

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 41, Number 46

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

August 18, 2017



Rotary International... On Wednesday, Aug. 9, Rotary District Governor Trish Pearson presented the 2017-18 Rotary International banner to Colchester Rotary President Evan Evans of eXp Realty. The Colchester Rotary Club & Foundation meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Riella & Lepak, PC, 16 Norwich Ave., Colchester.

St. Clements Case Hinges on Fire Report

by Elizabeth Regan

The investigation into a blaze on the East Hampton side of Saint Clements Castle and Marina remains open more than a month and a half after the unpermitted banquet facility caught fire.

Deputy Fire Marshal Joey Guest told the Board of Fire Commissioners Monday he has determined the cause and origin of the June 25 fire, but is waiting for more information from the Office of State Fire Marshal. He said he expects Det. Wayne Opdenbrouw, of the Connecticut State Police, to provide the information next week.

The direction of the investigation hinges on the state fire marshal's report, according to Guest.

The June 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 wedding guests had been eating and drinking when the fire started.

When asked by the fire commission how long the investigation would take once the information from the state is obtained, he said it's too soon to tell.

"Depending on which direction we go, it could be a week or it could be a month," Guest said.

East Hampton Fire Chief Greg Voelker said from the scene the day of the fire that he heard the fire was related to cooking equipment. The

flames appeared to have started on the wooden deck between the building and a cement retaining wall, he said.

Guest has not confirmed or denied a criminal aspect to the investigation.

A month ago, Guest told the *RiverEast* the investigation was lagging because Travelers Insurance was "holding on" to security footage as the company did its own investigation. The video was ultimately provided to Guest.

He said after Monday's meeting that he had not worked on the case for about two weeks due to vacation and work responsibilities. Guest is a general contractor.

"That takes priority in my life. That puts food on my table. This [being a fire marshal] doesn't. I don't do this job for my money. I do it because I like to do it," he said.

Both fire marshals cited a lack of funding as another key reason it takes longer than it should to complete investigations and inspections.

The salary line item in the budget for the fire marshal's office went from \$39,000 in 2015-16 to \$30,162 in 2016-17. It is currently \$30,765, according to Finance Director Jeff Jylkka.

Klotzbier said the fire marshal's office was only able to complete 29 percent of its inspections during the 2016 calendar year. He said it will be even worse this year because it's the

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Prof Receives Grant for Climate Change Research

by Julianna Roche

Growing up, Colchester resident Peter Siver remembers spending a lot of time in a 20x24-square-foot, single-room cabin in the Adirondacks – often shared with his parents, two brothers, sister and sometimes even their friends.

"The whole family would go and that was my favorite place," he said. "We did a lot of hiking, a lot of fishing, a lot of stuff around the water. ... It was kind of a hunting camp, so at other times of the year, other people would go. But it was fun."

Siver – now a Connecticut College botany professor who specializes in limnology, or the study of lakes – explained it was that time in the family's cabin, as well as a former college professor, which led to his interest in environmental studies.

The professor, he explained, had "an extremely energetic" style of teaching and while students "didn't have computers back then," the professor made lessons engaging and personable by showing slides and relating personal experiences to the class.

Having served as a botany professor and the director of the school's environmental studies program at Connecticut College, Siver said he tries to bring the same teaching style to his own classroom.

"I think it's very similar [to my professor's],"

he said. "Hopefully I bring some enthusiasm. I like to challenge the students and I like it if they try to challenge me."

Siver added that, especially in environmental studies, there are "a lot of issues" that "you can get [students] upset about," such as climate change or acid deposition, more commonly known as acid rain.

"I want them to think about things on their own, not just listen to the media – no offense," he laughed. "I want them to realize that some of the things in the media about the environment are overblown. ... [Sometimes] tidbits are put in stories when they shouldn't be."

Siver furthered he encourages students to "go to the real data" and "formulate information on their own, instead of taking what they hear" at face value.

The botany professor practices what he preaches, having acted on countless research expeditions and obtaining data for his own studies over the years across the globe – including in Argentina, China and Portugal.

In doing so, Siver has become one of the world's leading experts in analyzing microscopic algae that inhabit freshwater lakes in North America and was recently awarded a \$226,763 grant by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to pursue groundbreaking research on the potential impact of rising greenhouse gases and climate change on the Arctic.

In 2017, the NSF – which acts as an independent agency supporting fundamental research and education across a range of science and engineering-related fields – had a budget of \$7.5 billion to fund grants, reaching all 50 states and nearly 2,000 colleges, universities and other institutions.

Each year, the foundation receives over 48,000 proposals for funding, choosing approximately just 12,000 new funding awards – one of which included Siver's research proposal.

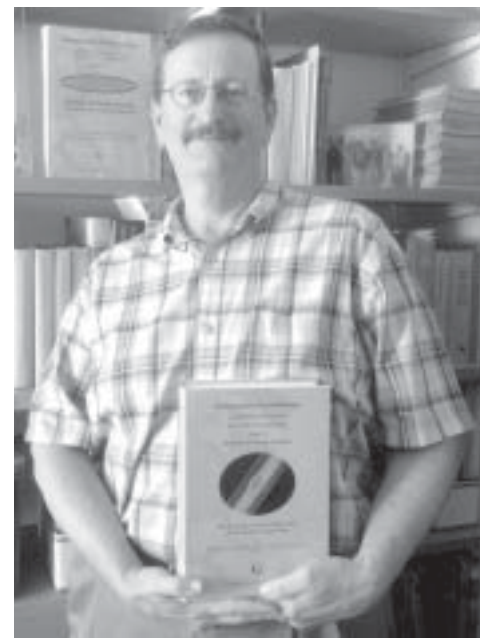
According to the professor, the NSF grant – which is 100 percent federally-funded – actually builds upon over a decade of research done by Siver, Alexander Woolfe, a paleobiology professor from the University of Alberta, and Siver's research associate, Anne Lizarralde.

Since 2005, he added, the group has also been awarded with two other NSF grants totaling over \$675,000 and has published more than 30 journal articles regarding their research findings.

Siver explained that the grant funds the research for three years, during which time he will analyze and study a long sediment core chock-full of microscopic algae, which was taken from an ancient Arctic lake, which was originally discovered in the 1990s by a mining company searching for diamonds.

The lake, he furthered, is unique in that it

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Connecticut College professor and director of its environmental studies program, Peter Siver, was recently awarded a \$226,763 grant from the National Science Foundation to pursue research regarding climate change in the Arctic.

St. Clements cont. from Front Page

first 12-month period during which the department will be experiencing the full budgetary cut.

In an August 2 memo to the fire commission, Town Manager Michael Maniscalco reiterated the members of the fire marshal’s office are each limited to 15 hours per week. He asked commissioners to “make every effort to keep the fire marshal and staff within the budgeted amount.”

Board of Fire Commissioners Chairman Brett Salafia asked Klotzbier to let him know when work is “piling up” so that Salafia can alert Maniscalco.

“Right now, work is piling up,” Klotzbier replied.

He cited the upcoming fireworks display, time spent compiling documents for a Freedom of Information request, and a time-consuming hoarding situation in town as the reasons his department will be over its allotted hours this week.

Salafia asked Klotzbier to document work hours for the fire marshal’s office so he could “speak intelligently” when advocating for the department in front of the town manager and council.

