

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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**No One Fights Like Gaston...** The Young People's Center for Creative Arts will bring the magic and whimsy of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* to the East Hampton High School stage from July 27-30. The 70-plus member cast includes (from top left) Neo Valentin as Lefou, Dylan Sartor as Gaston and "Silly Girls" Katrina Schwartz, Lily Cordeiro and Bella D'Ottavio. See story on page 29.

## First Look at Belltown Hub

by Elizabeth Regan

The architect for the proposed municipal hub has unveiled a rendering of a colonial revival-inspired town hall and police department dominated by brick, metal and glass.

The project is still on target to go to voters at referendum in November.

The rendering was approved unanimously Wednesday by members of the Town Facilities Building Committee.

Committee Chairman Glenn Gollenberg said the next step is to work with a construction manager to put a price on the architect's design. Committee members will be interviewing four construction management firms next week.

Marc A. Moura, senior associate with the architecture firm Amenta Emma and the lead designer on the project, told committee members the building fits in with the town's deep history and residential feel.

He said the building harkens back to the turn of the last century while "bringing it to a more 20th century aesthetic."

Moura estimated the town hall, including the community room, comes in at 20,000 square feet; the police department is in the 9,800-square-foot range.

The two-story, Roman brick town hall is separated into two sections by a glass vestibule. The town hall is flanked on one side by a one-and-a-half story police department and on the other by a community room.

The brick is more like stacked stone than typical modular brick, according to Moura.

Large windows lend what he called a "sense

of transparency."

Passers-by could look in through an almost floor-to-ceiling window in one section of the police department to see a CPR training course taking place, Moura envisioned; on the other side, they could see a Boy Scout transitioning ceremony in the community room.

"It's a welcoming space. It's a location for people to learn in," he said.

Moura pointed to a blue light sitting high atop the police station as an example of the space's unique architectural "identity."

The police department and community room would feature horizontal strips of metal interspersed with brick to add texture and shadow while giving the spaces an identity separate from the town hall, Moura explained.

The complex is capped by a low-pitch roof throughout – but the central, two-story town hall features an ornamental gabled roofline that hides the building's mechanical units. While the units will not be visible from the front, the back is open enough to allow free air to circulate.

"This roof is not so much an attic; it's actually a screen," Moura said.

Gollenberg said the rendering is a concept that can be adjusted in terms of size, material and details going forward.

"It's giving a character of the building to express to the community what it is we're trying to do here," he said.

He said the rendering is designed to "show enough so that people understand it" while leaving it flexible enough to adapt to potential price.

See Belltown Hub page 2

## Church Seeks Sponsors of Liberian Orphans

by Julianna Roche

When Brother Wilmot Yalarti first stepped foot into Colchester's Abundant Life Church two months ago, Pastor Charlie Brown felt an immediate connection with him.

"I prayed for a long time for a guy like this," Brown said.

Originally from Liberia, Yalarti is a senior pastor at Abundant Life Chapel (ALC) and chief executive officer of the ALC School and Orphanage in Margibi County, West Africa. He said he noticed the similarity in the two congregation's names when he was driving by one day.

"We have a very similar denomination, so I thought 'I think we can work together,'" Yalarti said with a smile.

"We've become good friends," Brown added. "I take him to the hospital with me to visit people and he's teaching us [the church] how to pray. He's my mentor."

With a strong bond and friendship sparked, the pair is now working together to raise funds to help provide a quality education for 200 Liberian children and support an additional 46 Liberian orphans at the ALC orphanage – many of whom lost their parents in the 2014 Ebola

outbreak, which killed nearly 5,000 Liberians.

"When Ebola hit, it was a disease that affected entire families," Yalarti said, adding that it also affected many children's ability to obtain an education.

Instead, Yalarti continued, due to the extreme amount of poverty in Liberia many children had to become "breadwinners" of their household and, rather than go to school, spend their days selling water, cookies or other food items on the streets of Monrovia to help provide for their families.

According to ALC's website, more than 70 percent of Liberian children do not attend school due to lack of money and approximately 60 to 70 percent of the Liberian population can't read or write.

In 2010, Yalarti decided to move to the United States to help raise funds to build the ALC School and Orphanage, which were both finally completed in October 2013 – with the school providing an education to both the orphans and children from nearby villages. According to Yalarti, the school is so large it could one day hold up to 700 students.

In the states, Yalarti now works as a caregiver

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Pastor Charlie Brown, left, of Abundant Life Church in Colchester is working closely with Brother Wilmot Yalarti of Abundant Life Chapel in Liberia to find sponsors for local orphans and students at the Abundant Life Chapel School and Orphanage in West Africa.



**Belltown Hub cont. from Front Page**

ing constraints without changing the overall look and feel of the building.

Preliminary estimates for the municipal hub project came in at \$18.75 million when presented to the Town Council in May, according to a report by Amenta Emma. The figure includes the Board of Education offices, which the council voted to include in the complex.

The estimate was based on an 18,643-square-foot town hall and 10,477-square-foot police department, plus 2,267 square feet of space for the Board of Education offices.

The council in February selected a site for the proposed municipal complex, picked a project manager and appointed a building committee. The council has long held that all current town hall offices would move to the new complex. That includes the parks and recreation and youth and family services departments currently housed in an annex on Middletown Avenue.

The complex's project manager Steve Motto, with his wife Lisa, donated to the town a 5.4-acre parcel within their 59-acre Edgewater Hills mixed-use development on Route 66. They also offered to serve as the town's project managers for a 4 percent cut of the total project cost. Their

proposal won out over seven other submissions in a competitive bidding process.

Amenta Emma has served as architect for most of the Edgewater Hills development as well.

Lisa Motto told committee members the pricing estimates would need to come in by Aug. 7 so the Board of Finance could vote at its meeting later that month. She said necessary approvals from the finance board and Planning and Zoning Commission would have to be received by Sept. 6 for the referendum question to appear on the November election ballot.

Committee members were enthusiastic about the rendering prior to their unanimous vote to approve it.

Kurt Comisky said the design shows a sense of history.

"It's understated, yet it seems like a grand structure," Comisky said.

Steve Karney described it as reminiscent of "the old mill buildings you see throughout New England."

Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson, who was at the meeting with council member James "Pete" Brown, stood up during the public comment period to thank the committee for



**A rendering of the proposed municipal hub on Route 66 in East Hampton gives the first glimpse of what a new town hall and police department could look like if approved by voters at referendum in November.**

their work so far.

She said she was excited to view the rendering and was eager to introduce it to the rest of the council.

The building committee is slated to present

the rendering at the council's regular meeting on Tuesday, July 25.

"I think it's a beautiful piece of work," she said. "I think it lends both history and modern touches. It really is a quality product."

**Seeks Sponsors cont. from Front Page**

with provided housing and food, and sends any salary he earns back to Liberia to help the children.

"After Ebola seized, we moved 100 children into the facility," he said, adding, however, that due to lack of funds, ALC had to drop that number to 54 children, with another 46 remaining on a wait list until more money is acquired.

"It was a challenge to take on [that many] children," Yalarti furthered, adding that in addition to paying for meals, school supplies and uniforms, ALC also pays the salaries of 29 employees, including 12 teachers and 17 caregivers.

Yalarti explained that ALC is now seeking sponsorship of \$20 per month for a student or \$40 per month for an orphan, who will also study at the school.

"We're trying to help him get off the ground with the orphanage. It's already there, but they're facing a [financial] crisis," Brown explained. "We felt this was good for the community to know about because it's something that everybody would be interested in – not just

religious people."

Yalarti explained that additionally, because Liberia is an English-speaking country and the children are taught in English, sponsors will be able to speak with the orphans and students, and will be provided with their pictures, progress reports and contact information – including emails and phone numbers.

"You can support orphans around the world and you don't hear from them," Brown said. "And if you do, it's usually a translation. ... [This way] you form a sort of relationship with them and [they] become sort of like your other child."

"This is an opportunity," Yalarti said. "You can say, I'm from East Haddam, or I'm from Colchester, and I'm helping a child in West Africa."

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For more information or to sponsor an orphan or student, visit [alclorphanage.org](http://alclorphanage.org) or call 203-676-2145, or contact Brown at 860-537-3082.

*From the Editor's Desk*

**Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

Earlier this year, I was quite sad when I heard of the sudden passing of Henny Simon, the Holocaust survivor who lived in Colchester and had spent the past several years sharing her inspirational story of survival across the country.

