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High School Building Committee Chairman Sharon Smith and former Board of Education Chairman Mark Laraia had the ceremonial honor of cutting the blue ribbon across the newly-renovated East Hampton High School before a dedication ceremony last Friday. The \$52 million high school was five years in the making.

‘The House That John Built’

by Elizabeth Regan

With the ribbon cut on the renovated-as-new East Hampton High School last week, the community that rallied behind it and the students that stand before it were hailed as late Principal John Fidler’s legacy.

East Hampton High School Assistant Principal Michael Dalton said Fidler, who died suddenly on July 30 at the age of 60, left behind much more than a modern educational facility.

“Just as a house must be transformed into a home, there is a vast distance between a building and the community that inhabits it,” Dalton said. “What could be more precious a legacy than family, community, fellowship and love? No, this building is not John Fidler’s legacy. We are.”

Fidler was known for his unflagging support of all students and staff members.

Superintendent of Schools Paul K. Smith stood at a podium on the outside entrance to the high school Friday afternoon to dedicate the ribbon-cutting to John Fidler “and the house that John built.”

“John watched over this project like a parent watches over a child. Through dust, noise, walled-off corridors, classroom moves, power losses, the occasional non-potable water, John managed to keep everyone focused on a vision for what would be,” Smith said.

The outdoor ribbon cutting and indoor dedication ceremony featured the East Hampton High School Band playing the National Anthem. The high school choir sang the popular song *Home*: “Just know you’re not alone, ‘Cause I’m going to make this place your home.”

High School Building Committee Chairman Sharon Smith and former Board of Education Chairman Mark Laraia snipped the ceremonial scissors through a blue ribbon stretched across the entrance to the \$52 million high school. Students representing each school in the district lined the stairs in front of them.

As people made their way into the building, one alumnus rang the East Hampton High School bell affixed to a moveable pedestal that

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Turnout ‘Excellent’ for Hebron Fair

by Lauren Yandow

Groups of teens, families with strollers and wagons in tow, and quite a few young-uns toting around new prized pet fish were just some of the sights at the 47th annual Hebron Harvest Fair over the weekend.

With a total attendance this year of about 115,000 people, Fair Superintendent Mike Tarbell said “the turnout was excellent and the fairgrounds were full.” He added it was “one of the best fairs in the last 10 years.”

In the buzzing and beaming carnival game area Saturday, kids, teens and parents alike walked through crowds while trying to balance their carnival treats and giant stuffed animal prizes. Up on the hill, fairgoers gathered to take in the roaring tractor pulls. Some spectators relaxed on a blanket, many stood in groups cheering the tractors on, and others stepped right up to the fence for some front row action.

Keaton McGill, 16, of Bolton, participated in the tractor pull competition with the Middlesex County Tractor Pullers on Saturday morning. “The fair was great and the crowd for the pull was amazing,” he said this week. “Thanks to all who came out.”

Keeping up with family tradition, Rachel Plante of Hebron brought her son Tristan, 11, and daughter Gabriella, 10, to the fair over the weekend. “I grew up here, I went to school here, and now I’m taking my kids to the fair so it’s awesome,” said Rachel. A self-proclaimed “big kid” herself, she looks forward to going on the rides with her kids every year.

“I’ve been coming [here] my whole life,” said Tristan. “I like going on the rides,” he added. Just like her mother and brother, Gabriella also enjoyed the carnival thrills. “My favorite thing to do is go on the big scary rides,” she said. For

those intimidated by an adrenaline rush, Gabriella suggested “try the Ferris wheel; it’s not scary as long as you don’t look down.”

Another fair perk, the Plante family said, is the food.

Jayden West, 9, also of Hebron, agreed. While at the fair, Jayden said he tried pizza, cookie dough, fried Oreos and basically “everything,” noting it was all pretty yummy.

Like Jayden, fairgoers who worked up an appetite had a variety of food options to pick from. The fare included carnival favorites like fried dough, cotton candy and caramel apples, filling portions of barbeque pulled pork, giant turkey legs, and some non-traditional eats like fried cheese on a stick and “monkey balls,” which were skewered frozen banana bites layered between cookie dough then hand-dipped in chocolate.

Taylor Keyt, 17, of Manchester, attended the fair Saturday evening. “I used to come here when I was a kid with my parents,” she said, and now as a teen, “I thought it would be really fun” to come with my friends. “I’m having a great time,” she said. “I had a giant hot dog and now I’m excited for the slide, the Ferris wheel and the swings.”

Based on feedback and exit polling, Tarbell said “everybody seemed happy with the fair.”

Before the fairgrounds even opened this year, the fair’s organizers, the Hebron Lions, made many changes to address comments, and complaints, from last year. “We really did listen to the people,” said Tarbell.

One such change was the addition of more family fun activities. As of this past Monday, Tarbell said he’s already getting feedback. “The new events we brought in everybody loved,” he said. In fact, he added “I just had a com-



The Hebron Harvest Fair returned last weekend, with a variety of attractions for young and old. Here, pecking in on some feathery friends, are siblings Sera (left) and Ares Gordon, of Baltic. See more fair photos at [facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin](https://www.facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin)

ment this morning from someone who loved the Two by Two Zoo.”

During the four-day event, Tarbell said he also received positive feedback about the addition of the racing pigs – an event the fair board is already looking to expand next year.

“I think the improvements made outside the fence and inside the fence have been received very positively,” Tarbell said. Outside the fence, roads were widened for easier access to and from the fairgrounds. In addition, the alignment

of ticket booths for parking was changed to help alleviate traffic.

While the adjustments helped the parking crews on the fairgrounds, Tarbell said the change was “more to help the people who are out on Route 85 in the backups.”

Overall, Tarbell said, the changes made for this year’s fair were an “absolute success.”

On Thursday, for the fair’s opening night, patrons were invited to celebrate “Hebron

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had been rolled into the school entryway. By the time the audience was seated in the auditorium, the bell was standing sentinel in front of the stage.

The high school renovation project's history goes back to 2012, when the Town Council passed a resolution authorizing a building committee to oversee the project. A successful 2013 referendum moved the project forward based on a 52.5 percent reimbursement from the state.

Grassroots support in the form of the "Renovate to Educate" Facebook page and political action committee helped secure the vote's passage, according to officials.

State Rep. Melissa Ziobron, R-34, spoke from inside the auditorium during the dedication ceremony to applaud everyone involved in the project, from the building committee to those who posted on Facebook.

"It's amazing what the power of the people and our kids can do. And so you also share in this today. It's your will, it's your advocacy," she told the audience.

Ziobron worked with state Sen. Art Linares, R-33, to secure \$7 million in state funding for the renovation project in early 2015 after the state Department of Administrative Services failed to fund the maximum reimbursement amount.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco invoked the town's tumultuous political history when he said the high school project overcame many obstacles on its way to completion.

"This project survived. It's survived a lot of East Hampton politics; it survived three town councils; it survived a few superintendents," he said.

Maniscalco credited the building committee, project architects SLAM Collaborative, project manager Colliers International, construction

manager Downes Construction Co. and the wider community with turning the plan into reality.

The project broke ground in November 2014.

In February 2015, the original project management team from the Capitol Region Education Council was dismissed for cause amid allegations that the team did not provide the state with required paperwork on schedule and did not keep the building committee informed of complications that threatened the full reimbursement amount.

The project moved on under the direction of project management firm Strategic Building Solutions of Agawam, Mass., which has since been acquired by Colliers International.

The high school was completed this month.

The total cost to taxpayers is currently estimated at \$26.7 million, according to documents compiled by Finance Director Jeff Jylkka. For the average taxpayer with a house assessed at \$200,000, that's \$5,752 total or \$288 per year.

Former interim superintendent Mark Winzler said he stayed on longer than anticipated back in 2012-13 after he found out officials were contemplating a new high school. He recalled that Laraia, the school board chairman at the time, asked him to stay on because of experience at the helm of three renovate-as-new projects approved by voters at referendum.

Winzler said the message he helped convey to residents was that towns need two things to compete against different districts and schooling options: Teachers who effectively convey

meaningful instruction and a building that supports them.

"East Hampton now has a high school that meets both criteria," he said.

Sharon Smith took the podium to describe herself as the only High School Building Committee member who didn't attend the high school or have children who went there. She said she was shocked during the committee's first tour of the building to see the age of the infrastructure and the equipment inside it.

She recalled when a couple others on the tour pointed at a chair in the corner of one room, commenting that they'd sat there themselves as students over 30 years ago.