In 2016, the council cut the fire marshal’s budget by \$15,000. That same year, Maniscalco’s annual review turned into an impromptu discussion by councilors about Klotzbier’s job performance.

The fire marshal’s office was again the subject of discussion on July 11 when Councilor James “Pete” Brown said he had concerns about the town’s potential “exposure” because the

Port-Hampton Marina Club didn’t have the necessary permits.

Brown said he wanted a better understanding of the permit and inspection history of the facility from the fire marshal’s office; the Building, Planning and Zoning Department; and the health district.

While Maniscalco manages most town employees, he does not oversee the fire marshal’s office. That’s the Board of Fire Commissioners’ role.

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

Councilors agreed to draft a letter inviting the commission to a future meeting, but the issue hasn’t come up again.

Maniscalco told the *Rivereast* earlier this month the discussion “has withered on the vine.”

Brown had a more thorough explanation. Maniscalco, he said, “talked to the chairman of the fire commission and [Salafia] wanted to handle it first, like an in-house deal for the fire commissioners. And we both agreed with that.”

Brown was satisfied the fire commission is looking into the issue for now. He said he is waiting on the fire investigation report and any input from the fire commission about whether or not there was a breakdown somewhere in the process involving the fire marshal’s office.

“You can rest assured this is not going to be dropped,” he said. “We need some answers here.”

Climate Change cont. from Front Page

was formed 48 million years ago in the middle of the Eocene “hothouse” period and with global warming advancing at an alarming rate, Siver explained the research will help him draw conclusions regarding the evolution of the ancient lake’s ecosystem and reconstruct the environmental conditions at the time.

“This will ultimately help us understand the effects of climate change on freshwater Arctic lakes,” he said, adding that while the grant only funds the research for three years, there is decades-worth of sediment to analyze.

“There is still a lot to work out,” Siver said, adding the biggest takeaway is that studying the effects of climate change are “more com-

plicated” than studying just one aspect, such as global warming.

“Potential impacts of climate change are [caused] on top of the increase in nutrients or the changing land use, so it’s a really complicated situation that then, ultimately when you see a change in a lake or water body, you have to ask ‘What caused this?’” he said. “To think it’s only climate change is wrong. To think it’s only acid deposition is wrong. You really have to look at a combination of things.”

* * *

To read about Siver’s findings, visit conncoll.edu/news/cc-magazine/the-giraffe-locality.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Horrible. That’s really the best word to describe what occurred in the delightful college town of Charlottesville, Va., last Saturday. A group of neo-Nazis – neo-Nazis!! – marched carrying torches (okay, store-bought Tiki torches, but still) and chanting horrific racist, homophobic slogans. They were met with resistance – and understandably so, as who the hell wouldn’t resist white supremacists? (Well, aside from our president, but I’ll get to that later.)

The clash between Nazis and, well, sensible people turned ugly, then violent, then just horrific, as 20-year-old Nazi sympathizer James Alex Fields Jr. plowed his car into a group of people, killing one and injuring 19. Later on, two more were killed when a police helicopter, dispatched to video the protesting, crashed in the woods.

It was an ugly, ugly day – and almost an unbelievable one. It’s the year 2017. How are there so many neo-Nazis, so many white supremacists, that they can organize like this and stage this horrific rally? It was awful and disgusting.

Also disgusting? Our president’s reaction.

As Saturday went on, after the bloodiness ensued, after the young woman was fatally run down by a car, Trump, who seemingly never had a thought he didn’t immediately tweet, was conspicuously quiet. He finally addressed the matter mid-afternoon, when he held a photo-op to publicly sign a piece of legislation. The president’s comments on Charlottesville were brief, but ugly.

He condemned the violence and the hatred – which was good. Not so good was saying it came “from many sides.” He actually said “from many sides” twice, for emphasis. He didn’t call out the neo-Nazis for what they were, and worse, he actually suggested the other side was at least partially to blame. You know, the side of good. Seven decades ago, this country was trying to wipe Nazis off the planet. Now? Our president practically embraces them. (And make no mistake: the Nazis viewed the president’s remarks quite positively.)

Trump drew immediate criticism from Democrats and even some Republicans, as others in the White House scrambled to condemn neo-Nazis more specifically – i.e., clean up Trump’s mess.

Meanwhile, Trump, apparently quite pleased with himself, didn’t address the matter any further on Sunday. Monday came, Donny was back to his usual inflammatorily-tweetin’ self, and in the afternoon he made scripted remarks – delivered without his usual brand of enthusiasm – calling out the neo-Nazis and white supremacists.

It was too little, too late, I thought. You can’t unring a bell. Trump’s initial remarks Saturday – the ones in which he blamed “many sides” – couldn’t be forgotten. Particularly when he’s surrounded himself with white nationalists and racists like Steve Bannon and Stephen Miller. It didn’t help that, like I said, Trump made those remarks while sounding like he really didn’t want to.

Many others were equally unimpressed, and by Monday night he was whining on

Twitter about how the “#FakeNews” media just can’t give him a fair break.

Poor Donny. In what I can only assume was a case of Trump deciding “why should I even pretend?”, he was back behind a microphone Tuesday and, in a combative press conference, spewed a bunch of entirely unscripted remarks in which he revealed his true colors.

Charlottesville was back to being the problem of both sides. It wasn’t just the fault of the alt-right but also, as Trump called them, the “alt-left,” as they just wouldn’t leave those poor Nazis alone, and let them intimidate in peace.

“What about the ‘alt-left’ that came charging at, as you say, the ‘alt-right,’ do they have any semblance of guilt?” Trump asked a reporter. “What about the fact they came charging with clubs in hands, swinging clubs, do they have any problem? I think they do.”

The president added, “You had a group on one side that was bad and you had a group on the other side that was also very violent. Nobody wants to say it, but I will say it right now.”

Trump went on to thoroughly, thoroughly denigrate the media and the whole thing proved to be quite sickening.

I was initially shocked that one day – just one day! – after Trump finally, if belatedly, put the blame squarely on the neo-Nazis, he was up at a podium negating the whole thing. But really, I wasn’t surprised by his stance. This is the Donny we saw on the campaign trail, the Donny we elected, the Donny I hoped against hope we weren’t getting but feared we were.

And it was Trump’s election that led to white nationalists banding together and marching, torches in hand, while chanting such filth as “Jew will not replace us.”

Look, I’m not going to go so far as to say anyone who voted for Trump last November is a racist. I know far too many people who did vote for Trump to know that isn’t true. But you can be damn sure everyone that’s a racist *did* vote for Trump. With his history of anti-Mexican, anti-Jewish, anti-immigrant comments – not to mention his continual attempts to delegitimize our first black president – they saw in Trump a kindred spirit. And when he got elected, many of them felt emboldened. They had won, and they felt free to act out in ways they’d only dreamt of before.

Several months later, Trump has done little to prove those people wrong – so gatherings like last Saturday’s “Unite the Right” march were perhaps inevitable. And it’s a freaking shame.

I’m not opposed to free speech. What I am opposed to is hate speech – speech designed to intimidate. It seemed pretty clear to me that what those marchers on Saturday were doing. It seemed pretty clear to nearly the entire country that’s what they were doing.

It’s a pity the president couldn’t see it that way – and that he couldn’t put the blame squarely where it belonged.

* * *

See you next week.