We'd done a couple of stories on Henny during my time as editor, and she always seemed like just an incredibly delightful person.

So I was glad to get a notice earlier this week of a special event coming up to honor her in a way I think she would find fitting.

There will be a special American Red Cross blood drive next month dedicated to Henny's memory. Henny volunteered for over 22 years at American Red Cross blood drives in Colchester.

The blood drive will be held at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave. (Route 16), on Wednesday, Aug. 9, from 1-6 p.m.

In the summertime, as people go on vacation or simply become occupied with other activities, blood donations often drop off – and the Red Cross said it usually experiences a greater need for blood in the summer than in other times of year.

So, your donation would be much appreciated.

Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit the Red Cross website at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter 'Colchester' to schedule an appointment.

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It's only the middle of July – okay, okay, it's entering the latter part of the month – but astute *Rivereast* readers will notice several area groups are already planning fall activities.

And that includes fall soccer.

A few months back, the youth soccer programs of Andover, Hebron and Marlborough all decided to merge, into the aptly-named RHAM Youth Soccer. As you may see in the paper this week, registration for the fall soccer program is now underway.

Registration for all teams – pre-kindergarten through 15U – is now open at [RHAMYouthSoccer.org](http://RHAMYouthSoccer.org). Direct questions to the president and registrar of RHAM Youth Soccer at [Morelli.wolfe.law@gmail.com](mailto:Morelli.wolfe.law@gmail.com).

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Speaking of soccer, RHAM High School boys' soccer head coach Ray Bell is offering a special preseason clinic for girls entering grades nine-12 Aug. 18-22, from 9-11:30 a.m. each day, at Veterans Park in Hebron.

The camp is open to students from Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton,

Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland.

Camp directors are Bell and RHAM boys' soccer assistant coach Tim Barry.

For more information, contact Bell at [bellsky1273@yahoo.com](mailto:bellsky1273@yahoo.com).

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Lastly, the Mets' first manager was baseball legend Casey Stengel. In addition to his managing prowess (he won multiple World Series championships while at the helm of the Yankees in 1950), Stengel was also known for his witticisms. Among them:

"Being with a woman all night never hurt no professional baseball player. It's staying up all night looking for a woman that does him in."

"Good pitching will always stop good hitting and vice-versa."

"I came in here and a fella asked me to have a drink. I said 'I don't drink.' Then another fella said 'I hear you and Joe DiMaggio aren't speaking' and I said 'I'll take that drink.'"

"I couldn't have done it without my players."

"If anyone wants me, tell them I'm being embalmed."

"I feel greatly honored to have a ballpark named after me, especially since I've been thrown out of so many."

"If we're going to win the pennant, we've got to start thinking we're not as good as we think we are."

"It's wonderful to meet so many friends that I didn't used to like."

Bobby Richardson "doesn't drink, he doesn't smoke, he doesn't chew, he doesn't stay out late, and he still can't hit .250."

"That boy couldn't hit the ground if he fell out of an airplane."

"Son, we'd like to keep you around this season but we're going to try and win a pennant."

"They say some of my stars drink whiskey, but I have found that ones who drink milkshakes don't win many ball games."

"We're a much improved ball club; now we lose in extra innings!"

"You have to go broke three times to learn how to make a living."

And lastly, one of my favorites, which came one day when discussing two ballplayers on his team: "See that fellow over there? He's 20 years old. In 10 years he has a chance to be a star. Now, that fellow over there, he's 20, too. In 10 years he has a chance to be 30."

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See you next week.

# Srb Slams Proposed Portland Zoning Reg Changes

by Elizabeth Regan

A suggested change to zoning regulations triggered by selectman Ben Srb's controversial excavation operation on the corner of Sage Hollow Road and Cornwall Street was withdrawn by the Planning and Zoning Commission last week.

The language – known as a text amendment – was drafted by Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Bruce Tyler to tighten regulations exempting certain excavation, grading, removal or filling operations from the special permit process (see sidebar on next page).

The proposal was a response to more than two years of excavation activity on Srb's site as he clears out an unspecified quantity of material in preparation to build a house by 2019. Srb has a zoning permit to build on the roughly one-acre property.

Some residents, as well as current and former officials, have expressed concern that local zoning regulations don't require special permit oversight for earth removal if a site plan for a building lot has been authorized.

Srb spoke at length in opposition to the text amendment at the July 13 public hearing before the commission, according to audio from the meeting.

He said the proposed changes are unnecessary since they don't address the exemption that allows him to excavate the property in order to put in a house.

"Nothing's broken," he said. "Why would you change anything?"

The commission's application to change the zoning regulations was withdrawn by a unanimous vote of its members after Srb and other opponents described the language as too restrictive. They said the language would require a special permit for activities as routine as planting a tree, digging a mailbox hole or putting in a retaining wall.

Land Use Administrator Ashley Majorowski voiced her concerns in a July 6 memo to the

commission.

"Not only would this overwhelm the land use office with applications and reviews, but it would add many more applications to the Planning and Zoning Commission agendas," she wrote. "Every pool and deck would now go from being an administrative approval to a special permit that must be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission."

Majorowski told the *Rivereast* this week the potential ramifications were brought to her attention through an email from town engineer Geoffrey Jacobson as well as discussions with Srb.

After talking with Srb about his problems with the language, she explained, "it really made sense the way he was saying it."

Srb used many points outlined in Majorowski's memo when he addressed the commission last week.

"I believe Ashley got it right," he said.

Tyler disputed some of the assertions, like when Srb said planting an oak tree would require a special permit if the change went through.

Planting is covered under an exemption that allows "plowing, spading, cultivating, harrowing of soil or any operation ordinarily associated with the tilling of the soil for agricultural or horticultural purposes," according to Tyler.

Srb replied that the dictionary definition of horticulture involves fruit trees, which does not include oak trees.

Tyler said the dictionary identifies fruit, vegetables, flowers and plants as elements of horticulture.

"Is this the Webster Dictionary?" Srb asked.

"My dictionary is as good as your dictionary," Tyler replied.

According to the Webster Dictionary, horticulture is "the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, flowers, or ornamental plants."

Srb went on to say the language could affect

the installation of swimming pools and retaining walls.

Tyler said those uses are covered under separate sections of the regulations. The rules require a zoning permit for any pool deeper than two feet and for a fence or wall higher than four feet.

Srb said the changes "won't work" to resolve concerns about his use of the property and called the provisions "unenforceable."

Tyler agreed they might not work, but disputed the assertion they were unenforceable.

Citing the increased burden on staff that would result from the text amendment, Srb said enforcement would require "an army of staff" because he would "be there every day" with applications to install oak trees and retaining walls.

Srb emphasized said he is "permitted by right" to build a house with an approved site plan.

"It was reviewed by the town engineer and everything was done appropriately," Srb said. "Some people got upset, and I respect that too. But I don't know how you change it."

Former Zoning Enforcement Officer Bob Spencer authorized the zoning permit for a single-family home in May 2014 despite reservations that Srb "could possibly excavate for the next five years without proper safeguards in place," according to land use department correspondence obtained through a Freedom of Information request.

Spencer ultimately approved the zoning permit with the condition any excavation "be in concert with the spirit of" the town's regulations on earth removal – a condition that town attorney Kari Olson said in April was "subjective" and would be difficult to uphold in court.

Several residents spoke during the hearing to express reservations about the proposed text amendment, though they said the com-

mission should consider other ways to resolve the issue.

Dave Murphy, who has been one of the most visible critics of Srb's sand pit, suggested looking into a formula that would limit the amount of material that could be excavated as part of a building lot.

"I think there is a safeguard," he said, emphasizing the need for oversight once a certain excavation threshold is met.

Olson had also recommended looking into a volume restriction during a May 18 meeting of the commission, which was the subject of a resulting memo from Town Engineer Geoffrey Jacobson.

Jacobson said it is difficult to come up with a figure representing the volume of earth material produced in a "typical" building project due, in part, to "considerable variation in the volume of earthwork necessary for the development of residential lots."

Volume calculations are also more time consuming and costly for residents to calculate and for staff to verify, he wrote.

Jacobson called Srb's situation on the corner of Sage Hollow Road and Cornwall Street "quite unique," adding that he hasn't seen anything like it in more than three decades of experience.

"As the commission is no doubt aware, it is very difficult to craft regulatory controls that address any and all situations, and that well-intentioned changes to address such unique situations must be carefully balanced with the additional burdens and associated costs that may be imposed upon all other applicants as well as the town," he wrote.

