.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Well, no one took me up on my editorial challenge I issued last week – asking Trump supporters to please, in all seriousness, tell me how they can stand by the guy when he fires off the absurd, entirely un-presidential tweets like his recent rant against the *Morning Joe* co-host – which I figure means either people can't defend the guy.....or they simply didn't care to write in. While my gut tells me it's the latter, the hopeful side of me thinks maybe, *just maybe*, it's that Trump's comments – in which he alleged "low I.Q. Crazy Mika" showed up at a New Year's Eve party of his, begging to come in and "bleeding badly from a face-lift" – were indefensible. He's supposed to be the leader of the free world? The face of the nation?

So let me reissue the challenge – with the added wrinkle of: well, how about now? Has your opinion of the Trump presidency changed any this week, after The Misadventures of Donny Junior came to light? It's too much to hope that this is the smoking gun that brings everything tumbling down – but at the very least I can't see how folks can continue to maintain there's not a shred of evidence of any inappropriate goings-on between Russia and the Trump campaign. I mean, even Fox News admits the days of those claims have passed.

Again, to any Trump supporters reading this: Do you still stand by your guy? Or has your mind changed any? I seriously would like to know the answer – and I'm sure others would as well. Drop me a letter at bulletin@glcitizen.com.

* * *

Well, it's mid-way through the baseball season now – there were no games that counted this week, as it was the All-Star Break – so I thought I'd give a brief update on the Mets' 2017 season.

It ain't good.

The team's been plagued by the injury bug since the start of the season. Two members of the team's projected starting rotation opened the year on the disabled list. And now that they're back, two more members – ace Noah Syndergaard and former ace Matt Harvey – are on the DL, and won't be back for several more weeks.

The team's ace closer has been gone – first to suspension, then to injury – most of the season. Their second baseman has been out for several weeks with a hamstring injury. The third baseman – the beloved captain, David Wright – hasn't been in a game since spring training, and is still weeks away from even starting baseball activity. Star outfielder Yoenis Cespedes missed a good chunk of the

season, and quite frankly hasn't looked like himself since returning.

Injuries happen; I get that. Every team has to deal with injuries, and the good teams find a way to get past them. But the Mets have been hit by just so many injuries. And to be perfectly frank, a lot of the players that have been healthy and been here most of the season have not performed to expectations. Sure, Jay Bruce is having a very good season with the bat, as is Michael Conforto (the team's only All-Star this year), but a lot of the others haven't produced the way you'd like.

Add it all up and the Mets enter the second half tonight with a mediocre 39-47 record, in fourth place in the five-team National League East, and a whopping 12 games behind the Washington Nationals. The Nationals, by the way, feature Daniel Murphy – the star of the Mets' 2015 postseason. Why isn't Murph still here? Quite frankly, the Mets didn't want him. He'd have stayed if they'd offered him a multi-year contract – and they knew that. But they didn't. I still just do not know why; he had been their most consistent bat for years, and found a true power stroke in the latter half of 2015. He'd have been a Met for life if the brass would've only let him.

But they didn't let him, and he took his hitting prowess down to Washington, where he's put up numbers that are amazing – something that frankly shouldn't be that surprising to Mets fans.

The Nationals are the Mets' chief rivals in the division – which makes Murph's success really sting. He has absolutely crushed the Mets in head-to-head matchups. He should still be in Queens, racking up the hits for the orange and blue. It's only been a season and a half since he's left, but letting Murph walk – basically kicking him out the door – is looking like one of the Mets' biggest mistakes of all time.

As for the Mets themselves, I know they can make a comeback. They scuffled a bit last year and rallied to make the postseason. But I just don't know if it's in the cards this time. It feels as if the team has too big of a hill to climb. The team needs to stay healthy, and also play with some consistency, and so far it's been unable to really do either.

To paraphrase *West Side Story*, when you're a Met you're a Met all the way. I won't give up on the team. "Ya gotta believe" will continue to be my mantra. It's just that, as the season goes on, it looks like "wait 'til next year" may be more realistic.

* * *

See you next week.

East Hampton Police News

East Hampton Police report that from June 26-July 2, officers responded to 13 medical calls, two motor vehicle crashes and nine alarms, and made 19 traffic stops.