Marlborough Day Adds Boat Parade to Annual Celebration

by Julianna Roche

With the start of the school year peeking just around the corner, Marlborough residents may be looking for one last hurrah before summer ends – which they can find at the 11th annual Marlborough Day on Sunday, Aug. 27 at Blish Park.

The town's annual celebration – which is sponsored by the Marlborough Business Association (MBA) – brings together food vendors, exhibitors from local businesses and community organizations, as well as live entertainment, and other family-friendly activities to an average of 800 attendees each year.

It's So Ranunculus owner Craig Robinson, who also chairs the Marlborough Day Committee, said this year, however, the committee took "a different approach," replacing some of the old with some of the new – which will include a boat parade, to be held by the Parks and Recreation department and begin at 4 p.m. at Lake Terramuggus.

According to Parks and Rec director, Ray Bull, the department is looking for parade participants and encouraging them to pick a theme and decorate their boat for the festivities. Boats of any kind, as long as they're under 3.5 horsepower are welcome, he said.

As of press time Thursday, Bull said there are no registered participants for the boat parade yet, likely due to Parks and Rec. adding it "a bit late" to this year's Marlborough Day event.

"A resident approached us at a meeting with the idea and it was a little bit late for this year, but we thought, 'Why don't we go ahead and

try it anyway?'" Bull said. "We're hoping that even if it's not that big this year, we're going to look forward to doing it every year."

Bull explained participants will line up on the lake and "do a lap around" it, with awards given out to the first-, second- and third-best-decorated boats, which will be judged on appearance, workmanship and creativity.

The new boat parade replaces one of Marlborough Day's classic staples – L.L. Bean Discovery Tours, which typically held paddleboard and kayaking lessons on Lake Terramuggus during Marlborough Day. But the town and L.L. Bean parted ways earlier this year.

"It's politics," Robinson said – but added that the lake will still have open beach access for everyone attending to have "a sun and a soak" with lifeguards on duty.

Regular Marlborough Day attendees can look forward to some classic favorites however, such as the Roaming Railroad, a trackless train that offers rides to kids around the park. There will also be a henna tattoo artist, photo booth, and the monkey bridge obstacle course, sponsored by the Boy Scouts, Robinson said.

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department will be on site again this year, with a water cannon and EMT truck for demonstrations. Additionally, Eversource will set up its Clean Energy Communities booth for the second year, demonstrating to the public how to use energy-efficient equipment.

In terms of vendors and exhibitors from area businesses, Robinson said while the MBA has

room for 35, as of now there are currently about 25 registered, though that number could change by next weekend with more additions.

"There is a lot going on in this town with the addition of the grocery store and the new winery," he said, and noted that the popular The Farm at Carter Hill continues to expand. "It's been well-received and [has been] giving people something else to do in Marlborough. There's a lot of business activity in town now."

As with years past, a Closest to the Pin contest will be held for golfers, as well as the ever-popular Prize Walk, which is similar to a game of musical chairs and will give participants the opportunity to win some prizes. Robinson said there will also be a Tea Cup raffle and a grand door prize, which is still being decided on. Last year's giveaway was a Trek mountain bike valued at \$500.

"One thing that makes us kind of unique is that the monies collected go toward the Marlborough Business Association student scholarship fund," Robinson explained. Each year, the MBA awards a scholarship to applicants who have shown hard work and dedication in their many accomplishments.

New to Marlborough Day's entertainment lineup this year, Robinson said, will be magician Chris Lengyel, as well as a new live performer – Kidsville Kuckoo Revue, a family singalong group led by Singasaurus and his crew.

Both additions, Robinson explained, "have kind of a flair for younger kids," and for the

magician, will be "fascinating for anyone who appreciates magic."

"The new groups should be entertaining," he furthered.

The Modern Riffs and the Marlborough Junior Ancient Fife & Drum Corps. will also serve as live entertainment throughout the day.

Once attendees work up an appetite, they can head to Marlborough Pizza's booth or The Whey Station – a food truck offering up gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches. As per tradition, the Republican Town Committee will be serving fried dough, while the Democratic Town Committee will provide the public with gourmet popcorn.

Overall, Robinson said the MBA is simply hoping for another "sunny day" and "not to be tortured by heavy rains" since in years past, the pleasant weather has "been a nice draw" for people attending.

"It's not crowded. There's plenty of space and it's a comfortable day where businesses can thank people that have utilized them and then residents can maybe become a little more familiar with stuff that's in town that they didn't realize," he said. "There are a lot more options [now]."

* * *

Marlborough Day will be held Sunday, Aug. 27, at Blish Park from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., with the boat parade beginning at 4 p.m. at Lake Terramuggus. If interested in participating in the boat parade, call 860-295-6203 or visit tinyurl.com/y8skmq43 for a registration form.

Hebron School Board Looks Ahead to New Year

by Lauren Yandow

With the first day of school at Gilead Hill School and Hebron Elementary School fast approaching, the Board of Education highlighted some of what's to come for the 2017-18 school year during its meeting last Thursday, Aug. 10.

Superintendent of Schools Timothy Van Tassel displayed a slideshow of updates made to the schools over the summer. One of those projects was the excavation of oil tanks at Gilead Hill and Hebron Elementary.

"Right now, we're tankless in both schools," said Van Tassel.

High efficiency gas boilers will replace the oil tanks as part of the natural gas project.

It's been a "massive, massive project," said Van Tassel.

The new boilers have been installed at Gilead Hill School and Hebron Elementary School, Van Tassel said, though only the Gilead Hill boiler will be up and running by the start of school. A temporary oil tank will be hooked up so Hebron Elementary School has access to hot water until the project is complete.

Additional updates made over the summer include new equipment on the preschool playground at Gilead Hill and the setting up of a science, technology, engineering, art and math-

ematics room at both schools.

In response to Van Tassel's slideshow presentation, Board of Education Chairwoman Erica Bromley said, "people often go back to school not realizing how much work is done in the summer, so thank you."

While highlighting the summer project updates, Van Tassel said it's been recommended that the fire alarm panel at Gilead Hill School be replaced.

The panel was installed in 1999, he said.

"When you're at max capacity it could do glitchy things due to the fact that it's being overtaxed," he added.

While the current system is operational, he said the panel needs the capacity to expand for additional fire alarms or new codes.

Since the issue was discovered after the town budget was passed, the panel replacement is unbudgeted. The replacement is estimated to cost \$18,500 on the high end, said Van Tassel.

"It all really depends on what it is we need and the amount of circuits needed that'll make it efficient for the next 10 to 15 years down the road," he said.

Board Member Carol Connolly said she appreciated the superintendent's research.

Any time that there's a health or safety is-

sue, she added, "we as board members have an obligation to be fiscally responsible but also at the same time make sure our children are safe."

Van Tassel asked the board for permission to speak with the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen about how the fire alarm panel replacement could be funded.

The board voted unanimously to authorize Van Tassel to get the conversation started.

"I fully support this [and] I think the town will fully support this," said Connolly.

As of Wednesday, Van Tassel said he was in the process of developing the request letter. Once the project is funded and gets underway, the replacement will likely be done around the holidays when students are on break, he said.

This school year, students won't just meet some new peers; they'll also be introduced to a few new teachers.

The board unanimously approved the hiring of three new one-year teachers.