"In that corner?" she remembered asking them.

"No, in that chair," came the reply.

She emphasized the quality of instruction that carried through until the project came to an end five years and five months from the date the building committee was formed.

"That the faculty and staff in East Hampton High School, in spite of outdated space and equipment, have provided our children with the highest level of instruction and support is an amazing feat which cannot go unstated," she said.

2014-15 East Hampton High School Class President Alex Balletto spoke from his perspective as a student leader the year construction broke ground.

He described the project, completed in Fidler's absence, as a puzzle missing a piece.

Despite the open jigsaw space that will never be filled, Balletto said, "You can still see the beautiful picture that you've been working to create."

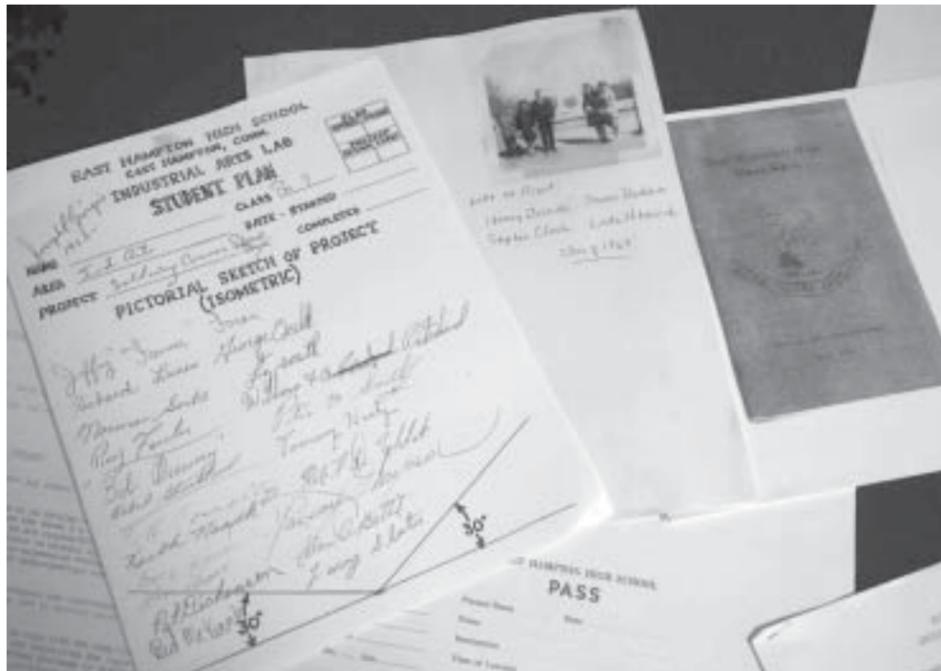
Fidler's wife, Joan, took the podium to a standing ovation as one of the last speakers. She briefly outlined the decades that led up to Fidler's time as principal, describing his final post as his consuming passion.

"This married man ended up having a girlfriend," she said. "And her name was East Hampton High School."

She credited her husband with dedicating much of his time and energy to supporting the community and making sure the renovation was a success.

"And isn't this girl – East Hampton High School – absolutely beautiful today?" Joan Fidler said.

The high school chorus closed out the ceremony with the Alma Mater: "They ring, and ring, they'll never die. The bells of East Hampton High."



A time capsule celebrating the high school's history from 1963 to today will be set into the lobby wall for an unknown future generation to discover.

East Hampton High School Through the Years

by Elizabeth Regan

A time capsule in commemoration of the newly-renovated high school will be set in the wall of the lobby behind a block engraved with 1963, the year the original building was opened.

Items include memorabilia from Gov. William A. O'Neill's 10 years as the state's top official, a list of current faculty and students, a school handbook, a Bevin bell, 1964 silver half dollar, a penny (because, according to building committee member Cynthia Abraham, "we

don't think there will be pennies much longer"), the building project timeline, the blue ribbon from the dedication ceremony, a copy of the town budget and local newspapers.

The contents are stored inside a box painted by a group of high school seniors.

A 1963 time capsule was also unearthed in conjunction with the renovation of the high school. The capsule was sealed the year the

school was finished.

Contents of the original capsule included a student handbook, a hall pass, a mimeographed schedule, a list of faculty and students, a discipline report (known as a "cipher," according to local historian Dean Markham, who said students with eight of them would earn an in-school suspension that involved sitting in a corner and staring at the wall for a week), a home-

work assignment, a memento from a class trip to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C., a building plan and a 1961-62 Town of East Hampton Annual Report.

Superintendent of Schools Paul K. Smith said the 1963 time capsule will be placed back in the wall along with the newer items.

"It will stay there until the next renovation in 50-70 years," Smith said.

Hebron Fair cont. from Front Page

Night” with a discounted \$6 admission charge, \$1 rides, and local live entertainment from a magician, an illusionist and musicians. While Tarbell deemed Hebron Night a success, he added that the Lions wanted to see “more local people” in attendance.

Tarbell said the fair board is already discussing improvements for the 2018 fair. There will be even “better changes” for next year’s “Hebron Night” celebration, he said. Since the Lions are still kicking around ideas, he said, no specifics can be shared just yet. But, Tarbell said he’s confident people will “be very happy.”

While admission climbed to \$13 for the other three days of the fair, Tarbell said patrons got a bang for their buck with “a great show across the board.”

Tarbell said he hopes people realize “it costs a lot of money to put [the fair] on.” This year’s expenses ran over \$600,000, he said, and security alone cost more than \$100,000. Generally, ticket sales cover the cost of the fair’s expenses; some money will be put aside for capital improvements such as repairing buildings and paving.

The rest of the money, Tarbell said, the Lions “put it right back into the community” through charitable donations and other endeavors.

While the Lions are still tabulating the 2017 fair revenue, Tarbell said their “goals have been met.” So far, he said enough money has come in to fund the 2018 Hebron Harvest Fair and funds will still remain for donation to local and national organizations. Some local organizations the Lions support, he said, are AHM Youth and Family Services and the Russell Mercier

Senior Center in Hebron.

And as always, he said, some money will also be set aside for capital improvements on the grounds. Over the next year, the Lions will be looking to upgrade a 40-year-old main power line, said Tarbell. The main line needs to be upgraded, he said, because the “last thing we want to do is lose power during the fair.”

Tarbell added he and other Lions are already exploring ideas for next year.

“I think we’ve got the right plan,” fairgoers will be “excited” about what’s in store, he added.

For example, he said this year the entertainment tent, which featured such things as musical acts and magicians, was “packed for every event,” and now, the board is in talks about expanding it for 2018.

Another topic of discussion, Tarbell said, is working to crack down on underage drinking. Indeed, a Marlborough teen was arrested Saturday night after causing a disturbance, and even tried to bite police officers; a story about that incident appears on page 33.

Security measures were in effect this year, Tarbell said, including undercover officers. Next year, he said, the Lions will likely have more uniformed and undercover officers on the grounds and in the parking lots for increased patrolling. An additional possibility, he said is implementing a bag check initiative upon entering the grounds. The Lions “want a good fair, [and] we want a family fair,” he said.

While all future plans are still just “preliminary discussions,” Tarbell said he hopes everybody “looks forward to next year” because the Lions are making changes and “it’s all for the



Friends Taylor Keyt and Joana Topanxa, both of Manchester, filled up on some hot dogs before taking a ride on the Ferris wheel.

plus.”

In closing, Tarbell said he’d like to thank all patrons who came from both near and far to celebrate the 47th annual Hebron Harvest Fair. “From the bottom of my heart, thanks for supporting the Hebron Lions,” he added.

The 2018 Hebron Harvest Fair will kick off Thursday, Sept. 6 and run through Sunday, Sept. 9 on the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds, 347 Gilead St., Hebron. Anyone interested in volunteering for next year’s fair can email Krystin Strumskas at volunteers@hebrontharvestfair.org.

Underage Drinking Leads to Arrest of Man at Hebron Fair

by Lauren Yandow

A “heavily intoxicated” 19-year-old Marlborough man was arrested at the Hebron Harvest Fair last weekend, and then spat at and attempted to bite officers, state police said.



Brian Andrew Hill

On Saturday, Sept. 9, just before 10 p.m., state and Hebron police responded to a report of a man attempting to “entice other patrons into fights” in the carnival area of the fairgrounds, police said.

Police arrested Brian Andrew Hill, 19, of Marlborough, due to his “aggressive and belligerent behavior,” authorities said.