Marlborough Police News

7/3: State Police said Luis Pitt-Martinez, 22, of 10 Scofield Rd., was arrested and charged with speeding on a highway, operating a motor vehicle without a license, keeping narcotics in its original container, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to sell, and sale, use and possession of fireworks.

Andover Police News

7/3: State Police said Jonathan M. Marrotte, 38, of 98 South St., Apt. 2, Willimantic, was arrested and charged with illegal possession of a narcotic and possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use.

Portland Police News

7/1: Meghan Orton, 22, of 199 Foothill Rd., Durham, was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, Portland Police said.

7/1: Andrew Cote, 23, of 50 Barton Hill Rd., was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, engaging in police pursuit, failure to obey officer signal, speeding, no insurance and reckless driving, police said.

7/3: James Wright, 49, of 122 1st St., New Britain, was charged with driving under the influence and traveling too fast, police said.

Colchester Police News

7/1: State Police said Allen Chinn, 38, of 36 Walnut St., Middletown, was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order.

7/5: Colchester Police said Ian Dadona, 30, of 56 Stoneridge Rd., was arrested and charged with failure to respond to a payable violation.

Obituaries

Portland

Barbara R. Farrell

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our beautiful, brave and beloved mother and nanny, Barbara Richards Farrell, 78, of Middletown, formerly of Portland, Wednesday July 5 surrounded by her loving children and her little buddy Omar at Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford.



She was born in Hartford, the daughter of the late Elizabeth (Gorin) Richards and Aldore Richards. Just out of high school, Barbara met Jack Farrell and they eloped on their second date after seeing the movie *The Bridge on the River Kwai* at the drive-in 1958. Seven years later they had six kids. She worked diligently for many years alongside her late husband Jack Farrell in the family restaurant business and later as a nanny to Andrew, Alicia and Becca Mack and Jamie and Julie Iannicelli providing the same tender, compassionate and nurturing care to other children that she had to her own.

Barbara, is survived by her sons, Billy and John Farrell, both of Middletown; her daughters, Mary Beth Farrell of Middletown, Peggy Heil and her husband Norb of East Hampton, Katie Farrell of Malden, Mass., and Barbara "Beeper" Farrell of Wethersfield; her brother and sister-in-law Billy and Kathy Richards of Portland; two grandchildren, Jakkelyn Dickey and her husband Keith of Killingworth and her "handsome grandson" Norb Heil III of Middletown; also, two great-grandchildren, Judah and Reed Dickey, "the luckiest kids alive," as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Jack Farrell, her sister Maryann Phillips and her brother Phillip Richards.

A gregarious and generous soul, Barbara will always be remembered by family and friends as a meticulous homemaker who never met a meal she couldn't perfect, a stain she couldn't get out, a pile of laundry she couldn't conquer or a sick kid, pet or friend she couldn't make feel better. Our mom was one tough cookie and though she faced many physical challenges throughout her life she remained graceful, courageous and classy to the end. We are grateful as a family to have been together for so long and know her presence remains eternally within us.

Her funeral liturgy was held Tuesday, July 11, at St. Mary Church, Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Friends visited with her family Monday, July 10 at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the Rheumatoid Arthritis National Research Foundation at CureArthritis.org.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Joanne Lafontaine

Joanne (Albert) Lafontaine, 80, of Colchester, loving wife of the late Phillip Lafontaine, passed away Sunday, July 2, at Harrington Court. She was born in Millinocket, Maine, a daughter of the late Albert and Alma (Chasse) Albert.

She worked as a bookbinder at Russell Library in Middletown and was a literacy volunteer, as well as with the Parent Teacher Association and Band Boosters. Joanne was a strong supporter of many community organizations, including His Dwelling Place, the Special Olympics, MDA, Relay for Life and Cat Tails. She was a communicant of St. John Church in Middletown.

Joanne leaves behind a son, Michael Lafontaine and his wife Diane; three daughters, Laurie Gardner and her husband Joseph, Tina Cadotte and her husband Derek, and Joyce Lafontaine; two brothers, Andrew Albert and Alan Albert; three sisters, Priscilla Lewis, Sylvianne Haines and Carol Gullo; her beloved grandchildren, Ishara Gardner and Joseph Gardner; and a great-granddaughter Allura Farnsworth-Gardner. She also leaves many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services and burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St. Rocky Hill, has care of arrangements. For online condolences, visit rosehillfuneralhomes.com.

