

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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The Beat Goes On... Colchester Continentals Fife and Drum Corps director Wayne Seidel gave kids the opportunity to try out the drums at the Colchester 57 Fest last Saturday. A full story about this year's festival appears on page 15.

Issues Still Surround St. Clements Fire

by Elizabeth Regan

The investigation by the East Hampton fire marshal's office into a June fire at the Port-Hampton Marina Club at St. Clements Castle has been closed, but some local officials say a broader investigation into issues surrounding the fire is ongoing.

East Hampton Deputy Fire Marshal Joe Guest told the *Rivereast* on Sept. 11 his investigation into the cause and origin of the fire is complete, but he could not discuss details until the release of the formal report expected later that week.

The report was still unavailable as of press time.

A June 25 kitchen fire in the 7,788-square-foot clubhouse of the marina club reignited local oversight of the facility that officials say has been operating without the necessary zoning, building, food service and septic approvals for years.

Guest said the Office of the State Fire Marshal, which came out to the scene of the fire at the request of the East Hampton fire marshal's office, had also closed its cause and origin investigation.

There is no criminal aspect to the fire itself, according to Guest.

But he said local and state officials continue to look into the issue.

"There are many other departments involved," he said. "Whether or not anything happens from here on out, that remains to be seen."

According to the state Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the state fire marshal's investigation is still open.

East Hampton Police Chief Sean Cox said

the state is not looking at "traditional" criminal charges like arson or reckless endangerment.

But, he added, that does not rule out building code violations.

Violation of the Connecticut State Building Code is a crime, according to state statute. Each separate offense is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000, six months in prison, or both.

East Hampton Building Official Glen LeConche said this week he is not aware of "an active angle" involving building code violations as part of the state's fire investigation. But he said the state could be looking into it.

Board of Fire Commissioners Chairman Brett Salafia said Tuesday he had not yet received Guest's cause and origin report, but was told he'd have it by the end of this week.

Members of the East Hampton fire marshal's office are appointed and supervised by the fire commission, according to state statute. The Town Council appoints members of the commission.

Guest has not returned several calls about the status of the investigation report.

Local Involvement

Many of the questions surrounding the 49 Oakum Dock site revolve around the fact that the fire occurred in a building that was permitted and taxed as a storage facility.

A series of letters demanding an end to its use as a banquet facility began going out in July.

Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli informed the marina club's ownership on July 12 that using it for anything other than storage- or office-related purposes "is in direct viola-

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Racially-Charged Incidents Spark Discussion

by Julianna Roche

The picnic tables scattered along Colchester's Town Green received a makeover earlier this month with fresh coats of paint – but the reasoning behind the new-look tables isn't exactly cause for celebration.

What spurred the paintjob was the need to cover up racist and discriminatory graffiti that had been written onto the wood in magic marker.

"Colchester is for whites only" was the phrase resident Jess Stone stumbled upon early Sunday morning on Sept. 3 as she and her husband prepared the town green for the Colchester Farmers' Market, which runs every Sunday June through October.

"I ended up flipping the picnic table over to make it not usable," she explained this week, adding she also noticed a hand-drawn swastika on the wood. "I didn't want that on display. [The town green] is a community space so I didn't want people to look at that and read it."

According to Stone, she reported the graffiti to Town Hall that day in a phone message, and by the following weekend, she "didn't see the table again or it had been painted."

Public Works Director Jim Paggioli said this week that the department was informed of the graffiti and promptly painted over it. He said this was an uncharacteristic occurrence in Colchester.

"This is the first issue we've had with that type of thing," he said, adding that the motive behind the graffiti, which "appeared to be girl's handwriting," seemed "more juvenile than anything violent or anything of that nature."

Stone agreed that it was also the "first time" she had seen "anything of that nature" on the town green, but she still felt it "disturbing people would treat other people that way."

"I think there's a lot of need to continually remind people to spread awareness to people who aren't paying attention, who are making

statements and doing these outrageous acts," she furthered. "As a community, we need to call each other on it."

The graffiti discovered on the picnic table was just the first of two racially charged incidents in Colchester this month, with the latter occurring Saturday, Sept. 16 at the Stop & Shop on Linwood Avenue.

Officer Robert Suchecki – who also works as the Colchester schools' district resource officer – said he was not informed of the incident until two days after it allegedly occurred. He explained he only heard a third-hand report of a Facebook post written by a resident who claimed she witnessed several male juveniles wearing Bacon Academy T-shirts verbally harass a black man and his daughter while in the supermarket check-out aisle.

"We're attempting to get any information we can," he explained last week – but added the alleged victim never made a formal complaint

and police "need more than just third-handed information" to move forward.

Suchecki furthered that based on video footage obtained from Stop & Shop, there was "a man meeting the description of the victim with a small child in the check-out line," but due to the angle of the camera, "you can't see any interaction with anybody."

"If you witness something of this nature, call the police rather than resort to social media," he said, adding that by doing so, "it would help to solve the problem rather than perpetuate it."

Suchecki furthered that he worked closely with Bacon Academy Principal Matthew Peel to "look into the matter" as police, along with school administrators "take a situation like this very seriously" and that if it did indeed occur, "it's very disheartening."

Both racially-charged circumstances were also taken up by residents on the Facebook page

See Incidents page 2

St.Clements Fire cont. from Front Page tion” of local regulations and state law.

Despite the building’s status as a storage facility, fire inspections over the last several years recognized it as a place of assembly. Documents provided by the fire marshal’s office show it was authorized by Fire Marshal Richard Klotzbier in 2014 to accommodate up to 295 guests.

Chatham Health District Director Don Mitchell said in the days after the fire that the facility was not licensed by the health district to serve food and that he had seen violations related to the septic system.

He informed Saint Clements management via a July 21 letter that banquet functions “should hereby cease” until all necessary reviews, permits and inspections occur.

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

LeConche has said he saw a barbecue grill and turkey fryer with individual propane tanks on the back deck during a walk through the day after the fire.

Building department documents show a contractor submitted a mechanical permit application in May to run gas piping for an outdoor cooking setup made up of two pot heaters, a grill and a fryolator – but said later “the customer decided not to do the job.”

The site in the Cobalt section of town is part of the Saint Clements Castle and Marina. The brunt of the approximately 90-acre business falls on the Portland side of the border, where it is zoned commercial.

The castle has been a popular wedding venue for decades.

Saint Clements Castle and Marina is operated by the Roncalli Institute. Numerous businesses, nonprofit entities and trusts exist under the umbrella of the Roncalli Institute. Its chairman is Edward Doherty.

Liquor Control

Lora Rae Anderson, spokesman for the Department of Consumer Protection, said the agency is coordinating with the local zoning department to investigate the marina club’s liquor permit status.

DeCarli this week said he got the state liquor control division involved after his staff could not locate any record of a special permit for serving liquor at the site. He said bars visible in the clubhouse after the fire prompted him to look into the matter.

DeCarli attributed the lack of a permit to a misunderstanding by Saint Clements management – which has an active caterer liquor permit with the state – about the type of permit required for the facility.