While escorting Hill through the large crowd of patrons to the Police Command Post located on the grounds, police said he began yelling profanities at the officers, causing some fairgoers to “stop what they were doing and become alarmed.”

According to police, Hill spat at and tried to bite troopers several times. As a result, Hill was sprayed with pepper spray, in an attempt for authorities to “gain control.”

Upon arriving to the post, police said Hill

continued to act “belligerent and uncooperative” while being treated by Hebron Fire and Emergency Medical Services with “decontamination protocol.”

State police Sergeant Eric Haglund said the protocol involves “rinsing out the eyes of the person that had been sprayed and having them wash with soap and water.”

While being placed in a Hebron Police SUV for transportation to Troop K, Hill continued to resist and attempted to once again spit at authorities. After processing, Hill posted a \$25,000 surety bond and was released from custody.

Hill is charged with two counts of attempted assault on police officers, interfering with an officer, breach of peace, and inciting to riot. State statute declares inciting to riot is a class A misdemeanor in which a person “advocates, urges or organizes six or more persons to engage in tumultuous and violent conduct of a kind likely to cause public alarm,” according to the Connecticut General Assembly website cga.ct.gov.

This year’s Hebron Harvest Fair superintendent, Mike Tarbell, said underage drinking at the fair is a “big concern.” He said organizers are aware that at times underage patrons drink alcohol on and off the fairgrounds and they’re “always working” toward improvements.

But, he added: “Can I say we’re gonna cover every person? Not gonna happen.”

Still, Hill’s arrest was the only one made at the four-day fair, according to Haglund.

While maintaining a “family-friendly” fair is always the goal, Tarbell said “it’s very hard to monitor somebody in a car that pulls out six nips and puts it into a glass and walks onto the fairground.”

When it comes to cracking down on underage drinking the fair board is always working on ideas to improve safety measures, he added.

The fair board gathers in a private room for a meeting at noon every Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the fair to share any happenings and issues from that day, he said. From there, the group discusses how to address and prevent any further issues.

At the close of the fair on Sunday, a topic of discussion was the issue of underage drinking.

“We have this discussion every year,” said Tarbell.

“I wish I could say there will never be an incident [again],” he added, “but when someone asks whether or not we are looking at it – I can assure them we are.”

For the four-day fair this year, both uniformed and undercover officers patrolled the parking lots and grounds. Now, Tarbell said the fair board is planning to “set up some more vi-

sual patrols” by “upping the presence of uniformed officers” next year.

Tarbell said he and other Lions have noticed a “turnover” of patrons around 8 p.m. – especially on the Friday and Saturday of the event. As the sun goes down and families bring their smaller children home, some “problematic” teens attempt to “climb fences and enter the grounds without paying,” he said. That’s resulted in Tarbell asking police to “patrol the perimeter of the fences and pay particular attention to the area.”

Next week, he said the Lions will sit down while “everything is fresh in their minds” to further discuss future fair security options.

One idea that’s been thrown around in the past is instituting a bag check initiative. Tarbell said it may be time to implement checking bags to help “offset underage drinking.” If implemented, he said the goal would not be to “impose on somebody’s personal freedoms or liberties,” but more as a tool to try and minimize mischief.

“Maybe if we do this for a year or two, people will start to say ‘well, this isn’t the place to bring [alcohol],’” he added.

Ultimately, he said “we’re thinking about it and we’re doing our job.”

As for Hill, he’s scheduled to appear at Rockville Superior Court on Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Portland Fireworks Set for October

by Elizabeth Regan

An issue that has been up in the air since this summer is finally decided.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield has announced the annual Portland Fireworks display will be held Oct. 6 at 8:30 p.m. in conjunction with the Portland Fair.

The rain date is Oct. 7 at the same time.

Originally scheduled for mid-July, the display was postponed due to wet, muddy conditions at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds. There was talk about holding the fireworks as part of the annual Youth Services Department Family Day on Sept. 9, but the idea fizzled due to scheduling conflicts with the local volunteer fire department.

Fireworks Committee Chairwoman Sharon Hoy emphasized Tuesday it is the same pyrotechnics display that's been put on during the summer since 2008, when the committee took over for retired Portland Police Department sergeant and fireworks aficionado Mike Dapkus.

"This is the Portland Fireworks at the Portland Fair," she said.

The display is made possible by a \$2,500 line

item in this year's town budget, private donations and fundraisers including bake sales, pie sales, a fashion show and a series of Victorian tea parties.

The show costs \$20,000 to put on.

Portland Fair President Donald Bascom said the fair is no stranger to fireworks; in fact, Dapkus shot off fireworks for the annual agricultural fair in 2007.

Bascom acknowledged hearing about concerns, voiced on social media and around town, about the effect of the fireworks display on the animals at the fair.

He said cattle superintendent Dawn Andrews assured him the animals are accustomed to loud noises and activity.

In an email Wednesday, Andrews reiterated that sentiment.

"I also know other fairs have fireworks and all the animals are fine with them," she wrote. "All the exhibitors will be with their animals at the time of the fireworks to make sure everything goes fine. The fair has had fireworks in the past and there weren't any issues with them."

Those who think the fireworks will be a prob-

lem for their animals may bring them to the fair on Saturday morning, according to Bascom.

He said sheep and goats tend to be more high-strung than cows.

"The first three bangs, the cows will be a little bit jumpy, but after that they really do figure out nobody's shooting at them and they don't mind it at all," Bascom said.

Smaller, caged animals can be put in vans to shield them from the noise if needed, he added.

Bransfield said the Portland Fireworks Committee would have owed \$9,000 to Ocean State Pyrotechnics if the event didn't happen before Nov. 27.

The committee brought in approximately \$27,000 since the last display was held in 2015, according to Bransfield.

Last year, the event was cancelled because of funding problems. It was cancelled in 2006 for flooding, 2011 due to inclement weather, and 2014 because of a bridge repair on Route 17A.

Bransfield said the committee was planning to cancel the event as recently as last week, but "the \$9,000 penalty is something we cannot

tolerate."

Hoy said holding the fireworks this year is especially important in light of last year's cancellation.

"Now that we have the funds, we just felt committed that we had to give the people the show that they paid for," Hoy said.

Other Friday night features include an opening ceremony with elected officials from the local and state level as well as the Portland High School band.

Wristbands for the expanded Coleman Brothers Shows carnival midway will be available for purchase on Friday and Sunday.

Those who want to watch the fireworks without paying admission might consider going to the high school or to Bransfield Park, according to Hoy.

Bascom emphasized there is no parking on Route 17A near the fairgrounds.

On-site parking for fairgoers is limited to those with handicapped parking stickers, according to Hoy. All others should use the free off-site parking lot on Sand Hill Road off Route 66.

Hemorrhagic Disease Killing Portland Deer

from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) announced last week a recently-discovered die-off of approximately 20 deer in the Portland area may be due to hemorrhagic disease, an infectious disease affecting white-tailed deer.

The cause of death could not definitively be determined due to the condition of the dead animals, but the manner in which the deer were found led DEEP biologists to suspect that hemorrhagic disease may be the cause.

Hemorrhagic disease does not infect humans, and people are not at risk by handling infected deer, eating venison from infected deer, or being bitten by infected midges. The disease rarely causes illness in domestic animals, such as cattle, sheep, goats, horses, dogs and cats. Hunters should observe normal precautions around any sick or strange-acting animals.

In early September, a concerned hunter contacted the DEEP Wildlife Division about sev-

eral dead deer found along a small waterbody adjacent to the Connecticut River near Sand Hill Road in Portland. The deer were in various stages of decay along the bank, while some were floating in the water. Several additional deer were found less than a mile from that location at another small waterbody. In total, over a dozen deer were found dead in the area.

The agency has not documented deer with similar symptoms in any other town, according to spokesman Dennis Schain.

Hemorrhagic disease is transmitted by biting midges (commonly referred to as sand gnats, sand flies, no-see-ums). First documented in New Jersey in 1955, the disease has been recorded in many southeastern states and recently reported throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

In 2007, over 20 deer were found dead due to hemorrhagic disease in the greater Voorheesville area of Albany County, N.Y., approxi-

mately 60 miles from the Connecticut border, and another outbreak in New York in 2011 killed nearly 100 deer. In addition to white-tailed deer, other species, such as mule deer, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope and elk, have been documented with the disease in numerous other states.

There has not been a significant negative impact on the long-term health of deer herds in states where the disease has been detected because only localized pockets of animals tend to be infected within a geographic area.