Commission members discussed looking into how other towns handle the issue, but did not specify how they would proceed.

Tyler said Tuesday he would ask Majorowski to "research it and see what we can do."

# Hebron School Board Adds Extra Kindergarten Section

by Lauren Yandow

Good news for parents of youngsters entering the 2017-18 kindergarten class at Gilead Hill School: At its meeting last week, the Board of Education approved an additional kindergarten section for the upcoming school year.

The addition will bring the total number of kindergarten sections to five.

Conversations about adding a fifth section first started when looking at numbers of incoming students, said Board of Education Chairperson Erica Bromley. As the number of incoming kindergarten students reached an excess for classroom space and the possibility of more students coming in was shifting, the board chose to wait until they had a more definitive number of incoming kindergarteners.

At the meeting, Superintendent of Schools Timothy Van Tassel confirmed there are currently 81 incoming kindergarteners for the 2017-18 school year. With a threshold number of 80, Van Tassel said, "at this point in time it is my recommendation to the board to add a section of kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year."

Bromley said the board did discuss the potential of not adding a section for the start of the school year; but with the possibility of an influx of kids registering mid-year there was concern over causing disruption to students and their parents if a new section were to be added mid-year.

Van Tassel said it's a far more challenging task to shuffle the deck and move kids into an additional classroom mid-school-year, when students have already bonded with their teacher and made friends in their current class.

"I do believe it is in the best choice of the board, the best decision of the board to make this move with the kindergarten," said Van Tassel. The biggest reason, he said, is right now

the school is at a point where it's going to have three classrooms of 20 students and one classroom with 21 students. "What we're doing is reducing those class sizes – [to] four classes of 16, one class of 17 – which is commensurate with what we have currently," he said.

"Keeping it small at the primary level is important," he added.

Bromley motioned to approve the hiring of a kindergarten classroom teacher for the upcoming school year. Van Tassel seconded the motion; the board unanimously agreed.

Van Tassel said it's difficult to anticipate the full cost of what hiring a teacher for the new kindergarten section will be. He said the salary of the newly hired teacher will depend on their level of experience in education. An entry-level "first step bachelor's" kindergarten teacher would make \$46,322.

Some of that salary will come from an unfilled staff position. Van Tassel said that in April, the board decided not to fill a speech and language pathologist position it had previously put in the 2017-18 budget, saving the board \$30,000.

Board of Education member Carol Connolly commented, "I think this is excellent to be able to do this. Adding additional staff to make sure that we have the tools for our children is definitely I think something the whole community will support."

Currently, the school is slated for four paraprofessionals for the kindergarten grade. Although there will be an additional kindergarten section, no additional paraprofessionals will be hired; instead the four current paraprofessionals will be shared between the five classes, said Van Tassel.

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Also at last Thursday's meeting, the board came to a collective bargaining agreement with the Hebron Administrators' Association – the union that represents administrative positions below superintendent and assistant superintendent.

The contract, which covers 2018-21, increases both salary and insurance.

The agreement calls for a general wage increase of 6.55 percent over the course of three years. The raises break down to 2 percent in the first year, 2.25 percent in the second year, and 2.3 percent in the third year.

As far as insurance, the premium cost share will also increase for the administrators, said Van Tassel. Currently at 16.5 percent, it will rise to 17.5 percent the first year; 18 percent the second year; and 18.5 percent the third year. "It is well within the average – at the low end of the average – for the previous negotiation season and it [is] a contract that I do believe is very fair," said Van Tassel – who recommended the board move forward with the agreement.

Bromley motioned to approve the 2018-21 tentative agreement between the Board of Education and the Hebron Administrators' Association.

"Negotiations went very smoothly," she said, considering everyone came to the table with reasonable offers and expectations. "I think we were both able to get what we felt it was the best scenario for all."

The board unanimously voted to approve the tentative agreement.

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At Thursday's meeting, the board also shared some good news about Hebron Elementary School.

The school's lead water issue is currently

under control, and the administrative order from the Department of Public Health has been lifted until a second water sampling is done in September.

Since November, the school had been supplying drinking water via Poland Spring water bubblers. However, a Zinc Orthophosphate Water System was recently installed to make the school's water safe for drinking. The system builds up a coating on the inside of the copper piping around the lead to encapsulate and remove it from the water. It was anticipated that the system would take up to six months to be effective, Van Tassel said, but within two months of the system being installed, it has already encapsulated the lead.

Since installing the system, one lead water test has been conducted at the elementary school – which has resulted in a reading below the EPA threshold, said Van Tassel. One thing to note, he added, water sampling will need to continue and it'll come at a cost – a cost that wasn't budgeted for. The water issue occurred after the school's budget was approved. But, Van Tassel said, "safety is what's most important."

Bi-weekly testing will continue to reassure the school's drinking water is safe. Those lab tests will run \$40 to \$70 each.

Van Tassel said that if results in September show safe drinking levels, the school will remove the Poland Spring water bubblers.

The superintendent added that Gilead Hill School's water was also tested, but those tests came back negative.

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The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 10, at 7 p.m., in the Gilead Hill School library.



# ‘Tale as Old as Time’ Coming to Belltown

by Elizabeth Regan

Voices carried throughout the East Hampton High School auditorium this week in a roar of song, mixing with the drum beat of carpentry as the set of *Disney’s Beauty and the Beast* rose up from the new stage floor.

The Young People’s Center for Creative Arts was in full rehearsal mode on Monday as actors, stagehands and staff prepared for a four-day performance run beginning July 27.

A large ensemble cast was practicing an elaborate scene when director Rachel Mansfield told the actors they were at about 65 percent of maximum output with about two weeks to go before showtime. She applauded their progress over the past three weeks even as she encouraged them to strive for 100 percent in the coming days.

Working around the ensemble, set designer Chris Briggs and anyone he could recruit to help were constructing a three level, four-staircase set that doubles as a castle and a village.

Briggs has been on the YPCCA staff for two decades, with three-fourths of those years devoted to set design.

“Fifteen years ago when I started really building, I didn’t have all the tools that would help me be more efficient,” he said.

When YPCCA put on *Beauty and the Beast* about ten years ago, he said, the set wasn’t ready until two days before the first performance.

Now actors can start practicing with a completed set earlier than ever before due to a pile of tools and the know-how to use them.

Costume designer Marilyn Myers, who has been involved with YPCCA since it began in 1982, agreed the productions run more smoothly with each passing year.

“As YPCCA has gone on, the production staff just gets better and better at what we’re doing,” she said.

Myers credited her mother with teaching her to sew and instilling one key belief: “that you can make anything out of anything.”

Her mother, Kay Friday, was a costume and set designer with YPCCA before her retirement from the theater group.

Myers said making anything from anything includes turning hula hoops into life-sized plates and top hats into candlesticks.

*Disney’s Beauty and the Beast*, put on through Music Theater International, tells the story of Belle, a young woman from a small town, and a prince who turned into a beast under an enchantress’ spell. Also caught up in the magic were the prince’s servants-turned-housewares. The beast must learn to love and be loved in order to break the spell.

Stage manager Kendra Dickinson said the show capitalizes on the recent release of the live action version of the animated Disney film that first appeared over 25 years ago.

The production is also well-timed due to a wide range of actors, from middle school students to 2017 high school graduates.

“It’s a perfect show when you have such a wide range of actors and so many middle school-aged campers,” Dickinson said. “It

would not be a good year to do *Chicago* or *Jesus Christ Superstar* or some of the more mature shows.”

She said *Beauty and the Beast* was the logical choice this year as the cast of roughly 70 actors thrives in the new, air-conditioned high school auditorium.

“We knew we wanted a big show,” she said. “We knew we wanted to pack the house to show off this beautiful new space.”

The production, with its focus on spells and magic, benefits from the expertise of professional magician Chris Mansfield.

“Magic’s a pretty solitary endeavor, so it’s great to be part of a show like this where I can use some of the skills that I have to help bring it to life,” he said.

Mansfield cited elements of “black art” and “grand illusion” that would begin and end the show.

Black art is a centuries-old tradition that uses darkness to create the illusion as actors show how the beast became enchanted.

“We’re bringing [black art] back,” he said. “It doesn’t necessarily fool people, but we’re not interested in that. We’re interested in making it look good.”

The show’s grand illusion will take place when the beast turns back into a prince.

“We’re going to vanish the beast in midair and transform him into a prince before he hits the ground,” he said.