A caterer permit allows a business to serve liquor at off-site events for which it has been hired.

Anderson said the liquor control division’s case involves the “alleged use of an unapproved area on the grounds for service and consumption of alcohol.”

The agency hopes to resolve the issue with the owner, she added.

Documents provided by the Department of Consumer Protection show Klotzbier submitted a fire inspection report for the building to the Liquor Control Board in November 2017 – even though there is no liquor permit on file for that address.

Klotzbier classified the “St. Clemen[t]’s Pavilion” as a food or beverage consumption occupancy and said no violations were identified

at the time.

Inspection reports are required for on-premises liquor permits, but not for caterer permits.

Anderson said receiving an inspection form for a site that doesn’t have an on-premises permit would not necessarily trigger review by the agency, but she emphasized staff responds promptly and thoroughly to any complaints from local officials.

Anderson said Tuesday the liquor control board case is ongoing. More details or a report will be available when the case is closed, she added.

‘A Good Position’

DeCarli said this week he is confident the site is not being used for banquets at this time.

“We’re in a good position with [Saint Clements] now and we’re happy about that,” he said.

When asked how the business could have been allowed to operate for several years without appropriate permits and licenses, DeCarli cited a history of poor communication between local departments prior to the current administration.

DeCarli, Mitchell and LeConche took their present positions over a year and a half ago.

Since then, DeCarli said they have been focused on improved interplay between staff members dedicated to building, zoning, public health and fire safety.

He also cited privacy issues as a “stumbling block” when it comes to identifying and resolving possible issues. He said he is unable to simply walk onto someone’s property to look for violations.

It often takes as complaint to bring a problem to light, according to DeCarli – and even then, he must be granted access to the property to find out more.

“The fire gave us the opportunity to go on there and really look and figure out what we had,” he said.

He acknowledged that fire inspection reports identifying the facility as an assembly space even though it was permitted as a storage facility illustrate a “discrepancy” between the different departments.

He said he has had discussions with Klotzbier about figuring out if there’s anywhere else in town such a situation may be occurring.

“We’re not aware of any at this moment,” DeCarli added.

He also emphasized he is guided by local zoning regulations and applicable state law, while Klotzbier is guided by the state fire code.

“They’re not always on the same page,” he said.

Zone Change Application

Now Roncalli Institute President Dan Loos is asking for a zone change to give the organization “more flexibility” to hold the kind of social events it was holding before the fire.

The request will be the subject of a public hearing next week as part of an application to change the property’s zoning from residential to commercial.

The public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission will be held Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m.

The 4.96-acre site was grandfathered into the current single-family residential zone because of its history as a marina.

The property is currently limited to holding marina-related functions, as opposed to wedding receptions and special events like the ones held on the Saint Clements Castle side of the property.



Racially-charged graffiti found on a picnic table on the Town Green was one of two recent incidents in town that have sparked a town-wide conversation on racial issues.

Incidents cont. from Front Page

“Keeping it All in Colchester” this month – which drew a heavy and often-backbiting discourse between those who believed the incidents were exaggerated and those who believed the discussion of race needed to be brought in the open.

“We don’t know what aspects were true [of the Stop & Shop incident] and what were not, but for two incidents to occur so closely together, you just kind of wonder,” Stone said. “If something is happening at the schools, then [the school administration] needs to address it specifically. And in general, there needs to be community-wide education around being accepting of others.”

On Sept. 22, Peel addressed student families in a letter explaining that the school’s “investigation” of the incident included speaking with the students accused of targeting the black man with “racially-insensitive language,” with the bystander who originally reported the incident on social media, and with other members of the community who had knowledge of the incident.

He explained that student privacy laws prevent the district “from sharing specific information regarding the investigation and its resolution.” But he wrote the situation has been addressed with the students involved and their families, and “we have taken necessary action in response to it.”

Peel added that Bacon “does not support behavior that is racist, bigoted or discriminatory” and expect students “to behave this way in school and out in the community at all times.”

First Selectman Art Shilosky – who said he was unaware of the graffiti incident until he spoke with the *Rivereast* on Wednesday – said from his understanding, the Stop & Shop incident had been “taken out of context” by the witness and that the conversation between the students “was not of a racial intent by any way.”

“This is not a racist town,” he said. “Can I tell you that there could or could be an individual or two [who are racist], yes – but that’s no different than in any other town.”

The first selectman furthered that Colchester celebrates a history rich in black culture, citing the recent dedication of the newly-built School for Colored Children to honor the original schoolhouse built in 1803, which became the first school in the state to educate children of color, including African-American children.

Resident Stacy Dourado, who was an active participant in the discussion regarding both incidents on the Keeping it All in Colchester Facebook page, told the *Rivereast* this week she feels there needs to be a conversation in town



A small rally was held in response to the recent racial incidents.

related to race.

“Racial discussions can be uncomfortable for many, but I would encourage folks to sit with that discomfort for a while and face it,” she said. “Not doing so does a disservice to the entire community, particularly in the wake of two racial incidents practically back-to-back.”

In response to both incidents this month, Michelle Noehren, founder of the kindness-based community group Colchester is Kind, organized a last-minute “No Place for Hate” rally on Sept. 17 to protest any acts of racism in town.

A handful of participants stood at the corner of Lebanon and Broadway, chanting and holding signs with slogans such as “hate has no home here” and “when you’re accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression.”

“Racism is everywhere, even in Colchester, which can feel like a hard truth for some in the community,” Noehren said this week, adding that the racist graffiti and the alleged incident at Stop & Shop “did not happen in isolation,” as “people of color often face racism and bigotry.”

“To make things better and ensure that our town is a safe and comfortable place for everyone, we have to talk about it [racism] and bring it out into the open,” Noehren furthered. She added, however, that she was “so proud of how many people are [already] having important discussions and are standing up to say that hate has no home in Colchester.”

Andover Lake Race Steps Off Soon

by Lauren Yandow

As the leaves start to turn and town residents anticipate the bite of autumn, a brand new event is coming to Andover in the form of a five-mile lake race, and it's all for a cause.

The Andover Lake Race, presented by the town's Recreation Commission, takes place on Saturday, Oct. 7. Proceeds of the event will be donated to participating local organizations.

As an avid runner, race promoter Jeff Murray is starting the race as a way to give back to his town of Andover and has the intent to make it an annual event. The idea of the race first came about last December and has been "a year in the making," he said.

When Murray first started working to put the race together he emailed every organization in town, asking if they'd like to get involved. The Food Pantry, Friends of the Library, Andover Lake Property Owners Association (ALPOA), and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) each said they wanted to be a part of the event and ultimately help jump-start the race, said Murray.

"This town doesn't really have a lot of events or things that bring the community together," said Murray. "I'm trying to do that."

On race day, Caelyn Calhoun, 12, of Andover, will open the event by singing the National Anthem. Calhoun is "wicked talented," said Murray.