All documented outbreaks of hemorrhagic disease tend to occur during late summer and early fall due to an increase in midge numbers and will cease with the onset of a hard frost, which kills the midges carrying the virus. Outbreaks can range from a few mild cases to high deer mortality.

There are several different forms of hemorrhagic disease, but usually in a new outbreak,

the very rapid form occurs and kills the animal within one to three days of infection. Symptoms of hemorrhagic disease in deer include swollen head, neck, tongue, or eyelids with a bloody discharge from the nasal cavity; erosion of the dental pad or ulcers on the tongue; and hemorrhaging of the heart and lungs, causing respiratory distress.

Additionally, the virus creates high feverish conditions, leading infected deer to sometimes be found near water sources. Not all symptoms are necessarily present in every infected deer.

The DEEP Wildlife Division is encouraging anyone who observes deer appearing emaciated, behaving strangely, or lying dead along the edge of waterbodies to report the information to the DEEP's 24-hour emergency Dispatch Center at 860-424-3333 or the DEEP Wildlife Division at 860-418-5921. The department is seeking to test other dead deer to confirm the suspicion that hemorrhagic disease is the cause.

Marlborough to Bill School for Ongoing Sewer Blockage

by Julianna Roche

While most residents were enjoying a fun-filled Marlborough Day late last month, the town's public works department was faced with a much less fun task, after it discovered a blockage in the sewer system which connects Marlborough Elementary School (MES) to the library, senior center, and five residential properties along School Drive.

According to Town Planner Peter Hughes – who discussed the issue with the Board of Selectmen at its meeting on Sept. 5 – the blockage discovered on Aug. 27 was caused by about "three to five gallon buckets worth" of what appeared to be floor stripper and wax, paint, cleaning rags stuck in the pump propeller, and other materials that had been discharged into the sewer at the school.

However, Hughes emphasized this week that he wasn't placing "blame" on any of the school's custodial staff for doing so, as "they take orders from somebody."

The blockage, he furthered, resulted in five broken check valves and two burnt-out sewer pumps – which in addition to jetting the pipes, took nearly one week to fix – leaving any road work being done in town on hold, while the public works department and other outside contractors repaired everything.

"No roadwork was done last week because the road crew was fixing the sewer problem," he said. "This isn't picking on anybody. This is just a waste of money, time and effort. ... It's wasting town resources. I don't care what

pocket [the money for the repairs] comes out of. It's just stupid."

Hughes explained this week that so far, \$11,500 has been billed to the school for the repairs; however, he expects an additional \$15,000 to be billed for outside services and \$7,200 to \$8,000 for town "employee time" spent fixing the sewer system – which will cost nearly \$35,000 to repair.

"We've been telling them [not to dump materials in the sewer] since 2012," Hughes furthered, adding that this was not the first time the town has had to jet the sewer lines due to a blockage caused by materials dumped into the sewer at the school – which, when dumped, "harden to the circumference" of the sewer pipes, slowly building up over time.

"This is impacting seven other properties – not just the school anymore," he furthered, adding that he wasn't sure whether the school hadn't switched to approved cleaning products that would not cause blockage "because of the cost" or "because they didn't think it'd be a big problem. ... I just know it's bad."

This week, elementary school Principal Dan White explained, however, that the school has used the same "green" cleaning products – purchased from Hillyard, a company that manufactures cleaning and hygiene solutions – for the last 10 to 15 years with no issues.

He added that officials from MES have spoken with those from other schools, many of

which use the same cleaning products, and have found that "as long as people are flushing solution with plenty of water," there have not been any issues.

"That's how everybody is disposing of these materials ... everybody is using their drains," White said, adding he felt "it's kind of strange that there weren't problems previously."

"We don't know if something has changed town-wide or with the water system moving over," he added. "We just want to get everybody at the table and brainstorm [for solutions]."

At the Sept. 5 Board of Selectmen meeting, First Selectwoman Amy Traversa stated this incident was the fourth time since 2012 a blockage had been caused by the school and "it's getting progressively worse."

"We've shown the Board of Education pictures [of the damage]; we've shown the administration," Hughes added at the meeting. "We've been asking them to put the material in a 55-gallon drum and have someone come pump it, and take it away. ... You can't keep dumping it in the sewer. You need to put the product in the appropriate container and have it treated offsite."

Traversa also made it clear that "the entire bill" for the repairs would be "going to the school system."

However, this week, Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz said he felt the school and town needed to negotiate together to "fig-

ure out who pays for it."

He said he believed he was "so far removed" from the issue, that he was unaware the floor stripper and waxing products had caused such a large problem.

"We have to work together to find a solution ... it's the same old thing," he said, referencing the Board of Education's recent discussion as to whether the town should be providing more assistance to maintaining the school grounds. "If we have a responsibility [to pay], we'll share that responsibility."

Sklarz also explained that since the incident, he and White ordered "a cease" to discharging any of the products or material into the sewers until further investigation is done as to whether they were the cause of the blockage or not. (Like White, the superintendent added that the same products have been used for the last 10 years, before the problems started.)

The Water Pollution Control Authority, Hughes explained, has asked to be on the agenda at the next Board of Education meeting to discuss the matter with Sklarz and board members.

"We're hopefully moving in the right direction," he said.

Sklarz agreed.

"I always believe it's better when people work together," he added. "When we problem-solve together, we do things faster and get a lot more things done."

Fresca Brings Mexican Fusion and Fresh Fare to Colchester

by Julianna Roche

Jen Marrozzi and Po Fong, co-owners of Colchester's new Mexican fusion restaurant Fresca Tequila Bar & Grill, have worked together in the restaurant industry for nearly three decades, beginning when Marrozzi took a job as a bus girl in Fong's parents' restaurant at age 15.

"We grew up together," she said, adding that over the years, the pair started talking about their own dreams of opening a restaurant together. When Fong's mother decided to sell their business, Hung Won, Marrozzi and Fong decided to take the leap.

"We went out for dinner that night and Po called me the next morning and said 'why don't we just do this,'" Marrozzi explained.

So, the pair bought the eatery, and in March, renovations to the space began. By July, the restaurant was open to the public – serving up a wide variety of Mexican inspired dishes fused with other cuisines created with homemade stock, garden-fresh herbs and salsas, flavorful meats and seafood, and of course, carefully-crafted margaritas.

When guests first enter Fresca, they'll be greeted by "Mrs. Uttersworth" – a wooden cow who has quickly become the restaurant's mascot and whose name was chosen from entries submitted during a naming contest Marrozzi and Fong hosted on Facebook.

To the right side of the entryway is a bright and spacious dining room with beige ceiling lamps hanging above farmhouse style tables and accented by succulents of various sizes and Gustav Klimt paintings hanging on the walls.

The dimly light cantina room – on the left side of the restaurant – is an elegant contrast to the dining room, with dark flooring, a fireplace with surrounding seating, and a wood-paneled bar fully stocked with tequilas made from 100 percent blue agave.

For drinks, Marrozzi explained, in addition to its spicy margaritas, "Fresca-ritas," and Moscow mules, Fresca also serves cocktails made with premium liquors including Absolut and Tanqueray, as well as a variety of craft beers from local breweries, including Stony Creek,

Stubborn Beauty, Counterweight and Two Roads.

She furthered that she and Fong also try to use locally-sourced ingredients for their Mexican fusion fare as much as possible, which consist of steaks and meats from The Lucky Goat Butcher Shop in East Hampton, seafood from Louie's Seafood in Colchester, and recently – a "Swanky Sauce" from Simon Says Farm in Salem.

"We thought Mexican fusion with a lot of fresh street tacos, fresh ingredients that we could marry with other [cuisines]," Marrozzi said. "We just really wanted fresh flavors and something really different than what's in the area so that's how we came up with the concept."

For example, Fong – who also owns Po's Rice & Spice in East Hampton – has a lifetime of experience cooking Asian cuisine, while Marrozzi has an Italian background.

The menu incorporates both cuisines, as well as others, to offer guests a wide range of tasty items such as Mexican egg rolls – with corn, spinach, black beans, cheese and an avocado crema dipping sauce; a twist on poutine with pig ear potatoes, Modelo gravy, queso and a fried egg; and an assortment of street tacos which include everything from Korean barbecue short-rib and oyster po'boy to al pastor pork and wild mushroom with Cotija cheese and garlic.

"Mexican fusion is a newer concept for [many] people [aged] 50 and above," Marrozzi said. "Some people come in here and think it's just a Mexican restaurant and get disappointed when they don't see fajitas on the menu."