Connolly credited all three teachers with bringing "really outstanding credentials" to the school.

"I am really excited about this upcoming school year and the caliber of leadership we have here," she added.

Lillian Kasavage was hired as a sixth grade

teacher; Megan Shah was hired to teach second grade. Both Kasavage and Shah are stepping in for two teachers on approved yearlong leaves.

Jessica Lynch will teach the newly added fifth section of kindergarten.

Lynch is contracted to teach for one year, since the board doesn't anticipate the school will need a fifth section come next year, said Van Tassel.

At its July 13 meeting, the board unanimously voted in favor of adding the additional kindergarten section for the 2017-18 school year due to a high number of incoming kindergarten teachers.

Currently, 85 students are enrolled in the incoming kindergarten class. Overall, a total of 309 students are enrolled at Gilead Hill for the 2017-18 school year; 402 are enrolled at Hebron Elementary.

The first day of school for students attending either Gilead Hill or Hebron Elementary is Aug. 30.

The next Hebron Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Gilead Hill School Library, 580 Gilead St., Hebron.

Mark Your Calendars for the Fourth Annual Hebron Day

by Lauren Yandow

The annual day for all things Hebron is on the horizon.

“It’s kinda like your last hurrah for the summer,” said Parks and Recreation Director Richard Calarco.

On Saturday, Aug. 26, Hebron Day will kick off at Burnt Hill Park at 10:30 a.m.

The event has significantly grown this year from just over 20 vendors to more than 60 vendors, said Calarco.

“We have everything, it doesn’t matter how old you are,” said Hebron Parks and Recreation Manager Richard Gadoury.

All-day family entertainment includes wagon rides, face-painting, pony rides, live music and a Birds of Prey exhibit that’s “totally awesome,” said Gadoury. The exhibit gives visitors a chance to check out all the birds in the area, he added.

Throughout the day attendees can head over to the parks and recreation booth to take part in different events – including a limbo contest, balloon toss, potato sack race, and Frisbee toss.

Other activities scattered across the park include “game booths, dunking booths and animals,” said Calarco.

Attendees who are new to the community or simply interested in learning more about their town will have a chance to speak with local businesses and different local nonprofit organizations. Those organizations include AHM Youth Services and the Hebron Historical Society.

“The nonprofit groups really do a great job of keeping things up and working together and bringing great services to everyone,” said Gadoury.

By inquiring with the nonprofits “you’ll learn so much about what we have to offer around

town,” he added.

Those who’ve attended Hebron Day in prior years will notice new happenings around the park – including flea markets and a car show.

At the car show, both car enthusiasts and spectators can check out over 55 vehicles – all from area people. And, Gadoury noted, he’s still taking cars.

“If you have a car you want to bring up,” he said, “you can just call the Parks and Rec [at 860-530-1281] and let us know that you’re interested and we’ll get you on the list.”

At the pavilion, live music and entertainment will also pop throughout the day.

Attendees can catch a laugh during the Comedy Magician show; sing along with the Sunshine Singers; and jam to local band The Hot Flashes.

While admission, conversation and recreational fun are free for all; food and goods from vendors will come at a cost.

For those expecting to work up an appetite, a variety of area eats will be available, including Pit Crew BBQ, Hot Rocks BBQ, Chet’s Italian Ice and Mama Shanks Ice Cream.

Whether you’re part of the community, or simply interested in what the town has to offer, Hebron Day is a way to “bring everyone together,” said Gadoury.

“Hebron is a very big town so it’s one spot, on one big field, and we get together and it’s a big celebration to celebrate everything Hebron,” he added.

Just before Hebron Day commences, the Parks and Recreation Department will hold its 25th annual 5K road race, starting and finishing at Burnt Hill Park.

Whether you choose to walk, jog or run to the finish line, it’s a “great race for all ages and



Hebron Day is on Saturday, Aug. 26 at Burnt Hill Park, 148 East St., Hebron. The day kicks off with a 5K race at 9 a.m.; all other activities will run 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

all abilities,” said Gadoury.

The race starts at 9 a.m. and costs \$35. Those interested in participating can register for the race at hebronct.com.

The Burnt Hill Park area has a lot to offer beyond the Hebron Day celebration including hiking trails inside and around the perimeter of the park; and a butterfly garden that’s maintained by the Girl Scouts, said Gadoury.

“There’s always something going on,” he said.

Depending on the time of year, visitors can usually catch a soccer game, baseball game or football game. “It’s just absolutely gorgeous at the park with all the things you can experience,” he added.

Hebron Day is on Saturday, Aug. 26, at Burnt Hill Park, 148 East St. The annual 5K road race begins at 9 a.m.; all other activities will run 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The rain date for events is Sunday, Aug. 27 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; the 5K, however, will go on rain or shine.

Hebron Town Hall Vault Set to Get a Makeover

by Lauren Yandow

Next month, the vault housed inside the Town Hall at 15 Gilead St. is due to be renovated, after an asbestos discovery last summer.

The asbestos was found in the flooring of the vault during a routine Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) inspection in August 2016.

“The [OSHA] inspector noticed some of the tile was chipping,” said Town Clerk Carla Pomproicz. This prompted asbestos testing, which came back positive. With that information, Pomproicz said, measures were taken to replace the floor.

“There are no incidents or reports of any person affected by the existing floor,” she added.

The renovation is estimated to cost just under \$27,000.

Funding for the renovation will come from a variety of sources. The bulk of it – roughly \$14,500 – will come from the town’s Community Initiatives Program budget. A \$4,000 grant will come from the Connecticut State Library, and \$2,500 will come from a line item in the town clerk’s budget, for Pomproicz to use at her discretion. The remaining \$6,000 will be deducted from a special fund for town clerks.

The state implements a fund for town clerks to access, Pomproicz explained.

“What I do as a clerk is I make a whole list of things that should be done to take care of historical documents and properly house current documents,” she said.

It’s by statute that a certain percentage of money the town clerk collects based on land

records is put into a “special account” and can be used for preservation at the town clerk’s discretion, she added.

“So I’m able to use the \$6,000 out of that fund.”

Built in 1964, the vault sits adjacent to the town clerk’s office. Inside the vault are land records, maps, town meeting minutes, boards and commissions minutes as well as some historical documents, Pomproicz said.

During the renovation, anything that’s historical – meaning it’s antique or at least 100 years old – will go to the lower vault at the Town Office Building, along with the confidential files, she added. Documents that have a potential need to be accessed more immediately – such as land records – will be locked in the meeting room across from the town clerk’s office.

Since many of the commonly-used records can be accessed electronically, the town clerk’s office will remain open during the renovation, said Pomproicz.

Once underway, a shelving contractor will bring in a team to empty the vault, install new shelving and put everything back, she furthered. Then, an asbestos contractor will take care of the removal and conduct an air quality test in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency, state, and federal regulations. Finally, “the flooring contractor will do his part prior to the installation of the new shelving,” Pomproicz added.

The breakdown of costs is: installation of the new shelving is estimated to cost \$16,261;



The vault housed inside Town Hall, at 15 Gilead St., will be renovated – due to asbestos. The anticipated renovation start date is Sept. 21. Town Hall will remain open during the update.

abatement of the asbestos is estimated to run \$3,850; and the new flooring is estimated to cost \$6,790.

While many people might think moving the entire contents of a vault only to put them back again would be tedious, Pomproicz said she’s “looking forward” to it.