At 10 a.m., runners and walkers from all over the state will take their mark at Andover Elementary School. Once they take off they'll take a right onto Route 316 and head down Center Street before sprinting onto the Hop River State

Park Trail. The course is all downhill for that first mile, said Murray. Participants will venture down the length of the trail for the second mile which is "all flat," he added. Then runners and walkers alike will hit the flat pavement on "beautiful" Lake Road for the last stretch, said Murray. Lastly, participants will head up the hill to finish back at Andover Elementary School.

Each participant will have an identification chip attached to the back of their bib number. When a runner or walker crosses the finish line, sensors placed at the sidelines will scan the chip and automatically score their time. "Within 10 or 15 minutes, they're going to have all the results," said Murray.

More than 50 custom medals are up for grabs and "hopefully I get to give them all out," said Murray. There will be three winners – gold, silver and bronze – in each of the eight age categories.

Children aged 12 and under can come early for a free Tadpole 1K race at 9:30 a.m. "I want to get kids out," said Murray whose own four-year-old son, Jay, will be taking part in the kiddy-event. Kids will also have the opportunity to win custom medals.

Friends of the Library members will be handing out water at mile two and mile four; ALPOA members will marshal the area down by the lake and at intersections; snacks and water will be provided by volunteers with the Food Pantry at the end of the race; and members of CERT will cover road closures on state roads.

At the start of the race, Route 316 will be closed for about 20 minutes, said Murray, at

least until the last runner or walker passes through.

Anyone who can't actively participate in the race can still come down to the lake to "cheer on the runners," he added.

The Andover Recreation Commission approved the race back in January, agreeing to financially support the event for portable restroom facilities, the custom medals and the chip timing service. The commission will be reimbursed for the expenses with proceeds from the race, Murray said. All additional proceeds will be donated to the four participating local organizations who volunteered personnel and supplies for the event, he added.

Murray stressed no personal financial gain is coming from the event; he said he's putting on the race solely because, as a resident, he wants to put on a "good time" and show how the community can come together to "actually do things like this in town."

The terrain of the Lake Race path mirrors that of the annual five-mile Manchester Road Race, said Murray. He added people looking to "get in shape" for that annual Thanksgiving Day race will have the opportunity to test their skills at the Andover Lake Race.

While the anticipated turnout is currently unknown, Murray said the weather is what will "drive the number" of participants. He said he expects many people will sign up the day of the event.

"Pray for sunshine," he said.

The race kicks off at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7 at Andover Elementary School, 35 School St. Those interested can pre-register



This is one of over 50 custom medals that will be up for grabs at the first-ever Andover Lake Race on Saturday, Oct. 7.

online at runreg.com by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4, for a discounted fee of \$20. Runners can register the day of the event for \$25. For kids 12 years and under, the Tadpole 1K race starts at 9:30 a.m. and is free of charge.

Volunteers will register and check-in participants in the Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Rd., Andover. Parking will be at the Andover Elementary School lots.

East Hampton Survey Shows Seniors Concerned About Homes, Taxes

by Elizabeth Regan

A survey by the East Hampton Commission on Aging shows senior citizens in town are most concerned about remaining in their homes as they age and having access to reliable, affordable transportation.

And even though the survey didn't ask about taxes, dozens of respondents used the comment section to rail against the rising mill rate.

The survey results were released against the backdrop of a senior population projected to increase 68 percent by 2025, according to the Connecticut State Data Center.

Census data shows 10.6 percent of the East Hampton population was 65 or older in 2010. The anticipated increase would put the number of residents 65 and older at almost 18 percent in 2025.

Ann McLaughlin, chairwoman of the commission, told councilors at their regular meeting on Tuesday that senior citizens currently make up half of the registered voters in town.

She said the survey gives insight into that key demographic.

The anonymous survey was mailed to East Hampton residents inside the *Rivereast*, which has a circulation in town of 6,000 addresses. The commission received 239 responses.

Deborah McDonald, a member of the commission and a researcher with the University of Connecticut School of Nursing, cautioned that survey had a small response rate. She said researchers prefer to get a response from 8-10

percent of survey recipients.

Thirty-five questions in the areas of housing, health, transportation and demographics were culled from a much-longer 2015 AARP survey designed to gauge people's thoughts about where they live.

McDonald said respondents ranged from 34 to 93 years old, with an average age of 69. Seventy percent were 65 or older.

The commission found 95 percent were high school educated, 45 percent received an undergraduate degree, and 51 percent had an annual income of \$50,000 or more.

The survey results revealed that 91 percent of respondents said it is very important to them to live independently in their homes as they age. Almost half of the respondents said they would need to make changes to their home so they can remain there as they age.

Almost two-thirds of those surveyed said there are not enough housing options in East Hampton. Forty-three percent of respondents said there is a need for more private, one-story homes in town, while 20 percent cited a need for more senior apartments.

An anonymous comment from one respondent was presented by the commission to illustrate the findings: "For a few years I have been watching for a suitable, centrally located ranch to come on the market that would be affordable, but East Hampton has very few."

Commission on Aging member Robert Atherton suggested recruiting local contractors

to show the senior population how they can retrofit their homes to make them livable into the future.

He said small, inexpensive initiatives can make a big difference.

Council member Kevin Reich said the findings reveal "windows of opportunity."

One option could be as simple as waiving fees for building permits to allow seniors to begin to retrofit their homes, according to Reich.

"It's a little thing, but it can be done. It's not going to break our bank but it might help those seniors," Reich said.

He built on Atherton's suggestion by bringing up the idea of a public tour of a handicapped-accessible home to show visitors what they can do to make their own homes safer and more accommodating.

Another need identified in the survey was reliable transportation, which 28 percent of respondents said is currently lacking in town. The same percentage of people cited the need for affordable public transportation.

The results come as Middletown Area Transit is weighing a proposal to cut bus service to Portland and East Hampton by half, eliminate all Saturday service and raise the Dial-A-Ride fee by fifty cents per trip.

One anonymous respondent commented on the need for improved transportation options for medical needs.

"I have had trouble getting back home in the evening after spending the day at Marlborough Urgent Care, which has been very distressing," the commenter wrote.

Transportation is currently available for appointments and other authorized travel through Middletown Area Transit by calling the company at least 24 hours in advance, according to the town website.

While the survey did not explicitly broach the subject of taxes, 36 people used the comment section to raise the issue.

"It is impossible to stay in town with the taxes," one respondent said.

"I may have to go back to work to afford the taxes on my house," another person wrote. "I worked for almost 50 years...these are not the golden years for many of us."

Another commenter cited the need for "major tax breaks for seniors to keep the population balanced."

McLaughlin proposed the formation of a study group to address issues highlighted in the survey.

She said topics for the group to look into could include different housing options and tax relief for the elderly.

Reich applauded the commission's continued initiative.

"There are opportunities we could seriously consider and I hope, as a commission, you will," he said.

RHAM School Board to Hold District Meeting on Funds

by Lauren Yandow

The RHAM Board of Education will hold a district meeting next week to vote on using leftover capital funds to repair damage related to old heating, ventilation and air conditioning units (HVAC) in four classrooms.

The units have been replaced, but the damage remains.