East Hampton

Clarence Alva Slack Sr.

Clarence "Red" Alva Slack Sr. from East Hampton passed away peacefully the afternoon of July 10, 2017 at Middlesex Hospital after complications associated with an illness. He was surrounded by loved ones as he passed.

Red was born in Watertown, N.Y., Feb. 20, 1943, to Philena Christmas Slack and Carmen Slack Sr. He spent much of his youth living outside of Burlington, Vt. As a young adult he moved to Connecticut, got married and started his family. He was a dedicated and hard worker who partnered in Portland Auto Body Shop before finding his second home of thirty years as a truck driver at C. White and Sons.

Red's passions in life were his family and friends as well as cars and trucks. He could be found on most Friday or Saturday nights surrounded by friends and family at his table enjoying deep conversation and good food. He always enjoyed visits from his kids and grandchildren. Later in life he looked forward to Thursday night visits by the Garage Night Boys.

While raising his seven kids, family life included camping, teaching his kids the value of hard work and "taking it eazzzy!" as well as other principles he modeled after the ones taught to him by his large, loving family. Summer getaways were spent at campgrounds throughout New England. He relished spending time with his grandchildren. He loved sharing stories of their parents with them, giving them advice, telling them jokes and watching them grow. He encouraged his adult children to spend as much time with their kids as possible.

Red also taught his children the importance of opening your heart to animals. An example of his love of pets is remembered by his family when he portrayed "Santa for pets" one year. During his lifetime he had many special pets including Maggie, Deogee and Linus; the latter two will share his permanent resting place.

His interests in the automobile industry started as a kid. He began working on cars and then expanded to stock car racing. During his life he drove a race car, sponsored a race team, taught his children the craft and provided a home base for F&S Racing. His passion for automobiles carried over to collecting. He had an impressive collection of scaled model trucks and Avon cars.

Red always had a smile on his face and maintained patience. Humor was a huge part of his life. He loved to make people laugh and smile. Telling jokes and stories to everyone was common place. With a special fondness for children, a twinkle could be seen in his eyes as he playfully joked with multiple generations of kids in his life.

Red was preceded by his parents, Philena Christmas Slack and Carmen Slack Sr., his dear friends Jeff Johnson, Gary Duguay, Ronald Flood and John Bankston.

Red is survived by his three siblings, Mary Kay Albert, Carmen "Skip" Slack Jr., and Ruby Duguay; his former wife and longtime friend Catherine Slack; his children, Jody Manemit and her husband Norman, Fay Slack, Tammy DiPace and her husband Fran, Joseph Fraulino Sr., Clarence "Tim" Slack Jr., Robert Fraulino Sr. and his wife Carey, and David Fraulino and his wife Lynn; 20 grandchildren, Chelsea, Joshua, Jessie and his wife Sarah, Francis "Chip" and his wife Caty, Joseph, Ryan, Julia, Stephanie, Dillon, Joseph Jr., Krista, Devin, Nicolas, David, Brooke-Lynn, Brooke, Hannah, Kevin, Robert Jr., Anabella; and four great-grandchildren, Abbie, Allie, Alexis and Joseph, several nieces and nephews, as well as special family friends Louise Flood, the Flemkes, the Allens and many others.

Special thanks to Donna, who Red considered more than a just a caregiver. He thought of you as his friend. Also, thanks to the staff of Middlesex Hospital Hospice for treating Red as the wonderful man he was and offering support and kindness to his family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the ASPCA.



Andover

Nancy J. Parker

Nancy J. Parker, 86, of Manchester, formerly of Andover, passed away peacefully after a brief illness. She was born Nancy Seymour Jewett in 1931 in Syracuse, N.Y., to Gordon and David (Galbraith) Jewett.

Nancy's mother, father and younger sister, Cecil, relocated to Manchester in 1936. In 1941, Nancy and Cecil attended Lauralton Hall in Milford, until Nancy's graduation in 1948; she was class salutatorian. Nancy attended Syracuse University, initially majoring in chemistry, but graduating with a B.A. in English in 1952. She then enrolled at Eastern Connecticut to become certified for elementary education and became a third-grade teacher.