He declined to reveal how the trick will be pulled off – and promised if all goes well, it

will stay a secret.

Rising senior Emily Bradshaw, of Portland, landed the role of Madame de La Grande Bouche, a wardrobe, in her seventh YPCCA performance.

Her over-the-top costume is a box with fully functioning drawers, she said. While there’s plenty of action for her character, Bradshaw said the role also requires standing still for long periods of time.

“Belle actually sings an entire song and I’m just part of the set because I’m a wardrobe in her bedroom,” she said.

Bradshaw is building on experience in such roles as Audrey in YPCCA’s production of *Little Shop of Horrors* and Ruth in Portland High School’s rendition of *Pirates of Penzance*.

The role of Belle is played by recent East Hampton High School graduate Emma Peltier, who will attend Eastern Connecticut State University this fall as an undeclared major.

She said going from an ensemble role in last summer’s production of *Bye, Bye Birdie* to this year’s lead was an exciting transition – but one that’s bittersweet, as it’s her last year to perform in a YPCCA production.

However, Peltier said she envisions returning to YPCCA next year as a counselor.

*Showtimes for Disney’s Beauty and the Beast are 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and children 16 and under. They can be ordered online at [ypcca.org](http://ypcca.org) and will also be available at the door.*

# St. Clements Lawyer Responds to Banquet Concerns

by Elizabeth Regan

Amid permitting questions brought to light by a June 25 fire on the East Hampton side of the Saint Clements Castle and Marina, a lawyer for the facility has responded to the town’s concerns that conducting banquets on the site is “an illegal expansion” of its grandfathered status as a marina in a residential zone.

Attorney Kenneth Slater Jr., of the Hartford-based Halloran and Sage law firm, told Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli in a July 18 letter that the Port-Hampton Marina Club will not hold any banquet events on the property while it is zoned residential.

DeCarli had informed Saint Clements founder and owner Edward Doherty in writing the previous week that the site, which is allowed to operate as a marina because it existed before current regulations turned the area into a single-family residential zone, could be used for anything that “would be reasonably expected at a marina” – but emphasized such uses do not include a banquet facility.

DeCarli said the building that caught fire was permitted, constructed and assessed as a storage facility.

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 a witness said guests were dining when the fire started.

While Slater said no banquets will be held on the site, he asked for the town to allow seven wedding ceremonies scheduled from August through October to be held on the marina pier. He said guests would be transported to the adjacent Saint Clements Castle property in Portland for cocktails and receptions.

“Without asking you to determine that those activities are permitted and with your preserving all rights of enforcement in the future, we are requesting an accommodation that you agree not to commence an enforcement action or cease-and-desist order regarding the exchange

of vows for these seven events,” Slater wrote.

East Hampton Building Official Glen LeConche on Wednesday described the initial letter from DeCarli to Doherty as a “friendlier” cease-and-desist request instead of an official order. He said it’s the building, planning and zoning department’s practice to try to facilitate compliance informally before a cease-and-desist order – which comes with the right to appeal – becomes necessary.

Slater also told DeCarli his clients will file an application for a permit with the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency for paving that occurred in the inland wetlands review area.

Contrary to the list of violations outlined by DeCarli, Slater said the driveway does not require site plan approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission because it existed as parking for boats and vehicles when the site was grandfathered in.

LeConche said the department has not yet responded to Slater’s letter.

## Ethics Questions

Slater’s law firm of Halloran and Sage was hired on a three-year contract as East Hampton’s legal counsel, according to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco. The firm served for more than three and a half years before Updike, Kelly & Spellacy was appointed by town manager Michael Maniscalco through the competitive bidding process in April.

As of Thursday morning, Slater was serving as East Hampton’s legal counsel for ongoing issues related to 1 Watrous St., which was acquired by the town in 2016; a lawsuit against the Planning and Zoning Commission filed by prominent local developer Wayne Rand; and a lawsuit against the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency.

Slater had served as counsel for the East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) in negotiations regarding a proposed

sewer transit agreement with the town of Portland. The plan, which was initially proposed by Saint Clements, would connect the banquet facility and marina to the East Hampton wastewater treatment plant.

A sewer transit agreement was initially drafted for Saint Clements by engineers from the firm of Weston and Sampson. The draft was presented to the Portland Board of Selectmen on Dec. 2, 2015, by the engineers and Raymond Termini, who was identified at the time as Saint Clements’ business and development consultant. The proposed contract was given to the Board of Selectmen for the town to use in its negotiations with East Hampton.

Negotiations between the town of Portland and the WPCA have stalled, according to officials.

Representatives of Saint Clements have described wastewater disposal as a major challenge affecting expansion plans at the banquet facility and marina.

Slater, when reached by the *Rivereast* last December, emphasized the sewer transit agreement is between the towns of East Hampton and Portland.

He said at the time that Saint Clements is “not a party to the contract” and that no parties had expressed concerns about a conflict.

“If Saint Clements were directly involved, we would have to look at it,” he said.

Slater did not respond by press time to an email and call asking for updated comment.

East Hampton Public Utilities Manager Tim Smith said recently Slater is no longer serving as the WPCA attorney for the sewer transit agreement because there’s been nothing to act on lately and because the town is no longer represented by Halloran and Sage.

Slater’s name also showed up as a notary on the 2010 water supply agreement with East Hampton through which the town paid Doherty \$673,000 for the right to use two wells on

his property. In addition, the town 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.

Late Thursday morning, Maniscalco sent Slater an email to say he recently became aware the attorney was representing Saint Clements, which exists under the umbrella of the Roncalli Institute, on matters related to the fire.

Maniscalco said representing both the town and Saint Clements “raises questions as it relates to the town’s Code of Ethics and Conduct.”

He advised Slater he was moving the three open cases to town attorneys from the recently appointed firm Updike, Kelly and Spellacy.

## Fire Still Under Investigation

East Hampton Deputy Fire Marshal Joe Guest said Wednesday the fire at the Port-Hampton Marina Club is still under investigation. He estimated it would take another two weeks to close the case and release the cause of the blaze.

He said the East Hampton Fire Marshal Office is in possession of security footage it had requested from the insurance company representing Saint Clements.

Guest said last week that the Office of State Fire Marshal, which was called to the scene of the fire by East Hampton Fire Marshal Rich Klotzbier, had been taking a secondary role in the investigation but would be “involved more” once the security footage was obtained.

Guest would not confirm if the fire marshal’s office is looking at a criminal aspect to the case.



# AHM Summer Youth Theater Presents *Seussical: The Musical*

by Lauren Yandow

When Kyle Reynolds announced the cast for this year's AHM Youth and Family Services Summer Theater show – *Seussical: the Musical* – he didn't tape a cast list to the auditorium door. Instead, he asked each student to sit around in a circle, where he explained why each actor was cast for their specific role.

"It was insane" how encouraging each kid was, he said. "They were like 'no hard feelings,' 'you're perfect for that' – it was awesome."

Doling out new roles to each kid is something Reynolds can relate to – literally. This is the first year he'll act as director and choreographer for the AHM summer show, which will be performed at RHAM High School next Thursday through Saturday.

When asked why he chose *Seussical: the Musical*, Reynolds said, "[it] brings the many stories of Dr. Seuss's famous books to life." Through magical tales, imaginative storytelling and colorful musicality, audiences of all ages are always captivated by this production, he said.

While everyone who auditions for the AHM summer show gets a part, "they always get a role that is fitting to them," said Reynolds. "Every kid has a role that they're excited about – they're along on this ride with us for five weeks, working together towards the goal of opening night," he added.

Skylar Haines snagged the role of Cat in the Hat in *Seussical: the Musical*. Going into her junior year, Haines splits her high school days between RHAM and Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts – where Reynolds is also one of her teachers. "Mr. Reynolds believed in me," Haines said. "He said, 'I know you can do it – go sing your heart out, act your heart out, be the Cat in the Hat.'"

When asked why people should come out to see *Seussical: the Musical*, Haines said, "I think the entire show is exciting. Dr. Seuss [is] your childhood fantasy... the things you can think and the places you would go."

She added, "It's a community show, there's going to be everyone from 100-years-old to one-year-olds in the audience – Dr. Seuss never gets old."

Michelle Hamilton – the executive director of AHM – said she agrees this show has something for all audiences, both young and old. "Really this show is about believing in yourself – something that our mission at AHM is strongly founded in," she said.