The RHAM school board voted earlier this month to ask Andover, Hebron and Marlborough voters to approve the reallocation of \$34,000 from the original HVAC replacement project at a district meeting on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

The HVAC units were replaced this summer for \$121,000. Since the school board had allocated \$155,372 for the project, there is now \$34,000 left in the account.

Superintendent of Schools Pat Law said this week that the replacement project was necessary due to mechanical issues in the old units, such as fan motors failing and refrigerant leaks

in the condensers.

Law is seeking approval to use the remaining funds from the HVAC project to address "major, significant" damage from the old units. She said repairs involve installing new ceiling tiles, fixing rusty spots and replacing all flooring in the four classrooms that were affected by the old units.

Two ground floor and two second floor classrooms show rusting on metal ceiling grates as well as sagging and discoloration on the ceiling tiles, Law said. Also, the flooring in the classrooms is lifting and giving of a "smelly" odor, Law said.

Law said Monday the four classrooms are currently being used to teach classes and there's "no sign of mold or mold issues" to worry about. The ceiling and flooring need to be addressed so students can learn in a "very clean and nice smelling, nice looking room,"

she said. If the revamping of the rooms is approved, the board would work with the high school administration to "develop a timeline that is not disruptive to the learning process," she added.

At the district meeting, residents in RHAM's three sending towns will be asked to vote on the \$34,000 reallocation. If they approve it, the money will be used to fix the ceilings and floors as well as for moisture testing on the two ground level classrooms to determine how the floors should be treated before new material is put down.

Due to a lawsuit settlement for flooring product in 2006, law said the flooring would come at no cost.

In total, the cost of labor for removing the flooring, testing moisture levels and installing new flooring would come to approximately \$10,500, said Law. That cost includes

the moisture testing, but "it does not include any remediation" from the moisture-testing results, she said.

Scraping the rust spots off the ceiling grates, repainting them and replacing the ceiling tiles in the four classrooms is estimated to cost \$7,200, said Law. That would leave roughly \$15,000 in the account and provide some "wiggle room" for additional work depending on moisture testing results and any remediation that has to happen before new flooring is installed, she added.

Although the damage is secondary to the initial faulty HVAC system, Board of Education Chairman Danny Holtsclaw said legally the reallocation of funds request must go to a district meeting.

The district meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the chorus room at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron.

Portland Fair Returns Next Week

by Elizabeth Regan

Two local traditions will converge next weekend as the Portland Fireworks light up the sky over the Portland Agricultural Fair.

The Portland Fireworks, traditionally held in July, were postponed this year due to muddy conditions. They were recently rescheduled for 8:30 p.m. on the first night of the fair, which will be held from Oct. 6-8.

The rain date for the fireworks show is Saturday, Oct. 7 at 8:30 p.m.

With one exception, when the fair was canceled in 2011 due to flooding concerns at the fairgrounds and the lack of a viable replacement venue, the Portland Fair has taken place continuously in town since 1999.

Last year, a rained-out Sunday put a damper on the nonprofit Portland Fair Association's proceeds.

President Don Bascom said the one-day cancellation contributed to a \$15,000-\$17,000 deficit.

"We had a bad year last year and we're thanking everyone who made donations and who came out to help bring the fair back again this year," he said.

Bascom said fairgoers can expect many of the traditional favorites as well as a few new

events.

This year's fair includes Bwana Jim's Wildlife Show and the East Hampton-based Circle K Farm petting zoo and pony rides.

The wildlife show features reptiles such as snakes, alligators, and turtles, as well as other animals including armadillos, wallabies and exotic birds.

Circle K Farm, the home of Hartford Yard Goats mascot Fancy Pants, will bring its array of farm animals to the fair. Animals listed on the farm's Facebook page include goats, sheep, alpacas and llamas. Pony rides are offered on miniature horses, Welsh and Shetland ponies. The farm is also home to miniature zebu cows, donkeys, mini donkeys, a mini-mule, a zedonk and a camel.

Wristbands for unlimited rides on the Coleman Bros. midway will be available Friday and Sunday for \$20 each. Bascom said the carnival will include a few more rides than in years past.

Wine- and craft beer-tasting seminars will be held throughout the three-day fair, according to Bascom. Participants will be taught to evaluate an array of wines by a local connoisseur.

What Trivia will be on the main stage at 3

p.m. on Saturday, bringing trivia questions in areas including – but not limited to – history, pop culture, current events, science and literature. Fairgoers can come as a team of up to eight people or join a team on site. There will be prizes for the top teams.

Also at 3 p.m., the Street Legal Truck Pull will be held on a larger track than usual with a little more prize money, Bascom said.

Saturday night's headline musical act is Eight to the Bar, an American roots-inspired band that brings swing, boogie-woogie and Motown sounds to the stage. The band has opened for Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Manhattan Transfer, Robert Cray, and the late Roy Orbison and Ray Charles.

At noon on Sunday, the mud will fly with the return of the popular Dirty Ditch Mud Runs instituted in 2014. The event was not held last year, when the third day of the fair was cancelled due to rain.

A three-day high point archery shoot will be run by USA Archery Association-certified instructors in accordance with the organization's rules and regulations. Equipment will be provided for participants.

Connecticut's Greyhound Pets America

chapter will host an adoption booth Sunday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

This year's fair will include traditions such as the annual baking contests for adults and juniors, and competitive exhibits in areas such as food, crafts, flowers, fiber art and photography.

On the animal side of things, there will be horse and oxen drawing contests. Many animals, including beef and dairy cattle, goats, sheep, rabbits and poultry, will be displayed and judged. A canine costume contest will be held on Sunday at 2 p.m. for dogs who are licensed and have proof of a rabies vaccine. Special on-site parking will be available for those with dogs entering the show.

A full schedule of events is available at portlandfair.com.

The fair is held at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds on Route 17A. Hours are Friday, Oct. 6 from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors. Children under 10 are free. Active and reserve military members with a valid ID may enter for free.

Expanded Hebron Ballfield Coming to Veterans Park

by Lauren Yandow

Come spring, Veterans Memorial Park will house an updated baseball diamond – thanks in large part to a donation from the Hebron Lions.

A \$13,400 donation from the Lions enabled Parks and Rec. to bring the field up to regulation length.

The aptly-named "Hebron Lions Baseball Field" will give the town a new location to host regional baseball tournaments.

Hebron Baseball plays as part of the Cal Ripken youth baseball organization and must abide by the organization's field regulations, said Parks and Recreation Director Rich Calarco. By Cal Ripken standards, regional tournament games must be played on 70-foot fields.

The town currently has a 60-foot field, at Burnt Hill Park on East Street, and it has been used to host district and state tournaments for ages 10 and under. To host regional tournaments for ages 11 and up at Veterans Memorial Park, which is on Route 316 right across from RHAM High School, some work needed to be done.

Calarco said the field needed to be "moved back 15 feet down the line and 25 feet in dead center."

Hebron Lions Director Rich Griswold put it this way: "We really hit a home run with this project."

The Lions' Community Outreach and Community Service Committee set a goal to be active in helping the community, said Griswold. Lions Clubs International is currently sponsoring a Legacy Project, which he said encourages all Lions to "leave a long-lasting legacy."