However, Marrozzi explained the menu will change seasonally, with the fall/winter menu premiering Sept. 18 – which will feature "comfort foods" including a duck mole, seafood paella, and a barbecue ribs dinner with slaw and "potatoes mashed," as well as hot coffee-style drinks.

"We really just want to be ever-changing, keeping up the quality [of food and service] with seasonal menus," she continued, adding there is also a kid's menu with a cheese quesadilla and organic chicken tenders.



Co-owners of Colchester's new Mexican fusion restaurant Fresca Jen Marrozzi, left, and Po Fong will celebrate their grand opening this weekend, Sept. 15-17.

Marrozzi furthered that while it's Fong who mostly runs the kitchen, with her focusing on the "front of the house" – or the bar and restaurant itself – the pair has agreed on one thing.

"You have to know food costs, there's staffing, you have to be able to manage your time... I think that's why a lot of different restaurants fail – because it's hard to have all those things in one person. You're usually one or the other," she said. "But [Fong and I] really balance each other well. [We] want everyone to leave with a good experience."

* * *

Fresca Tequila Bar & Grill, located at 232 New London Rd., Colchester, is open Tuesday

through Saturday from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Sundays from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., with Happy Hour from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The restaurant is closed Mondays.

This weekend, Sept. 15-17, Fresca will hold its grand opening to celebrate its success over the last two months, as well as Mexico's Independence Day on Sept. 16. Give-aways, drink specials, food specials, entertainment, and much more will be provided.

For more information, call 860-531-9234 or visit frescabarandgrill.com or [facebook.com/frescatequilabar](https://www.facebook.com/frescatequilabar), or follow it on Instagram at [@frescatequilabar](https://www.instagram.com/frescatequilabar).

Chatham Party Aims to Bring "Civility Back"

by Elizabeth Regan

The Chatham Party is ready to take back control of the East Hampton Town Council after four years of being shut out at the voting booth.

The independent third party, which has continually run candidates since it was formed over a decade ago, failed to win any seats in the past two municipal elections.

The Chatham Party won a council majority in its first election just months after it was formed in 2005 and again in 2011.

Chatham Party Chairman Kyle Dostaler is hoping the party's five candidates for the council will put the third party on top again.

Dostaler is joined by Sue Weintraub, Derek Johnson, Scott Minnick, and Tyler Kania as candidates for the Town Council. Mary Ann Dostaler is running for the school board.

"The biggest thing we brought back to the Town Council that was missing was civility. And we are going to be bringing civility back to the town council again," Kyle Dostaler said this week.

Dostaler cited a fiery disagreement between councilors Ted Hintz Jr. and James "Pete" Brown that spilled into the middle school hallway following an April council meeting. Raised voices and obscenities could be heard by other council members and the public.

"That's a prime example of Ted Hintz and Pete Brown and how they treat each other and how they treat others," Dostaler said. "It's pretty typical of this council."

He ascribed the fractious relationships on the council to a sense of privilege: "They think they can get away with it – and they certainly have, because nobody's called them on it."

Dostaler said the Chatham Party's strength is in its political diversity. The slate has registered Republican, Democrat and Independent candidates who "know how to work together."

He cited the high school renovation project

as one of the party's biggest successes. The ribbon was cut on the new building last week.

"If it wasn't for the Chatham Party, that never would have gotten off the ground," Dostaler said.

The Chatham Party-led Town Council passed a resolution to form a High School Building Committee in 2012.

The project was approved at referendum by 55 percent of the voters in 2013.

Dostaler acknowledged the referendum victory may have turned some people against them that same year, when no Chatham Party candidates won election.

"A lot of people were angry with us for getting that passed at referendum. And of course a lot of people were happy with us, but the people that were happy with us didn't come out and vote enough," he said.

Now, he thinks the town is ready for the return of the Chatham Party.

"In previous campaign seasons, people asked us who was running," he said. "This time people asked us to run."

Sound fiscal management is at the crux of the party's platform, according to Dostaler. He said the current town council has used hundreds of thousands of dollars set aside in a mill rate stabilization fund to reduce the effect of the high school renovation project on taxpayers.

The council used \$1.25 million of the \$1.35 million mill rate stabilization fund since the 2015 election, according to the town website. The council put \$400,000 toward reducing the property tax burden from the high school project, while using \$717,099 for a ladder truck and \$128,000 for architectural services related to the proposed town hall and police department.

Councilors decided in late 2015 to pay for a

ladder truck for the fire department outright instead of leasing it. The finance board and Finance Director Jeff Jylkka had recommended a lease program.

"It's unacceptable for Town Council members to continue ignoring the expert advice of Jeff Jylkka," Dostaler said. "You can't ignore what an expert is saying to you when you are not one yourself."

He pointed to the Town Council Budget Policy Statement as the guiding force in establishing and sticking to an effective fiscal plan.

The policy statement is an annual outline of budget goals required by charter. The exercise is meant to provide guidance to the Board of Finance, the town manager, and the Board of Education over the course of the budget process.

The current council's one-page policy statement is "a joke," according to Dostaler.

The 2011-13 policy statement from the Chatham Party-led council was four pages of specific guidance for town directors and staff relating to policies, spending, savings, and program improvements.

"It was an outline for the how the Town Council wanted the town to move forward," he said.

It also provides a framework against which to measure the performance of the town manager, who is accountable to the council.

While some members of the council have complained Town Manager Michael Maniscalco has too much decision-making discretion, Dostaler argued a more thorough and effective budget policy statement would have guaranteed the desired level of council oversight.

* * *

All but one of the Chatham Party candidates have held elected office.

Dostaler, a registered Democrat, is a self-employed web developer. He served on the council from 2005-07 and again from 2011-13.

Weintraub, who served three terms on the council, was chairman for one. A registered Democrat, Weintraub is a self-employed advertising professional.

Johnson is a two-term council member with the Chatham Party. The registered Republican is an attorney and a faculty member in the economics department at University of Connecticut. Johnson serves on the Epoch Arts Board of Directors.

Minnick, a French teacher in Glastonbury, served two terms on the council and one term on the school board. He is registered with the Chatham Party.

Independent voter Kania, a newcomer to town and the Chatham Party, works for Atlantic Data Security.

The Chatham Party's lone school board candidate, Mary Ann Dostaler, founded MAD Communications 20 years ago. She is president of the marketing and development company.

Mary Ann Dostaler served one term on the Board of Finance and is a current member of the Brownfields Redevelopment Agency. She is a past chairman of the Economic Development Commission. She's a registered Democrat.

The bleak state budget picture and the resulting reduction in school funding means the coming years will be dominated by budget conversations, according to Dostaler.

"With the changes that are absolutely going to be happening in terms of how budgets are funded at the local level, there are important decisions that are going to have to be made," she said. "They all revolve around the financing of education."

‘Festival in the Village’ Coming Soon in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

Ideas about how to revitalize the Village Center have run the gamut from installing a 16-foot-tall clock on Main Street to rehabbing one or more existing buildings to serve as a municipal hub.

While those concepts have yet to come to fruition, a group of residents are spearheading an event to bring the heart of Belltown back to its former glory – even if it’s only for a day.

The 250th Anniversary Committee has teamed up with the Parks and Recreation Department to host the “Festival in the Village” on Sunday, Oct. 7, from noon-5 p.m.

Event organizer Robyn Letourneau moved to town about three years ago from Marlborough.

“I didn’t know how charming the village was until I moved to East Hampton,” she said. “That’s kind of what sparked this whole thing.”

There will be vendor booths and entertainment on the Center School grounds, with various attractions at businesses and organizations throughout the Village Center.

Farmers, artists, crafters, small businesses and local civic organizations will be among those with booths at Center School. Letourneau said there is still space for more vendors.

From a library book sale and an Epoch Arts open house on one side of the Village Center to a music scene that alternates between the Cen-

ter School grounds and the side lot of the Old Bank Flowers and Greenery, Letourneau said the event will unite the Village Center and welcome visitors from all over.

The Chatham Historical Society museum will be open from 2-4 p.m. on 6 Bevin Blvd. A historical presentation is also in the works, according to Letourneau.

The Joseph N. Goff House Museum and Culture Center will feature an exhibit on the founding of Chatham in 1767. The town was renamed East Hampton in 1915.

Letourneau said she got the idea to put on the large-scale, all-encompassing festival when she saw the list of smaller events happening throughout the year in celebration of the town’s 250th anniversary.