A few 2017 RHAM High School graduates are set to perform in this summer's musical.

One such graduate – Sam Sokola – has performed with AHM the last two summers. Her favorite part of the program is acting on stage and her hope for *Seussical: the Musical* – "that the show goes according to plan."

Another recent RHAM grad – Maddy Brooks – has stepped in the spotlight for AHM shows since her sophomore year. She said it's all the friendships she's made that have kept her coming back.

Graduate Jacob Lee agrees, saying his best memory is "having friends stay with the program consistently through the years."

Lee first started performing in AHM Summer Youth Theater in eighth grade; for *Seussical: the Musical*, Lee will play 'Horton the Elephant.' The role is one of his all-time favorites because "this one is most like me," he said.

Ironically, that feeling of relating to one's character is how Reynolds casts roles. "My favorite thing to see is a little bit of the character in each kid, that they might be scared of and give them that role to pull that characteristic out of them," he said. Adding, in doing so, it pushes them to see how similar they are to that character.

It's also fun to play something you're nothing like, he said – the monkeys in the show are so mean, but the kids playing the monkeys aren't mean at all. "They have a lot of fun understanding what that means."

Going into her senior year at RHAM, Sarah Aissis has acted in AHM shows for four years. "It's such an amazing outlet and a way for me to express myself and tell a story – it's my joy," she said.

When asked what makes *Seussical: the Musical* different from previous shows she's done, Aissis said, "There is a lot of music, there's a lot of dance, the choreography is hard. It's def-



AHM Summer Youth Theater 2017 presents *Seussical: the Musical*. The show will run on the RHAM High School Auditorium stage July 27, 28, and 29 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the AHM offices, the Hebron Town Clerk's Office and at the door. Adult tickets are \$10; senior and children tickets are \$6.

nately going to be amazing to watch; I think the audience will love all the work that went into it."

As director, Reynolds succeeds Mary Rose Meade – who worked with the program for 25 consecutive summers. Meade handed the theater torch to Reynolds this year – which is an "honor," he said.

Heading into her senior year at RHAM, Katie Malgioglio has performed in AHM shows since seventh grade. "Miss Meade was amazing and she really made our cast a family," she said. "Now with Mr. Reynolds, we're doing more dancing than we've ever done before and it's really such an honor to work with someone like him."

When asked about 'retiring' as director, Meade said, "It is going to be wonderful to be able to actually watch the show without having to think about all of the technical pieces that go into it. I can just sit back and enjoy."

Meade added she's looking forward to the choreography.

That dancing, Reynolds said, is the "flavor" he's bringing as the new director.

Soon-to-be RHAM senior, Erica Day, agrees with the excitement swirling around the choreography *Seussical: the Musical* entails. "It's

kind of nice to be able to try something new," she said, "I think each of us are becoming better dancers as the musical progresses."

While the cast continues to sing, dance and bond at their weekly Monday through Thursday rehearsals, they're anticipating opening night with great excitement and looking forward to how the audience will perceive the show.

As a first-year participant who's going into seventh grade, Emma Kindl, said audience members will have a great experience because of the "lively characters" and "awesome actors."

Soon-to-be sophomore Danielle Golden said "people will be impressed" and when you leave, you'll still be "dancing and singing along."

As the new director, Reynolds said he hopes people come and support the kids under his direction. "I'm so lucky to take over with these kids right now and I feel I'm exactly where I should be."

*Seussical: the Musical* takes the stage at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron, July 27-29, at 7 p.m. all three nights. Tickets are available at the AHM offices, 25 Pendleton Dr., Hebron; the Hebron town clerk's office, 15 Gilead St.; and at the door. Adult tickets are \$10; tickets for seniors and children are \$6.

## Kicked Off PZC, Colchester Resident Plans to Sue Town

by Julianna Roche

A local contractor has filed a letter of intent to sue the Town of Colchester after the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to remove him from the Planning and Zoning Commission earlier this month for allegedly encouraging and abetting the evasion of rightful property taxes.

It will become the second pending lawsuit Colchester resident and contractor David Gesiak, of David Gesiak LLC, has filed against the town this year; the first was made late this spring under his claim that his personal property had been improperly taxed in 2016.

Gesiak explained he received a letter dated June 14 from First Selectman Art Shilosky notifying him of his removal from the commission, but was not provided with corroborating evidence to back up the claims he was "encouraging residents to avoid paying taxes."

Shilosky declined to comment on any specifics related to the matter, stating, "It's in the [town] attorney's hands."

Gesiak explained that he could only think of a post he wrote on May 31 on the "Keeping it all in Colchester" Facebook page, as possible grounds for his removal. However, he claimed the post – which was addressed to Colchester contractors struggling to pay their taxes – did not encourage them to evade paying taxes, and using it as the basis of his commission removal was a violation of his First Amendment rights to freedom of speech.

"My post was not reflective of my position on the board," Gesiak said, adding he was acting on his "individual right as a citizen, as an American to post what [he] wanted to post."

The post read, "Are you looking to move your business out of town because your business taxes are outrageous on your equipment? Are you being taxed twice or even three times the value of your equipment? Have you gone to the Board of Assessment Appeals and got nothing?"

In the post, Gesiak furthers that he has commercial property located five minutes from town in Lebanon – on 614 Waterman Rd. – with a large level parking area for trucks and trailers,

as well as two buildings for storage space.

"I want are [sic] businesses to survive," he wrote. "I am willing to rent at a very minimal rate, even free (yes free in [sic] needed) if you are in jeopardy of losing your business because of your tax assessments or just want out. We as business owners cannot let this continue. We will not survive."

Gesiak himself has twice tried to make an appeal to the Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) regarding his own assessments and been denied – which he said ultimately led him to file his initial lawsuit against the town.

As of this week, that lawsuit is still pending.

During the public hearing regarding Gesiak's removal – which was held at the July 6 Board of Selectmen meeting – selectman Stan Soby explained the board "was made aware" of the Facebook post that allegedly "read to [be] encouraging people to avoid paying taxes in Colchester."

"As elected and appointed officials, we have an obligation to act in accordance with the law, [state] statute and the town charter," he furthered, before asking Gesiak if the post was indeed "legitimate."

Gesiak however, declined to answer Soby and other selectmen's questions, stating each time he was asked one that under the advice of legal counsel he could not comment.

"For me to speak at that meeting would have done no good," he explained after the meeting, adding that he felt his Facebook post was "in no way is asking people to hide things [and] in no way asking people to do illegal things [or] hiding taxes, nothing about evading taxes. ... [It was about] if you want to move your business to Lebanon."

However, at the meeting Shilosky said Gesiak's post did suggest evading taxes and "when a person or company does something like that, it makes somebody else in this town pay more in taxes and I don't think that's fair to the rest of the taxpayers in the town of Colchester."

The first selectman furthered that if Gesiak refused to speak during the public hearing, the board would have no choice but to remove him from the commission.

"I was hoping I would get your side of the story," Shilosky continued, adding [but] "you're basically forcing us to make a decision based on our facts we have, which is your Facebook post."

Neither Shilosky nor any other board member read the Facebook post aloud during the hearing.

"When they did remove me... no one even read the Facebook post [out loud]. It wasn't a shock to them [so] they already knew what the post said when they were up front making a decision," Gesiak said. "The problem is that other businesses in town are going through the same thing [as me], but they're afraid of retribution, which I'm getting now being removed from [the commission]."

Tax Assessor John Chaponis, however, suggested Gesiak has had a rocky past with both the assessor's office and the BAA – and in the past has allegedly "refused to supply the assessor's office with the sales documentation we requested in order to ensure an accurate assessment."

He further explained that "a lot of taxable property is transient in nature," such as with construction equipment that may need to be on site in another town for an entire year – meaning that the property would be taxable in the town in which it resides.

"If someone moves their taxable property to another town, the property remains there, [and] they pay taxes to the new town, then there is no tax evasion because they are paying the new town," he said. "However, if they are moving to another town to be stored at a location off the street where it cannot be seen or stored in a garage, and they fail to report the taxable equipment to the new town, that would be tax evasion."

As for Gesiak's Facebook post offering

Colchester contractors to move their equipment to Lebanon, Chaponis said he sees "someone who is complaining about taxes" and "offering to rent space to Colchester taxpayers so that they can take their taxable equipment off the Colchester grand list."

However, Chaponis clarified that the post does not specifically "state that the property owner [Gesiak] will be paying taxes to the town of Lebanon and that there would be no tax savings at all if you were to move your equipment to Lebanon and have it assessed there."