Griswold said the Lions had money in their

account this year to fund a legacy project, so they surveyed various agencies in town to find out who needed the funds most.

"It was natural" to choose the baseball diamond project, said Griswold.

Each May, the Lions hold an annual "Day of Giving," where the organization hands out donations in the form of a check to local organizations such as the Russell Mercier Senior Center and the Douglas Library. The funds come from both Hebron Harvest Fair proceeds and fundraisers put on by the Lions throughout the year.

Hebron Lions President Lee Anderson said the Lions donated over \$90,000 to local, state, national and international organizations in 2017. This year during the annual "Night of Giving," Parks and Rec. received a \$13,400 donation for the baseball field project.

Griswold said the Lions chose to support Parks and Rec. because "we do have a very good working relationship with them and we want to perpetuate that."

The field changes couldn't have been done without the help of a partnership with the Hebron Baseball organization as well. The group paid \$6,000 for materials for new dugouts to be built; crews from Parks and Rec. built the dugouts and covered the labor cost.

Calarco said local restaurants saw an increase in customer traffic of 10-15 percent when a state tournament was hosted at Burnt Hill Park earlier this year. Now, with a regional tournament-ready field, Calarco said there could be even more out-of-towners visiting Hebron and the surrounding towns.

Claudia Natorski, co-chairman of the Parks



Hebron Lions, Parks and Recreation Commission members, Parks and Recreation staff and Town Manager Andy Tierney attended a dedication at Veterans Memorial Park, on Wall Street Tuesday to commence the construction of Hebron Lions Baseball Field.

and Recreation Commission, said different organizations that have played at Burnt Hill Park "like coming to Hebron," so the new Hebron Lions Baseball Field is a "great opportunity to increase the number of tournaments that we can host."

The opportunity to "add to this field is just tremendous," said Calarco. "It's a win for the

whole community."

Looking ahead to spring, a brand new sign displaying the "Hebron Lions Baseball Field" moniker will be put in. Anderson said it will be "such a joy" to witness a tournament played at the field next year.

The field will officially be open to play ball in the spring of 2018.

Colchester School Board Appoints New Interim Superintendent

by Julianna Roche

With acting Superintendent of Schools Karen Loïselle Goodwin's term ending this December, the Board of Education unanimously approved Dr. Mary Conway as the new interim superintendent at its meeting earlier this month.



Dr. Mary Conway

Conway will begin work on Jan. 1, 2018.

According to Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein, it was Conway's "passion for leadership" that sold board members on the candidate when they first met with her.

"There isn't a large population of candidates [who can act as an interim superintendent]," Goldstein said. "Nonetheless, she would have risen to the top. When we met with her, we could clearly see her expertise."

Goldstein explained that Conway also "came recommended from a couple of sources," including Loïselle Goodwin, who worked closely with her for five years as members of the Connecticut Center for School Change-Harvard University Superintendents' Network.

Loïselle Goodwin explained she made the

recommendation because Conway is "a strong, instructional leader" who "makes decisions based on the best interests of the students she serves."

Before retiring, Conway had previously served as schools superintendent in Plainfield for 10 years and Vernon for five, and most recently as interim superintendent for Brooklyn Public Schools in Brooklyn, Conn. From 1996 to 2000, she also served as principal of Windsor Locks High School and acting principal for RHAM High School from January to June 1996.

"I consider myself an educational leader," Conway said this week. "That is really my focus."

She added, however, that the superintendent's role is split into two specific jobs – "number one, to ensure the health and safety of all the children in the district" and "number two, to educate."

Conway explained that on her first day of work, she intends to start reviewing the district's safety and security plans, as well as schedule and observe emergency drills, and begin a review of the schools' food service and "what we do for health and wellness."

"That is the primary responsibility," she furthered. "If we can't keep kids healthy, and well and safe, we can't educate them."

In terms of education, Conway said she was

already "very impressed" with "the energy and enthusiasm," as well as "the expertise," that came along with the district's "team" of staff members.

"From my understanding ... Colchester is in phenomenal shape," she said, adding that she also plans to do classroom walkthroughs, "looking at teaching and learning" throughout the schools and "keeping that in the forefront at all times."

Loïselle Goodwin emphasized that Conway's "core values" about teaching and learning "align with those held by our community."

Goldstein agreed.

Conway is "going to bring the ability to keep us moving forward on the path we're already on toward personalized learning and Innovation Nation," he said.

Conway also added that as an educational leader, she tends to be "very collaborative" working with teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, service workers and other employees within the district to ensure the district's cohesiveness.

"It does take everyone in the system to educate these children," she said. "I'd like everyone to be involved as much as possible in making decisions."

One such decision – which Conway considers to also be "the biggest challenge" facing

the district – is finding someone to fill the long-term role of superintendent once her term ends in June.

"In the course of just one year, [the district] will have had four leaders," Conway said. "That's hard."

"They went from Jeff [Mathieu] to Karen [Loïselle Goodwin] ... to me who they don't know, but they also know I'm not staying so they don't really need to invest in me."

Conway said she expects by June – "or even before" – the school board will have appointed someone to fill the superintendent's shoes long-term.

In the meantime, Conway said, she "will be doing anything that needs to get done to make the new person's job easier," as well as "try to be that transition person" for the school system.

Goldstein explained that with four out of the seven Board of Education seats up for grabs in the November election, the board collectively decided it would "be best to wait" until a new board is formed to continue the search for a new long-term superintendent.

"But generally, we're looking for someone who has the ability to be an educational leader and to keep the district focused and motivated toward what we, as a community, have embraced towards personalized learning," he said. "That's the key component."

Colchester 57 Fest Deemed Success

by Julianna Roche

Bright, sunny skies and temperatures reaching near the nineties last Saturday evening, Sept. 23, were the perfect backdrop for Colchester to celebrate its 13th annual 57 Fest – a community-wide celebration dedicated to the town being recognized as the 57th best place to live in the country by *CNN/Money Magazine* in 2005.

According to Parks and Recreation Director Cheryl Hancin, approximately 4,000 attendees were present at this year's fest – which she said "went great" and "ran smoothly."

"The hot day was unexpected, so it caused people to hang out in different areas than in past years [and] we sold more waters than usual," she added.

As the RecPlex opened its gates at 4 p.m., families, teens and bucket-loads of children piled into the festival grounds, with some setting up an early camp of colored lawn chairs or blankets in preparation for the late-night fireworks show, while others perused booths and vendors, or grabbed lemonade, soft-serve ice cream and other various snacks from food trucks encircling a grassy field.

Whether sitting at picnic tables or walking around, attendees appeared to enjoy the many food options – which included everything from Uncle D's Blazin BBQ ribs and chicken and pulled pork sandwiches and gyros from Greekin' Out to tasty gluten-free eats like truffle parmesan fries from Celiac Epicurean and Reese's or cannoli-inspired cupcakes from Sugar Bakery.

In the main stage area, various karate and dance teams performed – including Bacon Academy's dance and cheer team – and by 6

p.m., the Wooden Horse had taken the stage.