“I wanted it to be an arts-focused, history-focused coming together of everyone,” Letourneau said.

She credited the Parks and Recreation Department with handling the procedural aspects of holding a large event in town.

Letourneau originally envisioned a block party with a section of the Village Center closed to traffic, but the logistics of securing state permits proved too time-consuming.

“So we pulled back a little, but it hasn’t deterred anyone from getting involved,” she

added.

Lori Caldwell, owner of Old Bank Flowers and Greenery, used eight years’ experience as a founder of the Strawberry Festival to help line up five musical acts so far.

Caldwell said last year’s Strawberry Festival, which was sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, drew 2,000 visitors. Translating that success into a Fall Festival to honor the town’s 250th Anniversary was a natural choice, she said.

Caldwell promised the Strawberry Festival will return next year.

The musical lineup begins at 11:30 a.m. with The Last Rhino, an eclectic rock band playing original music and songs from artists ranging from Coldplay to Sting.

Other acts include Ken Strobel, playing acoustic pop, folk and country music; Jacob Wiseman, who describes himself as “Beatlesesque”; Foxy, an alternative/jazzy funk band; pianist Eric Heath and vocalist Sarah Puzzo; and the “original jazzy jamz” of gigglejuice.

Letourneau emphasized the importance of the event as a way to celebrate the town’s history and help inspire a bright future for the Village Center.

“It’s just so beautiful. And it needs a little bit

of love,” she said.

Businesses, vendors and organizations interested in booth space at the festival should contact Letourneau at letourneau.robyn@gmail.com for more information. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 20.

* * *

The Congregational Church of East Hampton will hold its annual autumn event the same day from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lisa Aarrestad, of the Congregational Church of East Hampton, emphasized the church’s annual festival is separate from the 250th anniversary festival.

The church festival is one of its big fundraisers, according to Aarrestad.

While the church event is separate from the “Festival in the Village,” Aarrestad said she hopes everyone will benefit by increased attendance.

The church festival will include vendors and crafters on the church green, while an array of chocolate-themed options will be sold inside the church. A Holiday/Unique Boutique will feature gently-used items.

Breakfast sandwiches are on the morning menu and Aarrestad says she expects soup will be served for lunch.

Andover Sixth-Graders Offered New D.A.R.E. Curriculum

by Lauren Yandow

Andover Elementary School Principal John Briody this week announced some big changes to their D.A.R.E. program.

Connecticut State Police Trooper Abigail Belcher, the town’s interim Resident State Trooper, will teach the program.

Belcher is serving in place of Trooper Robert O’Connor, who was removed as D.A.R.E. instructor at the request of Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen following allegations of a sexual relationship with the parent of an Andover elementary school student. O’Connor was temporarily reassigned to the Tolland state police barracks, according to state police.

Briody said the program, which used to be introduced after winter break, will begin as early as Sept. 25.

“We want to try something a little bit different than we’ve done in the past by introducing D.A.R.E. classes earlier in the year,” he said at Wednesday’s Board of Education meeting.

Classes will feature a whole new D.A.R.E. curriculum, said Briody.

According to the official D.A.R.E. website – www.dare.org – the new curriculum teaches “decision-making skills” instead of giving “drug lectures.”

The program is “much more research-based,” said Briody, with team building skills and an “emphasis on family.”

Doyen described it as a “broader, deeper pro-

gram.”

By giving students the tools earlier in the school year, Briody said it lets students and teachers reference substance use prevention throughout the year.

At the start of Wednesday’s meeting, the board and school administration in attendance were treated to an outdoor field trip with Preschool Teacher Jennie Morrell.

Morrell showed how the school administration has created an outdoor learning area with funds from a state Smart Start Grant awarded to the town through the Office of Early Childhood. The town received \$75,000 in Capital Improvement Funding (CIP) and gets \$65,000 annually in Operations Funding for the next seven years, for a \$530,000 total.

Changes included the addition of an outdoor classroom housed under a pavilion, a new sandbox with moldable sand, and striping of the blacktop.

After the tour, Assistant Principal and Director of Special Education Suzanne Guglietta gave an update on the remaining funds from the state Smart Start Grant. About \$18,000 remains in the capital improvement account, she said. Guglietta and the preschool team are still determining how to spend the money in order to “have the greatest impact on student learning, growth and development,” she added.

Some possibilities include the addition of

outdoor garden boxes, a painting easel, sensory table and a music center to complement the current outdoor learning center.

At the meeting, Doyen made a request for Board of Education Chairwoman Shannon Loudon to apply for a grant from the Connecticut School Security Competitive Grant Program. The board unanimously authorized Loudon to move forward with the application for the grant, which Doyen said would help offset nearly \$79,000 that was spent over the last two years on items related to safety and security of the school building. If approved, the grant would cover up to 60 percent of the security update cost, or up to \$47,400.

During the meeting, the board celebrated the outcome of an Andover Elementary School 2017 survey created by the School Climate Committee. The survey polled parents, staff and students by asking on a scale of 1 to 5 what they liked about school and where the school could make improvements. For example, parents were asked how welcome they feel, while students were asked if they feel learning can be fun.

School Climate Committee members Jen Hebert, Jennie Morrell and Lisa Robinson presented a slideshow of the results at the meeting.

The slideshow displayed the responses of 38 out of 50 staff members who participated in the

survey. Those staff members found their co-workers to be “very helpful, respectful, kind and caring.” Another aspect staff most appreciated is the school’s small class sizes.

A total of 63 parents took part in the survey. Some of their top responses were the speedy response to calls and emails and how their child’s teacher respected their student.

As for students, the survey was given to 68 third and sixth graders. Responses from students include “my principal cares about me” and “my teacher believes I can learn.”

According to the School Climate Committee, the survey results presented no significant concerns, but areas of continued improvement were noted by staff. Those suggestions include keeping up with effective communication skills and establishing and enforcing clear rules for students.

Doyen called the survey a “very handy” tool for providing data and feedback.

An election for Board of Education officers for the 2017-18 year also took place at the meeting. Loudon was unanimously reelected chairwoman; Gerard Crème was unanimously elected vice chairman; and Lisa Hewitt was unanimously elected board secretary.

The next Board of Education meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Andover Elementary School Library, 35 School Rd, Andover.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

"I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way.

Show them all the beauty they possess inside."

These were the opening lines to Whitney Houston's mid-80s hit "The Greatest Love of All." Well, after a recent action by President Trump, I guess we really should only consider U.S.-born children our future. The rest can get the heck out.

Yes, Trump's announcement that he was cancelling the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is fairly old news at this point, but I was on vacation last week so I couldn't opine about it then. And I'm still so upset about it I wanted to share my thoughts.

Revoking DACA is hopelessly, pointlessly cruel. The program was established by President Obama in 2012 to give young undocumented immigrants, who were brought to this country as children, the chance to live, work and study here legally. But now Trump and his conservative cronies want to send these people back to countries they in many cases have no memory of.

These people had no control over moving here; they were brought here by their parents who were in search of a better life for their progeny — parents who probably never dreamed that one day their children wouldn't be welcome here.

The words "Give me your poor, your tired, your huddled masses yearning to be free" have famously been a part of the Statue of Liberty for 100 years. There was a point in time when we as a country embraced those words. The fact that many now aren't just makes me very sad.

It was no shock that Trump wants to scrap DACA. After all, his campaign relied heavily on anti-immigration and xenophobic thoughts. He tapped into, and exploited, his supporters' fears — un-

founded fears that immigrants were taking their jobs, and that they were leading to more crime. It was only a matter of time before he followed up on his campaign promises to clamp down on illegal immigration.

And to be fair, there was plenty of pressure on him to do so. According to *The New Yorker*, a group of 10 conservative attorneys general threatened to file a lawsuit against DACA, claiming it to be unconstitutional. The U.S. attorney general, Jeff Sessions, a staunch opponent of DACA, was rumored to be advising the 10.

So Trump decided to give DACA six more months and then it's history. He sent Sessions out to deliver the message, and the former senator all too eagerly shot down DACA, saying it had "denied jobs to hundreds of thousands of Americans" (not true: a 2016 study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine concluded that immigrants have little impact on American jobs) and that the failure of previous administrations to enforce immigration laws "has put our nation at risk of crime, violence, and terrorism," a statement as xenophobic as it is misleading. Anyone convicted of a serious crime is not eligible for the DACA program.