He explained for example, if someone were to move \$75,000 worth of equipment from Colchester to Lebanon, they would save only \$177 per year and once they paid rent for the space, plus having to drive to Lebanon to pick up and drop off the equipment every day, Chaponis felt that in "gas, travel, time alone, there would be no savings at all; unless the savings were being derived from not paying taxes in any town."

During the public comments portion of the public hearing, several residents spoke against the board's decision to remove Gesiak from the commission, including resident Jim Kelly.

"I don't know Mr. Gesiak at all, but you're going after him for [something he posted] on Facebook ... you are going down a slippery slope," Kelly said. "There are no shortage of things posted by town employees and members of the board that would also lead to serious questions."

Resident Charles Logan, who is also a member of the Ethics Commission, stated that while he felt the Board of Selectmen "acted swiftly," he felt the board "can't act on one thing and ignore everything else."

"If you're going to act on one thing [posted] on Facebook, at least act on them all," he said. "There are different standards in Colchester [for different people]... at least put it in front of us. Say it's true or not true [because] we're sick of the rumors."

## Sidebar to Zoning Reg Story

# In Depth: Proposed Changes to Portland Zoning Regulations

These are the suggested changes to section 9.5 of the Portland zoning regulations as submitted, and ultimately withdrawn, by the Portland Planning and Zoning Commission (additions in bold):

“A Special Permit is not required in conjunction with the following excavation, grading, removal or filling operations:

1. Any Subdivision, Special Permit use and/or Site Plan approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission;

2. Any filling in conjunction with an approved septic installation or repair, and any excavation, grading or removal of earth products **for an approved septic installation or repair** where the area excavated, graded or removed is  $\pm 1/4$  or less in total area for any one parcel;

3. Necessary foundation and trench work on a lot for which a Zoning Permit and a Building Permit have been issued **and are in force** and then not exceeding  $\pm 2$  1 acre”

Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Bruce Tyler has said the changes were spurred by selectman Ben Srb’s excavation operation at the corner of Sage Hollow Road

and Cornwall Street.

The site work on Srb’s property is part of an approved zoning permit, but many residents have wondered why it is not subject to special permit regulations governing earth material removal.

Tyler explained he suggested a change to exemption 2 to make it clearer. He said the language currently seems to refer to septic installation or repair in the first part of the sentence, but goes on to potentially allow any earthwork on an area up to a half acre.

He said exemption 3 assumes once a building permit is issued, it stays enforced - which he said is not necessarily the case.

Srb initially submitted both a building permit and zoning permit, but withdrew the building permit before the zoning permit was even issued.

Srb maintains changes to the second and third exemption are irrelevant to operations like his, since it is exemption 1 that allows him to conduct excavation operations based on an approved site plan instead of a special permit for earth removal.

## Colchester Man Dies After Hebron Crash

by Lauren Yandow

A Colchester man died after his motorcycle was struck from behind on Route 85 Sunday afternoon, state police said.

At around 12:30 p.m., police said, Benjamin Labonosky, 57, was riding his motorcycle northbound, near the intersection with Lake Road, when he started easing up on the gas to turn left into the parking lot at Twin Lakes Tavern.

That was when a car being driven by Brody Coutant, 19, of Marlborough, struck him from behind, police said. The crash ejected Labonosky from his bike, forcing him to land in the southbound lane. State police said Coutant drove roughly 100 feet before com-

ing to a stop.

Hebron Fire Department officials rushed Labonosky to Hartford Hospital, where he later died.

Coutant and his passenger – Brady Reardon, 18, of Hebron – were not injured in the crash, police said.

According to state police, the investigation is ongoing. Anyone who witnessed the crash or has information about the incident is encouraged to call Trooper First Class Anthony Simao at the state police Troop K barracks in Colchester. He can be reached at 860-465-5400 ext. 4053.

## East Hampton Police News

6/28: A 17-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for reckless driving and failure to stop when signaled, East Hampton Police said.

7/9: Tracey Michelle Oliva, 48, of 45 E. High St., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

7/11: John Thomas Grimshaw, 51, of 26 N. Main St., Apt. 2, and Jamie Carlson Grimshaw, 46, of the same address, were both arrested pursuant to active warrants, police said. John Grimshaw was charged with conspiracy to com-

mit sixth-degree larceny, police said, and Jamie Grimshaw was charged with sixth-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit sixth-degree larceny.

7/12: William V. Norton, 24, of 14 Chapman Rd., was charged with second-degree threatening and disorderly conduct, police said.

Also, from July 3-9, police said they responded to 15 medical calls, two motor vehicle crashes and 14 alarms, and made 12 traffic stops.

## Colchester Police News

7/10: State Police said Edwin Sowah, 35, of 16 Millstone Dr., Marlborough, was arrested and charged with failure to respond to an infraction.

7/12: State Police said Dijon H. Shepard, 33, of 244 Centre St., Springfield, Mass., was arrested and charged with violation of probation/conditional discharge.

7/13: Colchester Police said a 17-year-old youthful offender was arrested and charged with drug paraphernalia, illegal sale of narcotics or certain hallucinogens, illegal possession of a narcotic, and illegal possession of a small amount of a cannabis-type substance.

7/14: State Police said Elliott T. Clarke, 33, of 115 Library St., Mystic, was arrested and

charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to drive in the proper lane of a multiple lane highway.

7/14: State Police said Toni Marie Walitynski, 42, of 58 Pennsylvania Ave., Apt. 176, Niantic, was arrested and charged with violation of probation/conditional discharge.

7/15: Colchester Police said Michael R. Bourgoin, 45, of 33 Park Rd., was arrested and charged with interfering with an officer: non-assaultive.

7/17: State Police said Jason W. Carrier, 30, of 7 School Rd., Apt. 5, turned himself in on an active arrest warrant for a third-degree larceny charge.

## Marlborough Car Rollover Leaves One Injured

by Julianna Roche

A Middletown man was left with serious injuries after his vehicle struck a wire rope guardrail on Route 2 and rolled over several times, police said.

According to police, Marc A. Bachman, 47, of 1160 South Main St., Middletown, was traveling eastbound in his Ford F550 Super Duty in the left lane on Route 2 near the exit 13 ramp when he lost control of the vehicle on the wet road surface.

Police said Bachman’s Ford then struck the wire rope guardrail on the left-hand shoulder of the road, and continued through the guardrail, before rolling over several times and coming to an uncontrolled final rest in the center median.

Bachman’s vehicle was towed to Raymond’s and he was transported by the Marlborough Fire Department to Hartford Hospital for suspected serious injuries.

## Marlborough Police News

7/15: State Police said at approximately 7:23 a.m., they received a call regarding a commercial burglary reported at 2:32 a.m. at Kahn’s Citgo, located at 394 North Main St. According to police, entry was gained by prying off the lock on the front door and cash was stolen, as well as numerous cartons of cigarettes and cigars. Anyone with information about this incident should call Officer Julius Ransom at Troop K at 860-465-5400 ext. 4095.

## Portland Police News

7/9: Raymond Zukowski, 65, of 345 Monticello Dr., Bristol, was charged with reckless driving, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with no insurance, Portland Police said.

7/13: Dwayne Allen, 26, of 203 Chamberland Rd., Middletown, was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.



# Obituaries

## Portland

### Marilyn Rhoda Case

Marilyn Rhoda (Peterson) Case, 80, of Cromwell, formerly of Portland, wife of Leon R. Case II, passed away Wednesday, July 12, at Pilgrim Manor in Cromwell. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late C. Elmer and Rhoda (Baldwin) Peterson.



Marilyn demonstrated her love of nursing as an instructor, class advisor and friend. She spread comfort from coast to coast with gifts of fine handcrafted teddy bears and enhanced the serenity of her home with pieces of beautiful needlework. Her adventuresome side took her camping up and down the New England coast with her friend Ellie and she brought smiles to many faces singing the good old songs to the tune of the Glastonbury Ukulele Band. She was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church in Cromwell.

Besides her husband of 54 years, she is survived by a son, Douglas C. Case and his wife Andrea of Wayland, Mass.; two grandchildren, Jack and Renee Case of Wayland, Mass.; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 18, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 50 Court St., Cromwell. Interment will be in the Swedish Cemetery in Portland. Family and friends called Tuesday morning at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Marilyn's memory may be made to the Covenant Village Benevolent Fund, 52 Missionary Rd., Cromwell, CT 06416.