Hancin said the band – which had a Crosby, Stills & Nash and America kind of vibe, and was new to this year's festival – went over "great" with attendees.

"Many people [even] from out of town came for the band," she said, adding that one of the band members is Colchester-based, so it was "nice to support locals."

Crossing into the Kids Zone, rainbow-colored inflatables including a bounce house, obstacle course and, new this year, a "double trouble" slide – which is two slides next to each other – were overrun with hordes of gleeful children with parents happily looking on.

The festival also included other interactive activities such as the Tomahawk Throw, archery, spin art, face painting, a balloon artist, a photo booth, a rock wall, and a robot display at the skate park.

According to Hancin, the "biggest hits" this year, however, were Wooden Horse's performance, the newly-added double trouble slide, laser tag and of course – the grand finale fireworks show, which "got rave reviews from the public."

"They loved the fireworks more than ever," she said. "The show was a bit different this year and felt closer to the crowd. We had more of the loud bangs! It was well-received [and] the finale was mind-blowing."

While Hancin deemed this year's festival a success, she explained that budget concerns loom over the Parks and Recreation Department. She said the department currently has a full-time position frozen due to the state budget crisis, and "if we are not able to fill it, many programs will need to be canceled."



This year's 57 Fest brought a new addition to the ever-popular Kids Zone with a "double trouble" inflatable slide, shown above, next to the bounce house.

The 57 Fest "is very expensive to put on and my department fundraises all of the money," she furthered, adding "it's getting harder" to acquire donors and sponsors in the community.

"We are a small department already," Hancin said, adding the department has its "fingers crossed" that drastic cuts to its budget will not come to pass. "Many in the community depend on our programs to keep their children active [and] involved in healthy, positive activities,"

she said. "When recreation is not provided, crime rates rise."

In preparation for next year, Hancin said the 57 Fest committee will meet this week "to do a final review" on this year's festival and discuss options for next year – which, she said, include a possible name change.

"The name of the event is up for a change," she exclaimed. "It's outdated [and] we are taking suggestions from the community."

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

With Dannell Malloy's rather tumultuous final term, and the mess the state budget is in, Democrats are going to have a tough time retaining the governor position in 2018. They need all the help they can get.

In other words – they need the opposite of what Dan Drew gave them last week.

The Middletown mayor has been a favorite for the Democratic nomination for governor for a while now. But that status may have taken a bit of a hit last week, as the *Middletown Press* ran a story that stated Drew was soliciting city employees for campaign contributions.

In a Sept. 13 letter Drew estimated was sent to about 200-300 city employees, ranging from City Hall staff to police officers, the mayor wrote, "I want to do for Connecticut what we've accomplished together for Middletown. That's why I decided to run for governor and why I would be so honored if you would make a \$100 contribution to my campaign. I know that, with your support — and a lot of hard work — we can do for our state what we've done for our community."

Okay, so it wasn't a demand. And it wasn't necessarily illegal. But still: If your boss said he or she "would be honored" if you gave them \$100, how would you take it? Even if it wasn't Drew's intent – and I'm willing to give him the benefit of the doubt it wasn't – the optics are horrible. They just scream coercion.

To make matters worse, the *Press* noted the letters were sent to the employees' homes – including the homes of the city's police officers, folks whose addresses are supposed to be kept confidential, for obvious reasons.

Drew even admitted to the *Press* he had heard concerns from "a couple of police officers" about whether their personal addresses were released.

Not surprisingly, Drew's opponents had a field day with this development. In a press release, Democrat Chris Mattei, who has formed an exploratory committee to run for governor in 2018, said what Drew did "was wrong – plain and simple. ... It's not unreasonable for those [city] workers to think that they now have to donate to his campaign in order to continue or advance their careers."

Trumbull First Selectman Tim Herbst, a Republican candidate for governor, blasted Drew's action as "abhorrent," while Middletown Republican Common Councilor Deb Kleckowski said what Drew did was "intimidation" of town employees – and certainly unethical. "Shame on the mayor," she told the *Press*.

Drew at first seemed to downplay the situation, and told the *Press* last Wednesday there was no intimidation. "There was none of that," he said. "The law is always followed, and that's all there is to it."

Still, by the next day he'd had an apparent change of heart. He sent out new letters to city employees, apologizing for what he called an "error in judgment," and promised refunds of any contributions from city employees since the initial letters were sent out.

He later told the *Press* last Thursday he regretted doing what he did, and that he is "ready to move forward."

"We're all human and we all make mistakes," he said. "I made a mistake, and I'm doing the best I can to rectify it. That's all you can do."

Will it be enough? I'm not sure. This was a pretty significant lapse in judgment. Even if there was no ill will, simple common sense should've informed him these letters were a bad idea.

Yes, as Drew said, we all make mistakes.

But when you're a politician, and you're seeking higher office, those mistakes can look so much worse. Drew has put himself in a pretty high-profile position in his campaign for governor. He can't afford too many blunders – especially not when, as I said, the Democrats have an uphill battle for the governor's seat to begin with. I hope he exercises better judgment in the future.

* * *

We've reached the end of September, which means the end of the baseball season – at least as far as the big leagues go. Kids in the area might not want to put away those cleats quite yet.

The Connecticut Bearcats will hold tryouts for its 2018 10U baseball team Saturday, Oct. 28, from 8:30-11 a.m. at Nichols Field in East Haddam.

The team covers East Haddam, Colchester, East Hampton, Portland, Salem, Norwich, Hebron, Marlborough, Montville and Glastonbury.

To register, contact Rob Corrado at 203-980-9534 or tmba22@hotmail.com.

* * *

Speaking of baseball, to say this was a disappointing year for my Mets would be an understatement. After winning the National League pennant in 2015, and a wild card slot last year, a 90-loss season was certainly not what you would've predicted for 2017. But that's exactly what we got.

The team was bit by the injury bug from the very start of the season, and the bug never took a breather. The once-vaunted pitching rotation was decimated, and there were injuries to key position players all year long. Some of those injuries were downright bizarre. Slugging outfielder Michael Conforto was lost for the season in August when he dislocated his shoulder, and tore a capsule in the shoulder, while swinging at a pitch. Not too many games later infielder Wilmer Flores fouled a ball off his own face, breaking his nose and also costing him the rest of the season.

Things got so bleak for the Mets that in late July and early August they traded off many of their more expensive star players, and brought up youngsters from the minor leagues. The kids have done okay; impressive sometimes, overmatched at other times, but no doubt have they brought some added zip to the team.

One can only hope that zip translates into wins next year.

Still, while the Mets had a poor season, I am going to miss watching them night in and night out. Baseball's still my favorite sport, and even a lackluster team is better than no team at all. With the boys of summer getting ready to pack it in for the season, I can't help but think of this quote from the late A. Bartlett Giamatti, the former president of Yale who served as Major League Baseball's commissioner in 1989:

"[Baseball] breaks your heart. It is designed to break your heart. The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall all alone. You count on it, rely on it to buffer the passage of time, to keep the memory of sunshine and high skies alive, and then just when the days are all twilight, when you need it most, it stops."