Trump's supporters no doubt cheered, while the rest of us shook our heads in dismay. Denying immigrants the right to give their children a better life in America seems so utterly out-of-step with the America I learned about growing up.

Those aforementioned words "Give me your poor, your tired, your huddled masses yearning to be free" was good enough for Lady Liberty 100 years ago. It's too bad that, in 2017, it's no longer good enough for the president of the United States.

* * *

See you next week.

Health and Safety Fair Returns to Marlborough

by Julianna Roche

The Health and Safety Fair is returning to Marlborough this weekend — and the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) and Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association are gearing up for a weekend full of vendors, interactive activities for children, and food, all free of charge to the public.

MVFD Rescue Captain Mark Merritt said while the event typically attracts anywhere from 600 to 800 people, he's hoping for even more to attend this year.

"I can't think of a reason not to come," he said. "If you have kids, everything that's available to you in your community as far as childhood programs will all be available to people under one roof."

For example, Merritt explained that the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) will be hosting a program that puts together packages with important health information on children in the event that they are kidnapped.

"If your child is ever abducted, you just hand the packet to the state police and they have everything," Merritt explained, adding that includes everything from their height and weight, to the way they speak and their dental imprints.

"Nothing gets kept in a database. It's just handed to you [because] as we well learned, data breaches are so prevalent today," he added.

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Women's Auxiliary is also sponsoring the Hartford Hospital Mobile Mammography coach during the fair — which gives women an opportunity to walk in and receive a mammography.

"It's for free if they don't have insurance ... and if you haven't had one and you have a history of [breast cancer] in your family, you can get it done right in the center of town," Merritt

explained, adding there are still appointments available; however, the auxiliary will also take walk-ins.

For children, the fair will also feature "a lot of interactive" activities, including a smoke escape trailer, which was donated to the town by Foxwoods Casino.

Merritt explained that the inside of the trailer, which mimics a bedroom inside a home, fills up with smoke and gives children the opportunity to learn fire escape routes should they ever be involved in a fire.

"It fills with the smoke and the kids upstairs in bed either have to come downstairs or go out the window by a ladder," he continued.

Merritt added that between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., there will be free hot dogs and hamburgers provided to the public, and snacks and drinks will be provided throughout the day.

"We just hope more people come out," Merritt said. "It's going to be a beautiful weekend [and] we just try to make it as appetizing for people as possible."

Other vendors featured at the fair will include a Lifestar helicopter, Car Seat Clinic by Windham Safe Kids, a Jaws of Life demonstration, live fire demonstration, fire extinguisher demonstration, AHM Youth Services, a fire apparatus, Middlesex Paramedics, a SWAT truck by the Connecticut State Police, and a state police rollover simulator.

* * *

The Health and Safety Fair, hosted by the Marlborough Fire Department and, will be held Sunday, Sept. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the fire station in the center of town.

For more information, call Merritt at 860-295-9692.

Newington Man Found Dead Outside Marlborough Gas Station

by Julianna Roche

Police are investigating after a body was found outside a gas station in Marlborough last Thursday, Sept. 7.

According to police, 32-year-old Newington resident Jesse Petronio was discovered by troopers outside of the Citgo gas station on 394 N. Main St. at approximately 11:16 a.m.

Police said he was found to be "unresponsive" sitting in the driver's seat of a parked truck.

Petronio had no pulse and while live-sav-

ing measures were attempted by on scene personnel, he was pronounced dead at the scene at approximately 11:49 a.m. by Middlesex Hospital paramedics, according to police.

Police said there appeared to be "no criminal aspect" in his death and as of Wednesday this week, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is still conducting an autopsy to determine his cause of death. The examiner's office said it expects to have results in the next eight weeks.

East Hampton Police News

8/31: Ryan Denis Roussel, 21, of 35 Viola Dr., turned himself in pursuant to an active arrest warrant and was charged with failure to respond, East Hampton Police said.

9/4: Mariano S. Santiago, 19, of 60 Edgerton St., was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

Also, from Aug. 28-Sept. 3, officers responded to nine medical calls, eight motor vehicle crashes and five alarms, and made nine traffic stops.

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Police News

9/2: State Police said Jonathan Garrett, 40, of 32 Saner Rd., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

9/5: State Police said Connor T. Martin, 23, of 251 Gilead St., Hebron, was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

9/5: State Police said Nancy Derds-Laflamme, 56, of 17 Boulder Rd., Colchester, was arrested and charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle, improper use of license/registration, insurance coverage fails to meet minimum requirements, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol, illegal operation of a motor vehicle without an ignition device, and failure to drive at reasonable distance.

Pedestrian Clings to Moving Vehicle Door in Colchester

by Julianna Roche

A teen grabbed onto the door handle of another teen's car as she passed him, hanging onto it briefly before falling into the roadway last weekend, state police said.

According to police, just after 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, a 17-year-old was driving north on Old Amston Road, near the intersection with Route 85, "at a very slow speed," when Anthony Feliciano, 16, of 20 Old Hebron Rd. began walking directly into the roadway.

Police said the roadway at the time was clear and there were no adverse weather conditions.

As the 17-year-old attempted to drive past Feliciano, he grabbed the driver side door handle, causing her to attempt to drive away, according to police.

Police said Feliciano continued to hang onto the car for a short distance before falling in the roadway.

The 17-year-old's car did not sustain any visible damage, while Feliciano was transported by Colchester Hayward Fire Department to Backus Hospital for suspected minor injuries. He was also issued a violation for reckless use of the highway.

Andover Police News

9/1: State Police said at approximately 2:53 p.m., they were dispatched to Shadblow Lane for a report of a residential burglary, during which it was determined that a freestanding stainless steel Maytag range was stolen. The incident is currently under investigation and anyone with information is asked to contact Trooper Lukasz Kowalczyk at 860-465-5400, extension 4052.

Colchester Police News

9/8: State Police said Tiffany J. Dellacamera, 29, of 116 Union St., Deep River, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

9/9: State Police said Rommel Chavez, 40, of 11 King Arthur Dr., Niantic, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration/license.

Obituaries

Hebron

Richard Gunnar Nelson Jr.

Richard Gunnar Nelson Jr., "Dick," 73, of Hebron, beloved husband of Lorraine (Bricault) Nelson, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 6. Born Oct. 6, 1943, in Gardner, Mass., he was the son of the late Richard and Janet (Urbanski) Nelson.



In addition to his loving wife of nearly 51 years, he leaves three children, David of Hebron, Brian and wife, Sharon of Colchester and Mea Kline and her husband, Neal of East Haddam; five grandchildren, Darren, Alyssa, Christopher, Myles and Aaron; his brother, Mark of Salem; his mother-in-law, Lucille Bricault of Hebron; and numerous extended family and friends.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by a daughter, Julie; and his sister-in-law, Lisa Nelson.

A draftsman, Mr. Nelson worked as a tool designer for many years at both Electric Boat in Groton and most recently, Electro-Methods in South Windsor. He had also served proudly with the National Guard. Dick was an avid fan of both the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots. In his retirement, he enjoyed spending time with his friends at the Greenleaf in Hebron but always found his greatest joy in his family.

The family received guests Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. A chapel service was observed during the visitation. Burial was private in St. Peter's Cemetery, Hebron.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be to the National MS Society, P.O. Box 4527, New York, NY 10163 (nationalmssociety.org).

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Lynne Ann Geres

Lynne Ann Geres, 52, of Portland, passed away on September 5th, 2017 after a courageous battle with cancer.



Lynne was born and raised in East Hartford and graduated from Penney High School in 1982. On her graduation night, she was introduced to the love of her life, John, whom she later married Oct. 7, 1989. Together, she and John had a son, Andrew, and a daughter, Morgan.

Outside of her immediate family, Lynne is also survived by her older brother and his wife, Glenn and Mary Symkowitz of East Hartford; her older sister, Donna Mikkelson of East Hartford; her mother-in-law, Doris Geres of East Hartford; and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews. She is predeceased by her parents, Edward and Pauline (Kowal) Symkowitz, and her brother, Richard Symkowitz. Through all her actions, it was evident that she placed great importance on her family.

She worked as an administrative assistant for over 25 years, and as of most recent, she was employed by Whittlesey & Hadley in Hartford. She was a hard worker and took much pride in all she did - whether it was for work or for household projects. She was an avid tag sale enthusiast and took great pleasure in fixing up what others no longer cared for. Lynne was known for her humor, her thoughtfulness, and for her luminous presence everywhere she went - she will be dearly missed by all.