The Cromwell Funeral Home, 506 Main St., Cromwell is in charge of arrangements. To share memories or send condolences to the family, visit [doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://doolittlefuneralservice.com).

## Colchester

### Daniel Gordon Macdonald

Daniel Gordon Macdonald, 35, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, July 13. He was born Feb. 21, 1982, in Hartford, the son of Nora Ann Cantele of Colchester and Walter Thorne Macdonald of Plymouth.



Dan also leaves his sister, Jennifer of Wilmington, N.C., and his stepmother, Susan. He had worked as a house painter for United Painting in Colchester for the past 18 years. In his spare time, he loved the outdoors, especially hiking and snowboarding.

A memorial service was observed Monday, July 17, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The family received guests prior to the service. Burial was private.

Donations in her memory may be made to [SCADD.org](http://SCADD.org).

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

Courant

## Hebron

### William David Holland III

William David Holland III of Sebring, Fla., formerly of Hebron, loving husband of 14 years to Anna Marie (Foss) Holland, passed away peacefully with his family at his side Friday, July 14, from complications of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

David was born Nov. 22, 1955, in Rockville, son of the late William D. Holland Jr. and Shirley (Baker) Holland. He was employed by the Department of the Navy, Military Sealift Command, since 2003. David's last assignment was aboard the U.S.N.S. Robert E. Peary as the ship's fire marshal.

In addition to his wife, Anna Marie, he is survived by four sons; three grandchildren; and his two sisters, Sally Allard of Andover and Jill Kurys of Hebron.

At David's request there will be no calling hours or funeral services.

For online condolences, visit [holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

## Colchester

### Stella Ploszaj

Stella (Zawisza) Ploszaj, 96, of Salem, formerly of Colchester, widow of the late Joseph T. Ploszaj, passed away Monday morning, July 17, at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London. Born April 7, 1921, in North Westchester, she was the daughter of the late John and Mary (Resnick) Zawisza.



Stella and Joe wed Jan. 11, 1942, and shared 71 years of marriage before he predeceased her on June 19, 2013. Stella had a true zest for life for ALL of her 96 years. Many would affectionately refer to her as the "Energizer Bunny," as she could run circles around many half her age. After attending Bacon Academy in Colchester, she trained and worked as a hairdresser, but she will be remembered moreso for her talents as a seamstress. At any given point in her adult life, Stella was always at the ready to help family, friends and the community-at-large; be it from the Salem PTA, Cub Scouting, the Salem Seniors – she was there. However, her "labor of love" was that her dedication to and leadership with the auxiliary of St. Joseph's Polish Society in Colchester – of which she was the last surviving charter member. Along with her sisters and many other volunteers, Stella could be found cooking in the club's kitchen more often than not.

She leaves four children, Joseph Ploszaj of Oakdale; three daughters, Dorothy Mrowka of Colchester, Margaret "Peggy" Fedus of Chelmsford, Mass., and Mary Lou and husband, Gary Johnson of Groton; seven grandchildren, Jeffrey Watson, Suzanne Burns, Jennifer Oceau, Sherri Sullivan, Stephanie Ploszaj McClusky, Jessica Beauchamp, and Tammy Keller; 12 great grandchildren; a great great grandson; a sister, Wanda Mrowka of Colchester; her dear wonderful neighbors, Al, Lori, Ed, Alan and Pam – who were ALWAYS there for her and Joe; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and other extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by a grandson, David Watson; her son-in-law, Lucien Mrowka; three sisters, Genevieve Drenga, Tillie Zeleznicky and Monica Everett; and five brothers, Raymond, Frank, August, Walter and Chester Zawisza.

A special thank you goes out to Dr. Manthous and the entire staff of Unit 4.1 at Lawrence + Memorial; your most sincere care and heartfelt concern during Stella's last days will never be forgotten.

The family will receive guests 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today, July 21, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 22, directly at Our Lady of the Lakes Church, 752 Norwich-Salem Tpke. (Route 82), Oakdale. Following Mass, she will be laid to rest in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to Salem Vol. Fire Co., 424 Hartford Rd., Salem, CT 06420 or the Gardner Lake Vol. Fire Co., 429 Old Colchester Rd., Salem, CT 06420.

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

Courant

## Marlborough

### Imants Gorbants

Imants Gorbants, 92, of Marlborough, died Sunday, July 16, at home, surrounded by his family.

Born July 22, 1924, in Latvia, he immigrated to the United States in 1950 to Boston on a boat from Sweden with 117 fellow Latvians. He was transferred to Ellis Island where he spent 4 months. He was sponsored by the Fimbers family from Bridgeport and came to Connecticut.

He married his wife Lauma Krastins Gorbants Sept. 1, 1951. He worked for the Moore Special Tool Co. for 38 years. He retired to a home he built in Leyden, Mass., and moved to Marlborough in 1998. He conducted services in the Latvian church as a lay minister.

Besides his wife he is survived by his two daughters, Eva Gorbants and Ingrid Drozdal and 4 grandchildren, Evan, Nathan, Kristen and Jaimie. Services will be private.

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

## Marlborough

### Linda Faye Lyman

Linda Faye Lyman, 67, passed away Thursday, July 13, at her residence in Fort Collins, Colo. She was born Aug. 24, 1949, to Kenneth Prentiss and Myrtle Tilton in Waterville, Maine. She enjoyed her work in the Poudre School District (Colorado) as a school bus driver.

She was preceded in death by: mother, Myrtle Tilton Claughsey; stepfather, Frank Claughsey and stepmother, Florence Prentiss.

Linda is survived by: husband, Mark David Lyman; father, Kenneth Prentiss; daughter, Cheryl Foley and husband Timothy; brothers, Randell Prentiss and John Leanders; grandchildren, Racheal Allen-Foley, Connor Foley and Ryan Foley; great grandchildren, Gage, Ryker and Cason; aunt and special friend, Rachel Gibbs; special friend, Millie Miller; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Visit [allnutt.com](http://allnutt.com) to view Linda's obituary, where memories and condolences can be shared.

Courant

## East Hampton

### Nan Robertson Cartwright

Nan Robertson Cartwright, 88, died early Thursday morning, July 13, at her home in Fairfield, surrounded by her family. Born in Manchester, Nan was the daughter of William Post Robertson Jr. and Charlotte Merriman Robertson. She grew up in East Hartford and East Hampton, and attended the University of Connecticut at Storrs where she met her husband of 64 years, George C. Cartwright.



Nan and George were married in South Glastonbury at St. Luke Episcopal Church on Sept. 30, 1950, and lived for short periods in Nashville, Tenn., and Sewickley, Pa., and then spent many happy years in Glens Falls, N.Y., where their four children were born. The family relocated to Easton in 1971 and then to Fairfield in 1976. Nan resided most recently in Woodfield Village in Fairfield and is predeceased by her husband, George.

Nan was a member of The National Honor Society, Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority at UConn, and the P.E.O. International philanthropic organization for the education and advancement of women. Nan was also a member of the Fairfield Beach Club and an active member of the Congregation at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church on Greenfield Hill where she served on various committees over many years. Nan enjoyed community activities in the area, particularly volunteering at the Connecticut Audubon Society where she shared her love of nature as a guide for local school groups. Her affinities for nature, music, dance, and art were evident in the many beautiful watercolors she painted and provided as gifts for family and friends.

Also a prolific amateur photographer, Nan leaves a treasure of family photographs with detailed descriptions for her family to enjoy for many years to come.

Nan was employed as a proofreader for Barry Blau & Partners in Westport for ten years, an occupation for which she was uniquely well qualified!

Nan and George took many wonderful trips abroad after their four children gained their independence. "Nannie's" greatest joys, however, were her family, her home and garden, and the many dear friendships she made and maintained over the years through the thoughtful and now almost extinct art of letter writing in perfect penmanship.

Nan is survived by her four children and 11 grandchildren: daughter Eve Elizabeth Cartwright and her husband Skip Church of Litchfield, and their two sons, William Belscher and Robertson Cartwright of Chatham, Mass.; son David Robertson Cartwright of Old Lyme and his three children Corinne and Tyler Cartwright, and Dimitri Jones; son Andrew Lewis Cartwright and his wife, Patricia, of Ridgefield, and their four children Stephen, Emily, Madeline and Grace; and son John Merriman Cartwright, and his two sons, Andrew and Christopher, also of Fairfield.