Finer words about baseball were perhaps never spoken. 'Tis truly a grand game.

* * *

See you next week.

East Hampton Police News

9/20: Mark James Zadrozny, 56, of 18 Hale Rd., turned himself in on a charge of second-degree failure to appear, East Hampton Police said.

Also, from Sept. 11-17, officers responded to 13 medical calls, five motor vehicle crashes and three alarms, and made 14 traffic stops, police said.

Portland Police News

9/20: Nicole Brean, 30, of 625 Main St., was charged with second-degree criminal mischief, Portland Police said.

9/21: Marcy White, 48, of 467 Farmington Ave., Bristol, was charged with operating under suspension and failure to obey control signal, police said.

Marlborough Police News

9/25: State Police said Cara L. Baril, 28, of 92 Truman St., Apt. 5, New London, was arrested and charged with three counts of illegal possession of narcotics and one count of drug paraphernalia.

Colchester Police News

9/14: Colchester Police said at approximately 2:25 p.m., they received a report of a theft from an unoccupied residence on South Main Street. According to the victim, copper piping was stolen sometime earlier this month.

9/15: Colchester Police said Michael Fiondella, 36, of 7 Windham Ave., was arrested and charged with second-degree criminal trespass, third-degree criminal mischief, sixth-degree larceny, and interfering with an officer:

non-assaultive.

9/15: Colchester Police said Arthur Dion, 61, of 82 Newberry Rd., East Haddam, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to drive at a reasonable distance.

9/19: State Police said Alicea Mariesabel, 28, of 100 May St., Worcester, Mass. was arrested and charged with failure to pay for an infraction.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Donald H. Tedford

Donald H. Tedford (Teddy), 98½, of Colchester Avenue, East Hampton, peacefully passed away surrounded by his loving family Wednesday, Sept. 20, at Middlesex Health Care Center Hospice in Middletown. He was born in Hoboken, N.J., March 28, 1919, the son of the late Esther Mae Carter Tedford and late Howard C. Tedford, and had resided in East Hampton for the past 67 years, having formerly lived in Bolton and Long Island, N.Y.



Don was a sergeant in the 3rd Engineer Corp of Patton's 3rd Army Co. B in World War II, obtaining a campaign ribbon with three battle stars. Although mainly responsible for building and then destroying bridges, he suffered severe injuries to his legs when his buddy and he were clearing landmines in France in 1945. His buddy stepped on a landmine and died instantly, but Don spent almost two years in hospitals in France, England, and the U.S. where experimental surgeries saved his legs, earning him a Purple Heart.

Don was a world-renowned master gunsmith who worked for Colt Manufacturing Co. in Hartford for 40 years where he was the head of the Custom Gun Shop. His work took him throughout the United States and many foreign countries. He especially enjoyed his years at the White House working with the Secret Service at their gun tournaments. Don trained FBI personnel in the repair and cleaning of their firearms. Don became well-known for his development of the "Tedford Action" trigger mechanism for national tournaments. To honor his long career, Colt created the commemorative "Don Tedford All American .357 Python." There were 40 made, personally signed by Don on their barrel.

Don received the commission of Kentucky Colonel which is the highest title of honor bestowed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Commissions for Kentucky Colonels are given by the governor and the secretary of state to individuals in recognition of noteworthy accomplishments and outstanding service to a community, state or the nation.

He enjoyed life to the fullest, having traveled to all of the United States, Canada, Europe, Central and South America. His passion was his family, and the New York Yankees, boxing and football which he played in high school. He played halfback for the semi-pro New York Corals football team in the late 1930s. He was an avid surf fisherman, racquetball player, boater, and gun enthusiast.

He was a proud member of the East Hampton Veterans of Foreign War Post 5095, life member of the Marlborough American Legion Post 197, life member of the Disabled American Veterans, life member of the Middlesex YMCA, and a past member of the Hartford Surf Fishing Club. His ancestors came to America on the Mayflower; fought in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and taught his family the meaning of freedom and patriotism.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Ron Wallace of Cobalt; his son, Judd Tedford of East Hampton; grandchildren, Kim Wallace Anderson and her husband, Phil, of Colchester, and Randy Wallace and his wife, Kendra, of Manchester; two great-grandsons, whom he adored, Braden and Callen Wallace, also of Manchester. He is predeceased by his beloved wife of 62 years, Ruth Hortense (Tense) Tedford, who passed in 2003.

The family wishes to thank all the staff and two special caretakers at Middlesex Health Care Center, N-2nd floor, Kathy and Daryl, who were extremely caring and helpful to our dad during his time in hospice.

Family and friends attended calling hours Tuesday, Sept. 26, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Funeral services were held that morning, and a military burial followed at Lakeview Cemetery, East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Don's favorite charity: East Hampton VFW Post 5095, 20 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424, to benefit the many veterans in need.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Hector Roland Cyr

Hector Roland Cyr, 81, bravely earned his wings Tuesday, Sept. 26.

Hector was born in Madawaska, Maine, on June 1, 1936, to the late Felix and Lina (Ayotte) Cyr. He made his home, raised his children and was a business owner in East Hartford for many years, prior to moving to East Hampton in 1995. He loved his family, friends, animals, toast (white bread only!), pasta and coffee. He proudly served in the US Army and was an accomplished roofer and "fix-it" man. He was always willing to help anyone, and his generous and kind spirit will be remembered by all he touched.

Hector leaves his wife of 57 years, Phyllis, of East Hampton. He also leaves his daughter Debra and her partner Patrick of East Hampton; his son Roland and daughter-in-law Denise of East Hampton; seven grandchildren, Jessica, Christopher, Dakota, Brandi, Robert, Revelin and Kane; and three great-grandchildren, Kahleel, Kahleah and Jahleel. He also leaves his brothers, Gilbert, Normand, Chanel, Bertrand and Roger, and his sister, Jean. He was predeceased by three sisters and one brother. His special cat, Muffin (Muff Muff), and his fur grandchildren, Ace, Cada and Paisley, will miss their dad and Pepere immensely.

Hector had many special in-laws, nieces, nephews and friends, too numerous to name individually; however, they were very important in his life and he would want you all to know how much you meant to him. He was instrumental in helping to raise his grandchildren, Christopher, Brandi and Robert, and his influence will remain a guiding force in their lives forever.

The family would like to offer a special thank you to the caring staff and volunteers at the Middlesex Hospital hospice unit, who were so wonderful to both Hector and our family during his last days.

Funeral services will be held Monday, Oct. 2, at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, at 11 a.m., with the Rev. Gerald Kirby, pastor of St. Patrick Church, officiating. There will be a one-hour visitation, from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Human Society of CT or your local food bank.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Hebron

Louis William Ford Jr.

Louis William Ford, Jr., 69, of Hebron, beloved husband of Joyce (Jennings) Ford, passed away peacefully Thursday, Sept. 21, with his wife by his side. Born in Crewe, Va., to Daisy (Bland) Ford and the late Louis W. Ford Sr., he has lived most of his life in Hebron.