“Basically we’re going to be able to test how

it would work if we had to relocate to a satellite office or temporarily if something should happen to the building,” she said, “so we’re looking forward to taking some notes on how the whole thing would work.”

The project is anticipated to start on Sept. 21, said Pomproicz, and the update should take about a week to complete.

After Criticism, St. Clements Seeks East Hampton Zone Change

by Elizabeth Regan

The Saint Clements Castle and Marina management has filed an application for a zoning change after the company came under fire from local officials for holding banquets at the marina without the appropriate zoning permits and food service licenses.

Dan Loos, president of the Roncalli Institute and an East Hampton resident, filed an Aug. 7 application with the East Hampton Building, Planning and Zoning Department to change the property's zoning designation from residential to commercial.

The 4.96-acre riverside parcel in East Hampton was grandfathered in as a marina when the area was zoned for single-family homes. Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli has said the property may be used for anything that "would be reasonably expected at a marina" – which he emphasized does not include banquet functions.

The Roncalli Institute encompasses numerous commercial and nonprofit entities, including the Saint Clements Castle and Marina. Its chairman is Edward Doherty.

After a June 26 fire in the kitchen of the 7,788-square foot Port-Hampton Marina Club interrupted a wedding reception, both DeCarli and Chatham Health District Director Don Mitchell issued strongly worded letters informing Doherty and Loos that banquets may not be held on the property without the necessary zoning, food service and septic approvals.

The building is approved and taxed as a storage facility.

Though Mitchell said his July 21 letter to Loos was not a cease-and-desist order, it specified banquet functions "should hereby cease" until all necessary reviews, permitting and inspections occur.

Mitchell said the facility was not licensed by the health district to serve food; he also cited several violations related to the septic system.

According to an interview with Mitchell two days after the fire, the health district approved the septic system for the marina club in 2010 based on 29 boat slips, an outdoor reception

area for 150 people and two 10x10-foot bathrooms inside a pavilion.

He told Loos in the letter that 150 people "does not come close" to the building's maximum occupancy of 295 people as determined by Fire Marshal Richard Klotzbier.

Illegal wastewater connections and an unpermitted plastic septic tank were also noted after the fire, he wrote.

Mitchell said Tuesday he had not yet received a response from Loos.

Loos said in a phone interview Wednesday the Port-Hampton Marina Club was operating as a banquet facility because its management believed the business was entitled, through a 2010 water supply agreement with East Hampton, to hold the same kind of events at the marina that it holds on the castle side of the property in Portland.

Before coming to Saint Clements, Loos was a building inspector in Hartford, Manchester and Portland, among other smaller municipalities.

When asked how, as an experienced building inspector, he could be unaware of all the permits required by the building and zoning department, he pointed to the fact that the fire marshal's office knew the facility was being used for banquets and special events.

"I don't want to cast anything, but the fire marshals went down and knew what its use was and inspected it for that. It had all the safety features and that kind of stuff," he said.

How Could This Happen?

The building has been inspected by Fire Marshal Richard Klotzbier since 2013 as an "assembly occupancy" with a maximum capacity of 295 guests, according to inspection reports provided by the fire marshal's office.

Klotzbier told members of the Board of Fire Commissioners at their regular meeting this week that he inspected the building as a gathering place for large groups of people even

though he knew it was listed in town records as a warehouse.

"It was quite obvious they were using it for banquets and meetings and so forth," Klotzbier told the commissioners.

He said he contacted the Building, Planning and Zoning Department about the discrepancy after his first inspection of the place, though he could not remember the date.

Documents from the fire marshal's office indicate the first inspection of the property was in September 2013.

Records in the Building, Planning and Zoning Department show an August 2013 back-and-forth between Doherty and former Planning and Zoning Official James Carey, who had questioned what the building was being used for.

That's when Doherty reminded Carey about a three-year-old agreement between East Hampton and Saint Clements through which the town paid Doherty, doing business as Saint Clements Marina LLC, \$673,000 for an easement 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 states Doherty reserves the right – "provided it has obtained all necessary permits and approvals" – to maintain, improve or beautify the area for guests of the marina and Saint Clements Castle.

Carey retired as Planning and Zoning Official in 2015.

Current Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli and Building Official Glen LeConche arrived in January 2016.

This week, LeConche said his first visit to the marina club occurred during his early days on the job when he joined Klotzbier for a fire inspection. He said he was too new to have learned about the site's history.

LeConche told the *Rivereast* Klotzbier did

not mention any issues surrounding the use of the building.

LeConche said he did not go inside the building when he was on site later in the year for an electrical inspection on the dock.

"You could look through the windows and see stuff in there, but it didn't register," he said.

DeCarli said the first time he'd been to the Saint Clements property was the day after the fire.

He said staff members will move forward together to resolve the situation and to make sure miscommunication does not allow other violations to occur unchecked.

"Now we know what was taking place, we've been able to stop it," DeCarli said.

But he acknowledged it's a difficult task to make sure information is shared between his department, the fire marshal's office and the regional health district: "It's the regulatory world. It's not set up for everything to be cohesive."

He said the use of the building as a banquet facility has been "shut down completely" and it will not be able to start up again unless the zoning change is secured.

In July, DeCarli granted permission for seven couples to exchange vows and take photographs on the property throughout the summer and fall. The request was made by Saint Clements attorney Kenneth Slater of Halloran and Sage.

DeCarli emphasized the approval applies to "the exchanging of vows and taking of photographs – nothing else."

Slater is the former town attorney for East Hampton. His firm was replaced in April through the competitive bid process, though he continued to handle three ongoing cases until July. That's when he was relieved of those duties by Maniscalco, who said representing both the town and Saint Clements "raises questions as it relates to the town's Code of Ethics and Conduct."

East Hampton Council, Finance Board Back Hub Plan

by Elizabeth Regan

The Town Council and Board of Finance have each endorsed a plan to build a 33,400-square-foot municipal complex on 5.4 acres overlooking the eastern end of Route 66.

Earlier this month, five out of seven councilors supported a motion to send the \$18.98 million project to the finance board. The Board of Finance voted Monday to put their seal of approval on the project by a vote of 4-2.

It's now up to the Town Council to send the proposal to town meeting on its way to a Nov. 7 referendum.

Preliminary plans from the Hartford-based architecture firm Amenta Emma show a colonial revival-inspired building dominated by brick, metal and glass. It encompasses all the offices housed in the current town hall, police department, Board of Education building and a municipal annex on Middletown Avenue.

At the last Town Council meeting, Republican councilor Mark Philhower demanded an itemized list of all the estimates in the \$18.98 million figure.

He was met with resistance from architect Tony Amenta, who cited 40 years' experience as an architect. He said he has never been asked to provide a line item budget to a client "who certainly doesn't have the qualifications that my team does" during this stage of the design process.

"Your job was to hire a professional team to provide you with a design that meets a budget that you approved two months ago. I spent the

last two months doing the drawings, meeting with my team and my estimator to make sure I can present to you a number," Amenta said. "That's what you hired us to do. Not to pick apart a 400-line estimate in a conceptual phase."

The two votes against the council's motion to send the proposal to the finance board belonged to Philhower and Councilor Ted Hintz Jr.