A celebration of Nan's life was held at St. Timothy Episcopal Church on Greenfield Hill, 4670 Congress St., Fairfield, Tuesday, July 18.

courant

## East Hampton

### William A. Levesque

William A. Levesque, 42, of East Hampton, son of Carol N. Levesque and the late William L. Levesque, passed suddenly Monday, July 10.

Born in 1974 in Hartford, William spent his life pursuing a wide range of interests. He graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in philosophy and later used that to earn his J.D. from the Quinnipiac University School of Law. He then practiced law at a private firm.

William lived life on his terms, even in the face of the adversity he faced over the last 10 years. His sense of humor was best described as irreverent and his ability to make people laugh will be missed. William loved fly-fishing, boating, cooking, and riding his motorcycles. Most of all, he enjoyed the time he spent with family and friends.

William is survived by his loving mother Carol, and two brothers, Brendon and his wife Sarah and Elliot and his wife Rachael. He will be missed dearly by his nephew and godson, Jacob Levesque (who regarded William as a second father), and niece Isabella Levesque. William is also survived by his extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins: Elizabeth Donahue and her husband James, Dominick Zito and his wife Lyn, Eva Oldziej her husband Mirek and their two children Michael and Matthew, Fred Reidinger and his wife Audrey, Albert Levesque, Carol Harley and Michael Levesque.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Kidney Fund.

Calling hours were held Tuesday, July 18, at Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury, CT 06033.

To leave an online condolence, visit [glastonburyfuneral.com](http://glastonburyfuneral.com).

From courant

## Colchester

### Doris P. King

Doris P. (Rodino) King, 91, formerly of Norwich, passed away Wednesday morning July 12, at Harrington Court in Colchester, surrounded by her loving family. She was born Jan. 31, 1926, in England, to the late John and Lucy Jane (Hill) Norsworthy.



She was predeceased by her first husband Anthony F. Rodino and was remarried to Claude King, who also predeceased her.

She met her husband Anthony while he was stationed in England as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps. They moved to the United States in 1946 where they settled in the Norwich area, where she became a U.S. citizen and raised a family. She worked for the Norwich State Hospital for many years in the housekeeping department before retiring. She was a lifelong communicant at St. Mary Church in Greenville where she was an active member, singing in the choir and working in the rectory.

Doris enjoyed gardening and crocheting but her first love was always her family, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be missed by all who loved her and knew her as "Nan."

The family would like to thank the administration and staff at Harrington Court for the excellent care she had received.

She is survived by her son, Kevin Rodino and his wife Debra; her daughters, Carol Culpepper and her husband Gardner and Toni Post; three grandchildren, Pamela Campbell, Heather Jakan and her husband Travis, and Kyle Rodino and his wife Kathryn; and her five great-grandchildren, Isabella Campbell, Hailley Campbell, Reese Campbell, Colby Jakan and Kennedy Jakan.

A memorial Mass was held Monday, July 17, at St. Mary Church in Norwich. Burial immediately followed in Maplewood Cemetery, Norwich. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Doris' memory to a charity of your choice.

The Gagne Piechowski Funeral Home, 490 Voluntown Rd., Jewett City, has been entrusted with arrangements. For online condolences, go to [gagnepiechowski.com](http://gagnepiechowski.com).

Courant  
*Portland*

### Maryanna Gilbert

Maryanna (Mae) Gilbert, 99, of Rocky Hill, passed peacefully at Middlesex Hospital Saturday, July 15. Mae was born in Portland Jan. 16, 1918, and was the last surviving of 11 siblings. She graduated from Middletown High School in 1936 and attended Hartford University.



Mae retired after 29 years as personnel officer at Veteran's Home & Hospital. She had lived in Rocky Hill since 1948, and had been a parishioner at St. James Catholic Church since that time. She was a member of the St. James Women's Club, New Britain Polish Jr. League, and Rocky Hill Historical Society.

Predeceased by her beloved husband Jarvis Gilbert, Mae is survived by her son Hal; daughter Denise and husband John Mazzamurro; grandson David Mazzamurro and his wife Lauren; granddaughters Jennifer Mazzamurro and Mary Gilbert; daughter-in-law Nancy Gilbert; and her great-grandson, soon to be born. She also leaves many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Mae was an amazing woman, remaining independent until her final days. No one could have done it better than she. She enjoyed swimming at the high school pool until her 95th year. She looked forward to Tuesdays, her day to join the seniors playing setback at the Senior Center. Always a lady, Mae enjoyed a good meal, social events, UConn women's basketball, and her birthdays with family at Mohegan Sun. The vegetables grown in her backyard brought her pride and pleasure. Mae lived the words "work hard, waste nothing, always cherish what you have."

A calling hour was held Thursday, July 20, at Rose Hill Funeral Home, 530 Elm St., Rocky Hill, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial that morning at St. James Church, 767 Elm St., Rocky Hill. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Mae's name to Rocky Hill Senior Center, care of Denise Sanderson, 761 Old Main St., Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

From courant  
*Colchester*

### David E. Morano

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our loved one, David E. Morano, 58, of Lebanon, formerly of Colchester. David transitioned Sunday, July 9, at home, while surrounded by his loved ones.

David was born Oct. 24, 1958, in Manchester, son of the late Edward and Laura (Lento) Morano. He was raised in Manchester and was a graduate of MHS, Class of '77. David became an entrepreneur at an early age, delivering the local newspaper and then starting his own business, Morano Landscaping.

David had a lifelong passion for nature and the outdoors. He was a member of Boy Scout Troop 47 growing up, eventually passing down his love of scouts to his two boys – serving as a leader for Troop 72 for many years. He was also an avid fisherman and active member of the Skungamaug Fish and Game Club where he enjoyed taking his family. Prior to his illness, David was employed for over 37 years at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft as a machine repair specialist.

David is survived by his two sons, Anthony Morano and his fiancée Nina Clemente of Scottsdale, Ariz., along with their furry child Primo, and Daniel Morano of Colchester. He leaves his former spouse, Pam Morano of Colchester, and his special friend, Tammy Heresy. He is also survived by his four siblings and their families, Michael Morano of Nashville, Tenn., John Morano of Manchester, Mary Blair of Columbia and Annie Morano of Coventry, along with several nieces and nephews and family in Italy.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, July 23, at St. Joseph's Polish Club, 395 S. Main St, Colchester, CT 06415. The memorial to celebrate David's life will begin at 2 p.m., with a reception to follow.

Donations in memory of David can be made to a charity of your choice.

Courant  
*Portland*

### Juliette L. Milardo

Juliette L. (Opuszynski) Milardo died Sunday, July 16, just 18 days shy of her 90th birthday. Julie was the first-born child and only daughter of the late George and Alice (Martin) Boudreau. She grew up in New Bedford, Mass., and Willimantic.

After high school Juliette graduated from St. Raphael School of Nursing. She worked as a psychiatric nurse at Connecticut Valley Hospital until her retirement. Julie and her first husband, Steve Opuszynski raised five children. Julie is survived by her brothers Norman Boudreau and John Boudreau, along with many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by Steve in 1976 and her daughter, Pamela, in 2003.

Julie is survived by her oldest daughter, Mary Frances Rolland (Jane Cooper) and her children, Braden Rolland (Jason Aguila), Timothy Rolland with wife Lisa and children Madelyn, Valerie, Kiersten and Ellie Cooper; her youngest daughter Alice Gargon with husband Tony and daughter Dr. Bethany Gargon and her husband Dr. Michael Wong; her first-born son, Stephen Opuszynski and his children Amanda Opuszynski, Alex Opuszynski, Allison Opuszynski; her youngest child David Opuszynski with wife Lisa and children Casey (and fiancé Scott) and Jacob with wife Sabrina and son Lukas.

She was also predeceased by her second husband, Louis Milardo, and brothers George, Bernard, Leonard Boudreau and one grandson, Matthew Opuszynski.

The family wishes to thank the nurses and staff at Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center for the wonderful care they gave to Mom during her stay.

A memorial Mass will be held Saturday, July 22, at 10 a.m. in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial will be in the family plot in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. All are invited to St. Mary's church hall for a small reception at the conclusion of services.

In lieu of flowers donations, may be made to the Portland Volunteer Fire Department at P.O. Box 56, Portland, CT 06480 or to the Mercy High School Scholarship Fund, c/o Mercy High School, Randolph Rd., Middletown, CT 06457.

"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves a memory no one can steal."

Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.