She married John W. Parker in 1955 and they had three children – Sarah, John Jr. and Susan. They resided in Andover. Nancy returned to teaching shortly after Susan's birth and later worked at the Mansfield Training School, from which she retired in 1992. In 1996, Nancy and John divorced, but remained on good terms, moving to separate units at the same Manchester condominium complex to be near each other. John passed away in 1997. Nancy became a member of UUS:E and was active in social justice initiatives.

She leaves behind her daughter, husband, and grandson, Sarah, Alec, and Sam Wood of Rochester, N.Y.; her son John Parker Jr. of Manchester; and a second daughter and her husband, Susan Parker and Gregory Viglianti of Dover, Mass. She also leaves her beloved sister, Cecil Matt, of Farmington, and her nieces, nephews, their spouses, children and grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Aug. 12, at 2 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Society: East, 153 Vernon St. West (on GPS 153 Vernon Street, W), Manchester.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Unitarian Universalist Society: East Endowment Fund, 153 Vernon St. West, Manchester, CT 06042.

Andover

Louise F. Parkington

Louise F. (Kettledon) Parkington, 91, a longtime Andover resident, beloved wife of the late Henry G. Parkington, peacefully passed away Tuesday, July 4. Louise was born in Hartford March 20, 1926, daughter of the late Henry J. and Nellie (Warchal) Kettledon. She was raised in Hartford and graduated from Bulkeley High School.

As a longtime Andover resident, she was a member of the women's auxiliary of Andover Volunteer Fire Department and was registrar of voters in Andover.

Louise is survived by her loving family, a daughter and three sons, Cindy M. Parkington of Manchester, H. James Parkington of Andover, Allan K. Parkington and his wife, Anna, of Andover, and Gerald A. Parkington of Tobaccoville, N.C.; two grandsons, Kurt Parkington of Manchester and Dean Parkington and his wife, Jen, of Coventry; and three great-grandchildren, Charlotte, Joseph, and Lucille.

Private services were held at Townsend Cemetery, Andover. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 200 Executive Blvd., Southington, CT 06489-1058; and Andover Volunteer Fire Dept., 11 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232.

For online condolences, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Portland

Martin C. Gutt

Martin C. Gutt, 65, of Northford, beloved husband of Deborah (Johnson) Gutt, died Thursday July 6. He was born in Hartford, son of the late Henry and Barbara (McDonald) Gutt.

Martin graduated from Portland High School, Class of 1971. He was employed with Pratt & Whitney as a working leader and hand welder for 38 years. He enjoyed woodworking and was an avid NASCAR fan. Martin and Deborah would have celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on July 14.

Martin is survived by his wife Deborah; brother, Phil Gutt of Florida; many loving sisters- and brothers-in-law, as well as several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sisters, Judy Dillon and Carol Otis.

Calling hours were held Wednesday, July 12, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by a funeral service that evening. Burial was private at the convenience of the family at Swedish Cemetery in Portland.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Carole Carmella Tarrant

Carole Carmella Tarrant, 93, of Colchester, passed away Wednesday, July 12. She was a daughter of the late Antonio and Regina (Elia) Lecce. She was a member of the Jehovah Witnesses and a woman of strong faith and spiritual conviction.

A graveside funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. today, July 14, at Cedar Grove Cemetery, 638 Broad St., New London.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with these services.

Portland

Frances E. Mack

Frances E. Mack, 88, of Middletown, formerly of Portland, passed away suddenly Friday, July 7, at Middlesex Hospital with her family at her bedside. She was born Aug. 9, 1928, in Old Saybrook, the daughter of the late Charles and Emma (Appelle) Mack.

Frances attended the Portland school system and retired from the Waverly Printing Company after over 35 years of dedicated service as office manager.

Fran was a devoted, loving aunt to Steven Krech of Middletown, who was her best friend, full time companion and caring provider, and Shelley Lamontagne and her husband Richard of East Hampton. The other light in her life was her great nephew, Scott Carlson, of Farmington.

She was predeceased by her sisters, Ethel Griswold, Helen Galanto and Edith Krech.

Fran's face was most joyful sharing time with family and friends, catching rays of sunshine by the pool or at the beach, or watching over a fishing/crabbing line. She also enjoyed shouting out "BINGO."

A Celebration of Life will be held in the near future at a date to be announced by her family.

An online guest book is available at NewEnglandCremation.com.