The detailed estimate, which actually contains closer to 800 line items, was ultimately provided for the council and the finance board. It's available online at easthampton.gov by clicking on "Town Facilities Building Committee" under "Quick Links" and then clicking on "Pre-Referendum Budget."

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

Finance Director Jeff Jylkka said the impact to the taxpayer for the project averages out to 1.10 mills per year over 20 years. That translates to \$220 per year for a taxpayer with a home assessed at \$200,000.

The debt would not come due until 2022.

Debt from the town's portion of the \$52 million high school renovation project is also being paid off. The last payment is scheduled for 2038.

The current town hall and police department building was constructed in the 1940s by Con-

necticut Light and Power and used as a service center, according to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco. He said it was purchased by the town in the mid-1970s.

Efforts to secure a new town hall and police station were the subject of numerous studies and committees going back almost two decades with little visible progress until this year.

Maniscalco has cited cramped offices, structural problems, inaccessibility and a lack of parking as issues that plague the current town hall.

Police Chief Sean Cox has been vocal that the small, leaky police department is inhospitable to residents, lowers morale among officers and hurts recruitment efforts.

Officials have long warned that the town hall, police department and Board of Education building on Main Street are not accessible to those with disabilities, which could set the town up for discrimination lawsuits.

Republican Finance Board Chairman Marc Lambert – who voted in favor of the project along with Republican Michael Rose and Democrats Alan Hurst and Dean Markham – said this week the town needs to act on improving its infrastructure.

"We have spent too much time not dealing with issues. It's a problem," he said.

He said he disagreed with the viewpoint expressed by fellow Republican Alannah Coshow at the finance board meeting when she said she

needed more detailed information about the cost of the town's other pressing concerns, including the health of Lake Pocotopaug and a water system for the village center.

Lambert said that's the same kind of thinking that has stalled progress for years.

"You can't worry about five other things we might do in the future, [and then say] 'Therefore we're not going to do this,'" he said.

Coshow and Republican Janine Jiantonio were the 'nay' votes.

Coshow did not return a call for comment.

A previous proposal to turn the century-old Center School into a municipal hub was abruptly and unexpectedly nixed by five councilors last September when they refused to fund a \$250,000 feasibility study.

Preliminary estimates had put the Center School project cost at \$36.22 million to \$44.40 million.

The council set a new course in February when they selected a site for the proposed municipal complex, picked a project manager and appointed a building committee.

Owner's project manager Steve Motto, with his wife, Lisa, donated the town a 5.4-acre parcel within their 59-acre Edgewater Hills 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.

Colchester Finance Board Questions School Board Spending

by Julianna Roche

Board of Finance members Wednesday questioned why they weren't told earlier this year about savings in the Board of Education's 2016-17 budget.

The discussion came following a Board of Education budget subcommittee's recent approval of the purchase of a \$60,900 world language lab for Bacon Academy with leftover funds from the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Board of Finance members Wednesday seemed displeased they weren't made aware of the school district's remaining savings when they were working on the 2017-18 municipal budget earlier this year.

Board of Finance member Andrea Migliaccio, who serves as the liaison to the Board of Education, said she felt "disappointed" that she learned of the unspent funds "at the same time I learned how they were spent" during the school board's budget subcommittee meeting earlier this month.

"If the dollars were known during budget season, it would have made a difference in some of our negotiations," she said.

Board member Roberta Lepore agreed – and spoke directly to Board of Education Vice Chairman Brad Bernier, who was present at the meeting to answer questions regarding the purchase.

"Think about it from our perspective. We're trying to do our due diligence to understand the hard decisions you're making," she said. She added that while she understood the Board of Finance was only charged with giving the school board a bottom line budget number and not specifically with how to spend that money, "it would have been helpful to know the flexibility is there."

The rest of the finance board, including Andreas Bisbikos, appeared to stand united in agreement, expressing similar concerns.

Calling the purchase "almost a waste," Bisbikos said that while he understood the school board had to "make some really tough calls," he did not have "confidence" in the board spending any money "at this time."

"[And] we didn't know about this, then the taxpayers didn't know about this," he said – adding it "raises the question of how much money is truly hiding in the shadows."

Bernier explained that the leftover savings did not come "as a surprise" to the school board's budget subcommittee, and that the funds were being used to take care of "real and true needs to the school."

According to a proposal regarding the world language lab purchase, which was submitted by Bacon Academy Principal Matthew Peel to the budget subcommittee during its Aug. 3 meeting, Bacon took in \$133,508 of Norwich student tuition during the 2016-17 year, and in a separate account, took in tuition money from other out-of-district students amounting to an unspent balance of \$50,999.

Following other purchases and encumbrances, Peel explained last week due to "savings realized" made on furniture and other technology items, he felt that \$61,900 of the \$101,981 worth of remaining 2016-17 funds would be best spent towards a world language lab – stating in his proposal that it would help the world language department embrace "teaching in a personalized way" and that the lack of a lab "hindered" teachers and students "from flourishing."

The world language lab is currently used by

Bacon students to learn and practice clear and concise communication in various languages in different formats using writing and oral language skills. Students also use the language lab to read and analyze information, and improve their use of applications of technology.

The purchase was also originally slated as an item in the approved 2017-18 education budget to be purchased using \$97,000 of the total \$367,900 in Norwich student tuition money; however, Peel also explained last week that he negotiated that price of the software down to \$60,900, which also includes five years of upgrades.

His proposal stated that he was "concerned about waiting another year" to purchase the software, because he feared losing "that quote" if the school were to wait to do so.

Bernier had also emphasized last week that the world language lab purchase would not violate the board's "commitment" to maintaining the Norwich tuition revenue to offset the 2017-18 budget – meaning the \$97,000 originally set aside for the lab purchase would remain set aside and be reprioritized for another use.

Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov, however, questioned why the Norwich student tuition money was being kept in a separate fund from other out-of-district student tuition monies, comparing it to how the town uses excess funds.

"The argument I had is the fact that all revenue [that] comes in on the town side, including ECS (Education Cost Sharing) money, it's paid to the town," he said. "If it's more than what was anticipated in the budget, [it should] stay with the town."

"We should at least have a town policy [regarding when that money comes in], so it's in writing as to how it's handled and whether it rests solely with the Board of Education [budget] committee," Tarlov furthered.

However, Bernier explained that Norwich student tuition money was different in that it was "predictable," as once the students commit to coming to Bacon, per the town's contract with Bacon Academy, Norwich also commits to paying the full tuition, regardless if the student leaves or not.

With other out-of-district students, however, he explained that was not the case.

"We could have five students start with us [and] they could leave in October," Bernier said. "We don't count on that any of that money until it's [actually] here... to predict what it is going to be is hazardous."

In closing the discussion, Tarlov brought up the issue of transparency and the "optics" of how making purchases with leftover funds, such as with the world language lab, after a budget has been approved, may appear to taxpayers.

"I understand it's last year's money, but money's money," he said.

"Most boards, including yours, have transparency issues about how they spend their money," Tarlov told Bernier. He added that issues with how the school boards spends its money "should be brought up at the Board of Education meetings" rather than Board of Finance meetings, as while the finance board has final say over the school board's bottom line budget, it "really" doesn't have "the authority" to tell it what to spend that money on.

Portland Police News

8/7: Matthew Martin, 41, of 13 Freedom Way, Portland, was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, Portland Police said.