The funeral was held Saturday, Sept. 9, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial that morning in St. Mary's Church, Portland. Burial was in the family plot at the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Friends called at the funeral home on Friday, Sept. 8.

The family would like to thank the caring staff at Hartford Hospital and the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center.

Marlborough

Barbara Ann Rose

Barbara Ann Rose, 89, of Marlborough, formerly of Hebron and Bolton, passed away Monday, Sept. 11, at the Marlborough Health Care Center, where she had been residing. Born in Stafford Springs Dec. 5, 1927, she was a daughter of the late Walter and Bertha (Gilman) Jones.



Barbara married the late George Ormond Rose Jr. June 28, 1952. The couple shared 60 years of marriage before he predeceased her April 11, 2012.

Mrs. Rose retired several years ago after having worked as a machinist for Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford and later for Mercury Machine and Tool in Andover. Barbara loved to read and crochet, but most importantly, she was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered by her children and their spouses, Sari-lin and her husband, Tore of South Carolina, George and his wife, Beverly Rose of Hebron and Lawrence and his wife, Gia Rose of Virginia; a brother, Walter Jones; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by three siblings, Clover Tripoli and Robert and Jackie Jones.

In keeping with her wishes, funeral services will be omitted and a celebration with a party will be held in Barbara's honor at a later date to be announced. Donations in her memory may be made to the Douglas Library, 22 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248.

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Dolores Bromley

Dolores "Dolly" (Lebedin) Bromley, 76, of East Hampton, passed away Saturday, Sept. 9. Dolly was born Oct. 9, 1940, in Lowell, Mass., to the late John G. and Yvette (Banville) Lebedin.



She was a devoted mother and companion and is survived by her life partner (of 30 years), Charles "Buddy" Lavigne; five children, Shelly Brockett and her husband Joseph of Lebanon, Pamela Gamache and her husband Mark of Lebanon, Sandra Campbell and her husband Lewis of Lebanon, Donna Patterson and her husband Daniel of Windham, and Jeffrey Bromley of Willimantic; in addition she is survived by her three siblings, Jacqueline Struck of Indiana, Richard Lebedin of Georgia and Sandra Crocker of Columbia; she was adored by her 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews and her extended Lavigne family. Dolly was predeceased by a brother, John Lebedin Jr. She cherished spending quality time with each and every member of her family.

Dolly was a longtime employee with the State of Connecticut with the Chief Public Defenders Offices in Hartford and Middletown, where she retired in 2003. She was an avid reader and could often be found with her favorite book and a glass of iced coffee. Dolly also loved bird-watching with Buddy and taking drives with no particular destination. She was an amazing cook and loved hosting large family dinners. Dolly was an excellent swimmer and was known for swimming the width of Marlborough lake where she grew up.

Dolly's family and friends meant everything to her. She was a gentle, kind soul and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Dolly's family will receive relatives and friends Saturday, Sept. 16, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. (Route 195), Willimantic, with a memorial service beginning at 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

For an online memorial guestbook, visit potterfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Mark Edward Dellert

Mark Edward Dellert, a retired carpenter at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, passed away Sunday, Sept. 10, at the age of 62. Mark was a former resident of Glastonbury for many years, more recently of Hebron.



Mark is survived by his parents, Edward and Lee Dellert of Glastonbury; his children, Rebecca, and her fiancé John E. Simeone, Mark and Kyle, all of Rocky Hill; his sister and her husband, Robert and Lynne Mincarelli of Glastonbury; and his niece, nephew, many cousins and friends. He is predeceased by his grandparents, Angelo and Clorinda Panicali of Buffalo, N.Y., and Edward and Evelyn Dellert of West Hartford.

Mark was a devoted father. He was also an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing and hunting. He loved animals, keeping a thriving garden and playing setback.

A period of visitation to celebrate Mark's life was held Thursday, Sept. 14, at Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury. Burial is private and at the convenience of the family.

Donations in lieu of flowers should be directed in memoriam of Mark E. Dellert to the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20045 / trcp.org or Camp Claire, P.O. Box 702, Old Lyme, CT 06371 / campclaire.org.

To leave an online condolence, visit glastonburyfuneral.com.

Colchester

Robert E. Bennett

Robert E. Bennett, 82, of Old Willimantic Road in Columbia, passed away Sunday, Aug. 27, late at night, at Colchester Apple Rehab.

He was predeceased by his wife, Rosemary (O'Brien) Bennett, who passed away in January 2014. He is survived by his children: son Robert B. Bennett, daughter Cheryl Small, daughter Brenda Jones, and daughter Debra Archambault. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Kyle Small, Chris Small, Justin Small, Crystal Small, Sean Small, Adam Durocher, Beth Durocher, and Amber Archambault; and great-granddaughter Rose; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Robert served in the Army and was stationed in Germany during his time of service. He loved everything to do with being outside, whether it was fishing, boating, or working in his yard. Robert also loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Robert was known for being a joker and was guaranteed to make you laugh whenever you talked with him.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Oct. 1, at 2:30 p.m., at First Congregational Church of Windham, located at the intersection of Route 203 and Route 14, Windham Center. There are no calling hours.

Portland

Patricia M. Blancato

Patricia M. Blancato, 76, of Newington, formerly of Portland, wife of Paul Blancato, died Saturday, Sept. 9, in Middletown. Born Dec. 20, 1940, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Edward and Evelyn (Davis) Mitchell.

Patricia had been a resident of Portland for 54 years before moving to Newington. She was a member of St. Mary Church, Portland, and had retired in 1996 from Rocky Hill Veterans Home and Hospital as a C.N.A.

Besides her husband, Patricia is survived by two sons, Paul E. Blancato of Harrisburg, Pa., John and daughter-in-law Jacquelyn Blancato of Southington; and daughter Sheila A. Blancato of Newington. She is also survived by her brother, Dennis Mitchell of Middletown; four grandchildren, Laura, Torie, Joshua and Abigail; and also several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be held today, Sept. 15, at 10 a.m., in St. Sebastian Cemetery, Middlefield. There are no calling hours.

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

Portland

Roberta Adams

Roberta "Bobbe" May (Hubel) Adams, 90, of Portland, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Adolph and Lillian (Morrison) Hubel.

A resident of Portland for 67 years, Bobbe was an active member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Portland, and worked at Color Mart in Middletown for over 30 years. In her leisure time, she enjoyed arts and crafts and traveled extensively throughout the world. She also enjoyed spending time with her children at their house in the Florida Keys.

Bobbe is survived by her children, W. Carter Adams III, Nancy Volpe, Jeffrey Adams and his wife Lori, and Roberta Inferrera and her husband James, all of Portland; her brother, Roy Hubel of Colorado; her grandchildren, Holly, Kristofer, Zachary, Gabe, Ashley, Nicole, Benjamin; four great-grandchildren; and her beloved dog Bandit.

Besides her parents, Bobbe was predeceased by her husband, Walter C. Adams Jr., and two brothers, Frank Hubel and Bruce Hubel.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Sept. 15, at 10 a.m., at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, Main Street, Portland. Interment will be at Buckland Cemetery in Manchester. Friends and family called Thursday, Sept. 14, at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in honor of Bobbe to Middlesex Hospice or The Portland Food Bank.

Colchester

Edna Leader

Edna "Roz" Leader of Mystic died Sunday, Sept. 10, at Apple Rehab in Colchester after an extended illness.

She was born Feb. 22, 1925, the daughter of Sam and Ida Gottlieb. She was a lifelong Connecticut resident. Early in her life she lived on the family farm in Colchester. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Connecticut and Master's of Education at Eastern Connecticut State University. She became a social worker and teacher, specializing in teaching reading at Winthrop and Edgerton Elementary Schools in New London.

She loved visiting with family and friends, traveling, reading, and baseball. She was a devotee of dogs and working for the synagogue.

She is survived by son, Joseph Leader and daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, of Salem; son, Scott Leader and daughter-in-law, Karen, of Las Vegas, Nev.; and grandson, Robert, and granddaughter, Rachel, also of Las Vegas, Nev. She is also survived by four nieces and a nephew. In addition to her parents, brothers, Milton and Leonard, and a son, William Leader, predeceased her.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Apple Rehab Colchester for their kind and devoted care during her stay there.

Graveside services will be held at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 13, at Ahavath Chesed Cemetery in Waterford.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Temple Emanu-El, 29 Dayton Road, Waterford, CT 06385 or the Jimmy Fund, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168.

Visit Byles.com to sign the guestbook or to share a memory.