Colchester Police News

8/8: Colchester Police said they received a report at approximately 5:57 p.m. that a resident living on Westchester Road was involved in a scam in which over the course of two weeks, she sent \$54,000 in iTunes and Steam gift cards to unknown individuals representing themselves as government officials.

Hebron Police News

8/6: State Police said they are currently investigating a report of a residential burglary which occurred on Jones Street in Amston. According to the victim, forced entry was made into the garage and tools and power equipment were reported stolen.

Algae Bloom Closes East Hampton Beaches

by Elizabeth Regan

The Chatham Health District has ordered the closure of the beach at Sears Park due to high levels of potentially toxic bacteria in the growing blue-green algae bloom.

The closure follows a swimming advisory put into place two weeks ago.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco is using local authority to close Schoolhouse Bay, the only other public beach, as well.

Blue-green algae blooms are unsightly masses made up of bacteria that can multiply fast in hot and bright conditions where certain nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, are concentrated.

Chatham Health District Director Don Mitchell emphasized the health department closed the Sears Park beach because that was the only location tested. The closure ordered by the health district does not affect any other areas of the beach, public or private.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco characterized his decision to close both town-owned beaches as a public safety issue.

"We know there's a known contaminant at Sears Park. It's the same water that's in Schoolhouse Bay," he said.

The state guidelines for local health departments were instituted in 2012 after a high-profile algae bloom in Bolton. But the recommended response plan is advisory only, as the state public health department does not have relevant regulations for lakes and ponds.

Results came in at 107,000 blue-green algae cells per milliliter in a test conducted by the health district on Aug. 8. The state-recommended threshold for closing the public beaches is greater than 100,000 blue-

green algae cells per milliliter, according to guidance published jointly by the state Department of Public Health and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

A blue-green algae bloom is characterized by green or brown water that may be cloudy or even thick like pea soup, according to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

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

Guidance from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the state Department of Public Health said blue-green algae blooms can be localized and can change locations. One shoreline may be experiencing a bloom while another shoreline of the lake may not.

Research from the town's lake consultant George Knoecklein has shown the cure for the lake's ills involves stabilizing shoreline erosion to limit the amount of fertilizer-containing run-off that the lake receives from being surrounded by developed land.

Once a swimming ban is instituted, state guidelines recommend it remain in effect until at least two weeks of successive testing show levels below the danger threshold. The tests should be conducted one week apart.

Chatham Health District is conducting weekly tests.

EH

East Hampton Police News

8/1: William G. Nunez, 24, of 12 Pine Tr., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, East Hampton Police said.

8/2: Christopher Foley, 46, of 104 Monroe St., Nashua, N.H., was arrested and charged with failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police said.

8/4: Corey Melita, 35, of 167 Clark Hill Rd., was issued a summons for failure to obey a stop sign and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

8/5: Bruce W. Whitehill Jr., 52, of 537 Toll

Gate Rd., Berlin, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence, police said.

8/6: After an investigation into a motor vehicle vs pole accident, Michael Higbie, 35, of 26 Neptune Ave., Moodus, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, failure to drive right and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

Also, from July 31-Aug. 6, officers responded to 16 medical calls, eight motor vehicle accidents, 15 alarms and made 22 traffic stops.

Man Charged with Pointing Gun at East Hampton Campers

by Elizabeth Regan

A Kansas man was picked up by police last week on charges of wielding a handgun while driving drunk on Lake Drive.

East Hampton Police Department Sean Cox said at least one witness at Nelson's Family Campground on Mott Hill Road reported something that "sounded like a gunshot."

Lee Mitchell, 33, of August, Kansas, was allegedly driving erratically and pointing a handgun at campers around 8 p.m. on Aug. 10, according to a press release.

Responding Officers Maciej Bankowski and Matthew Hanlon pulled over a vehicle on Lake Road that matched the description of the one the suspect was driving when he exited the campground heading south, the release said.

Officers found a loaded handgun on the front seat, according to police.

Police recovered a shell casing from the campground that matched the firearm that was

seized, according to Cox.

Mitchell was arrested and charged with first-degree threatening and illegal possession of a weapon in a motor vehicle, which are both felonies. He was also charged with several misdemeanors: second-degree breach of peace, first-degree reckless endangerment, carrying a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, illegal discharge of a firearm, driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and driving with a suspended license.

He is being held on a \$25,000 bond. He is next scheduled to appear at Middlesex Superior Court on Aug. 31.



Lee Mitchell

Obituaries

Colchester

George A. Miner

George A. Miner (Pop), 89 beloved husband for 65 years of Eleanor (Greene) Miner passed away peacefully on Wednesday, August 9, 2017 in his home.

George was born on August 19, 1927 in North Stonington Connecticut. He was the son of the late James Miner and Ruth (Pierce) Miner.

George graduated from Windham high school in 1946.

He served his country for two years in the Army stationed in Okinawa in 1947.

He married his wife Nov. 10, 1951. They purchased their family home in Marlborough, where they raised their children.

George was an avid fisherman he traveled to Mexico, California and Alaska to fish with his son Jim.

He and his wife purchased a cottage on Lake Hayward where he fished daily for 30 years. George loved sports, gardening, and family. He was a great storyteller.

He worked at Arbor Acres farm in Glastonbury for 43 years, retiring in 1991.

George was predeceased by his daughter, Eileen Susan Miner; brothers, James Miner, Latham Miner, Thurman Miner, Edwin Miner; and sisters, Louise and Susan Miner.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; son, James Miner of Anchorage, Alaska; his grandson, James Miner, wife Mary (Cronen) Miner and great-granddaughter Rhya Miner;

granddaughter Jennifer Miner; his daughter, Linda (Miner) Crowley and her life partner Lisa Boyce of Marlborough; grandson, Ryan Crowley, his wife Tonya Crowley, great-grandson Devin Crowley, great-granddaughter Kailyn Crowley; granddaughter Carrie Adii and husband Charles Louis Adii, great-granddaughters Irian and Koiya; his daughter, Carole Scherbyn and her husband David Scherbyn of New York; grandson, Clifford Mason and great granddaughter Alijah Mason; grandson, Kyle Mason and his fiancée Jasmine Phair and great-granddaughter Riley Mason; his son, Guy Miner, his wife Lori (Mahoney) Miner and stepson Tyler Lessard of East Hampton; granddaughters Lindsay Miner, and Abby Miner.

A celebration of life will be held to honor him on his 90th birthday.

Donations can be made to the Wounded Warriors in his name.

East Hampton

Margery Woytowick

Margery (Riedinger) Woytowick, 77, of East Hampton, beloved wife of P. Richard Woytowick, passed away Wednesday morning, Aug. 9, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Born March 25, 1940, in Meriden, she was the daughter of the late Carl and Eleanor (Lebo) Riedinger.



She was a passionate and accomplished artist, specializing in abstract paintings and her work was exhibited at countless exhibitions. Over the years, her family called many places home throughout the region, as she had a love of real estate and had an affinity for "house-flipping" decades before it was all the rage. Wherever they called "home," however, always included beautiful gardens that she loved to tend to as well as a warm and inviting atmosphere welcoming friends and family alike.

She leaves her beloved husband of 57 years, P. Richard Woytowick, to whom she has been a devoted caregiver as well; their two children, R. Dwight Woytowick of Union and Sherry Lambert and her husband John of East Lyme; three grandchildren, Sean and Timothy Lambert and Ana Woytowick; two siblings, Bonnie Riedinger of Litchfield and Michael Riedinger of Pennsylvania; her beloved cats, Momma and Gracie; many friends and colleagues in the art community, especially the West Hartford Art League of which she was a longtime member; and numerous extended family and other friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a brother, Carl Riedinger Jr.

Services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the West Hartford Art League, 37 Buena Vista Rd., West Hartford, CT 06107 (westhartfordart.org/donate-now/) or to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice & Palliative Care, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 (middlesexhospital.org/donate-now/).

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

John A. Nilsen

John A. Nilsen of East Hampton, formerly of Cobalt, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Aug. 8.

John was predeceased by his loving wife of more than 50 years, Elaine G. Nilsen.

Born Nov. 8, 1928, John was a veteran of World War II. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy submarine service at just 17 years old and trained in diesel engines. John served on the Argonaut SS-475 submarine as fireman second class and later trained submarine firemen in New London. John was a very talented craftsman with both machines and wood. He was employed at Portland Boat Works, was an independent carpenter and painter, and in his later years worked as project manager for Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance.

During his life, John gave back to his community through various clubs and organizations. John was past president of the Haddam Neck Fair Association, was on the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Union Hill Cemetery Association, and was a scoutmaster for Troop 8.

John is survived by his son, Jay Nilsen (Vickey Beauregard); his daughter, Vicki Wasserman (Alan) with whom he made his home; his grandsons, David Wasserman (Katie), Scott Wasserman (Meghan), Jack Nilsen; his brother, Harry W. Nilsen and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, on Saturday, Aug. 26, at 11 a.m. There are no calling hours. A private burial will be held with family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent in John's memory to Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, CT or Middlesex Hospital Homecare - Hospice and Palliative Care, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Catherine Fuller

Catherine Fuller died Wednesday, Aug. 2, aged 63, of injuries from a motorcycle accident. Born in Florala, Ala., Catherine was living in East Hampton, and lived in Carolina and South Kingstown, R.I., as well as Uncasville.

Daughter of the late Amos and Christine (Holly) Beck, partner of Richard LaPlante, sister of Eric Beck and Jeffrey Beck (both deceased), Brian Beck and Amy (Beck) Piccolo, mother of Sean, Joshua and Michaela (Feliciano), grandmother of Colin, Madison, Mabel, Keenan, Jacquelyn, Lucius, Travis and Isabella, Catherine will be missed by her family and many friends.

She graduated from St. Bernard's High School for Girls and studied at Manchester Community College in Connecticut. Catherine worked 15 years as a correction officer at CCI in Niantic, 43 years in retail, was a massage therapist, Reiki master and medicinal herbalist. She loved sharing her knowledge of herbs and gardening, worshipping the goddess and dancing.

A celebration of Catherine Fuller's life will be held Saturday, Sept. 9, from 1 p.m., at the South Kingstown Elks Club, 60 Belmont Ave., Wakefield, RI 02879.

Please bring stories about Catherine to share.



Hebron

Ruthanne Hadley

Ruthanne (Zitek) Hadley, 75, of Hebron, beloved wife of Glen R. Hadley, died Tuesday, June 20. Born Oct. 7, 1941, in New Rochelle, N.Y., daughter of the late Emil and Marguerite (McKinney) Zitek, she had lived in Glastonbury many years moving to Hebron 17 years ago.

Prior to her retirement, Ruthanne was a teacher in the Glastonbury school system. She graduated from Syracuse University and Plattsburgh State University. She was an active member of the Gilead Congregational Church, a volunteer for Meals-on-Wheels and the Leadership of Greater Hartford. She was an avid reader and loved to spend her time by the fireplace or the fish pond and garden.

Besides her husband she is survived by two sons and their wives, Stephen and Allegra Weir of Hebron, Ben and Rosetta Weir of Glastonbury; two stepsons and their wives, Christopher and Anouchka Hadley of Milton, Ontario, Canada, Scott and Bethany Hadley of Westborough, Mass.; a brother, Dr. William Zitek and his wife Mariel of Shelter Island, N.Y.; a sister, Edye Scheier and her husband Henry of Norwich, Vt.; nine grandchildren, Alexia, Julianna and Meredith Weir, Dylan Manley, Rhiannon, Mia and Tate Hadley, Luke and Grace Hadley; and many nieces and nephews.

She adored all the grandchildren. She played an especially integral role in the lives of her three grandchildren in Hebron. Their "Mimi" was a big part of their lives. Allegra and she would speak daily and their house was filled with the joy of Meredith looking for her special treats. Rosetta and Ben would have long phone times with her, keeping her abreast of all the daily events in their lives.

Ruth touched the lives of countless children during her teaching career. She will be remembered for her smile, her laugh, and her always positive outlook.

Calling hours were Thursday, June 29, at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. A memorial service celebrating Ruthanne's life was held Saturday, July 8, in Gilead Congregational Church, Hebron. A reception followed in the church fellowship hall. Interment was private in the Church Garden of Remembrance.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Protectors of Animals, 144 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06118.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.



Hebron

Alice Hammond Soininen

Alice Hammond Soininen of Sutton, Vt., and Mystic, formerly of Hebron, died Tuesday, Aug. 8, at the Avalon Health Center in Mystic after a heroic, five-year battle with kidney cancer.

The daughter of William Wadsworth Hammond and Adelaide (Bragaw) Markham, Alice was born in Fort Knox, Kentucky where her father was stationed during World War II.

Raised in Hebron, Alice attended Bard College and graduated from Skidmore College in 1964. Alice also earned master's degrees from Eastern Connecticut University and the R.P.I. Graduate Center in, respectively, teaching the gifted and business administration.

She is survived by Tom Soininen, her husband of 53 years, and their three children and their spouses: Julie and Bob Elkins of Annandale, Va.; Anne and Kevin Jacobsen of Los Angeles, Calif.; and John and Lisa Soininen of Ipswich, Mass. The loves of her life were her seven grandchildren: Finley and Jett Jacobsen, Luke and Jane Elkins and Ellie, Brooke and Reed Soininen.

Alice also survived by an extended family and dear friends throughout the country. Like her mother, Alice was the facilitator of numerous celebrations over the decades, strengthening and enriching the lives of all. After 16 years of teaching various subjects and grades in Hebron, Colchester and Marlborough, Alice left teaching in 1980 and began working at The Hartford Insurance Company, starting as a computer programmer and rising to the position of Assistant Director before retiring after 23 successful years in various departments, including APLUS Financial Services, Process Improvement and Personal Lines as she worked in Product Development, Process Improvement as well as other critical projects for The Hartford.

Upon retirement she joined Tom in the home she designed in 2000 in her beloved Sutton, Vt., where she had enjoyed her parents' vacation home in the Northeast Kingdom since 1957.

A highly motivated and intelligent woman, Alice always succeeded in all that she attempted. Among her many pleasures were gardening, knitting, reading and travel, the highlight of which was the 6,000-mile journey across Russia on the Trans-Siberian Railroad upon Tom and Alice's joint retirement from The King George School in Sutton, Vt., in 2007.

A celebration of her life will take place at water's edge, Latimer Point, Stonington, Saturday, Sept. 2 (rain date Sept. 3).

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society.