Louis worked many years as a machinist at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and Colt Firearms. He became a licensed sprinkler fitter and was a successful business owner for the last 30 years. Louis had an outgoing and sociable personality that afforded him many friends. He enjoyed watching his shows on Sci-Fi, Chillerz, and National Geographic, fiddling in his cell phone, and riding his Harley.

Besides his wife Joyce of Hebron, he is survived by his mother Daisy Pearl Ford; his daughter, Chiffon D. Ford; and his sister Sundeany Fitzgerald, two nephews, and a host of family and friends.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, Sept. 27, at The Lodge, 130 Deerfield Ave., Windsor. His family received friends prior to the service Wednesday. Burial will be in Crewe Cemetery, Virginia, on Saturday, Sept. 30.

For online condolences, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.



Colchester

John David Hanniford

John David Hanniford, 88, formerly of Uncasville, died peacefully Saturday, Sept. 23, at Apple Rehab in Colchester. He was the devoted husband of maritime artist, Sultana (Issideridy) Hanniford, who predeceased him.

Born in Royal Oak, Mich., he was the son of the late Patrick and Margaret (Kennedy) Hanniford. At age 16, John joined the Merchant Marines and sailed the Great Lakes and around the world. In 1951, he joined the U.S. Navy and went into submarines. He attended Great Lakes Boot Camp and Basic Sub School, and afterward served on the USS Grampus, USS Cavalla, USS Spikefish, and the USS Conger. John attended NUE School in New London, and NTU in West Milton, N.Y. in 1960, and then served on the USS Ethan Allen. From 1964-67, John was a Basic Sub School instructor and then served on the USS Alexander Hamilton.

After retiring in 1971, as a chief on the USS Jallao, he worked on the U.S. Navy Submarine Base in Groton in the heating plant. He was a member of the Submarine Veterans and was a member of SubVets Holland Club Groton Base. John was also a docent for the USS Nautilus Memorial Museum in Groton.

John enjoyed going to art shows with his wife, watching John Wayne movies, cheering for the UConn women's basketball team and reading submarine history. His great-granddaughters made him laugh.

John is survived by his daughter, Susan (Hanniford) and her husband Lawrence Crowley; granddaughters, Sarah Crowley and Julia (Crowley) and her husband, Donald Babcock; great-granddaughters; nephews and a niece.

In addition to his wife, John was predeceased by his brother Patrick, and his daughter Kathleen.

Visitation was Thursday, Sept. 28, at Church and Allen Funeral Home, 136 Sachem St., Norwich, with a Trisagion Service that evening. The funeral service and interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Masonic Home Health and Hospice, 23 Clara Drive, Mystic, CT 06335.

To leave an online condolence, visit churchandallen.com.

Portland

Lawrence Cassyd

Lawrence "Larry" Cassyd, 72, of Portland, passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, Sept. 20. He was born Nov. 30, 1944, in Hackensack, N.J., to the late Jennie (Druss) and Caspar Cassyd and was the brother of the late Karen Cassyd-Lent.

Upon graduating Woodrow Wilson High School, Middletown, Larry served in the U.S. Air Force. After returning home, he started his lengthy sales career. Larry was an avid golfer, playing at any golf club he had the opportunity. For over 35 years, Larry was an active member of the Portland Exchange Club.

Never one for a frown, Larry had the ability to make you laugh, even when you did not want to. His sense of humor will be missed by all who knew him.

He was predeceased by his ex-wife, Mary (Harber) Cassyd with whom they have three children: Scott of Felton, De.; Cas of Mass.; and Joan (Cassyd) Viet, her husband Brandon and son Harber of Solon, Iowa; and his nephew, Addison Lent, of Monterey, Calif. In addition, Larry leaves behind his longtime partner, Bernadette Davidson; her son Hal and his partner Marla Waldo, and their son Trent; and Bernadette's daughter Lisa Peltier, her husband Chris and their children Emma and Zachary, all of East Hampton. Larry leaves many loving cousins and friends with whom he shared so many special memories.

Our family extends our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Donadio and her staff at Smilow Cancer Hospital Yale-New Haven, St. Francis in Hartford, and Masonicare Home Health of Wallingford.

Family and friends attended the graveside ceremony and burial Thursday, Sept. 28, at the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery, 317 Bow Ln., Middletown, where full military honors were accorded.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Jewish War Veterans Memorial - JWV National Headquarters 1811 R Street, NW Washington, DC 20009.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, visit doolittlefuneralservice.com.



Hebron

Calvin David Fish

Calvin David Fish of Hebron passed away Tuesday, Sept. 19. He was the beloved husband of Carole (Whipple) Fish for 62 years.

Calvin was the son of the late Charles and Doris Post Fish. He was born on March 4, 1933, in Hartford, the day FDR was inaugurated for the first time. He grew up on a farm in Gilead. He graduated from Willimantic State Teachers College in 1954. After teaching for 38 years in Manchester, he returned to the "family farm" where he enjoyed the 70 acres of woods and fields. He volunteered in many capacities including treasurer of the Connecticut Educational Media Association and Coventry Cub Scouts. He was a director and two-term president of the Northeast Family Federal Credit Union. He helped form and was a director of the Windham Area Habitat for Humanity.

Cal was very active with the First United Methodist Church and The School of Christian Mission. He was a member of the New England United Methodists for 58 years before rejoining the Gilead Congregational Church, where he attended Sunday School in the 1930s and 40s. Calvin and Carole most recently joined the Union Congregational Church in Peterborough, N.H.

As a college student and teacher, he held many part time jobs to support his family. He once boasted that he had held 15 different jobs and was never fired from one. After his retirement from teaching, he drove for Dial-a-Ride in Willimantic. He was also trained by the state as a nursing home resident advocate and volunteered at Woodlakes Nursing Home in Tolland for six years. Cal and Carole moved to Peterborough, N.H. in 2016 and lived at the Scott-Farrar Retirement Community, where they made many friends.

Calvin was deeply devoted to his family and was cherished by all of his children and grandchildren. His quick wit and easy-going manner made everyone feel welcome.

In addition to his wife, Carole, he is survived by son Brian and Carol (Matheson) Fish of Omaha, Neb.; son David Fish and Laura Gingras of Peterborough, N.H.; son Alan and Pamela (Schaap) Fish of Clifton Park, N.Y.; daughter Sheri Fish and Scott Taylor of Mansfield; 11 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

The family is very grateful for the loving care Calvin received at Scott-Farrar.

A service will be held at the Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron, Saturday, Sept. 30, at 2 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248 or to Monadnock Community Hospital, Attn: Philanthropy Department, 452 Old Street Rd., Peterborough, NH 03458.

Amston

Richard Roland Sargent

Richard Roland Sargent, 81, of Amston, passed peacefully in his sleep at his home Sunday, Sept. 24.

Richard is survived by his wife, Marianna J. Sargent of 52 years; his sons, Victor Sargent and wife Arlene of Bristol, Paul Douglas Sargent and wife Lisa of Newington; and his younger brother, Alan S. Sargent. He is also survived by his five grandchildren, Adam Michael Sargent, Zakary Ryan Sargent, Alex Edward Sargent, Austin Todd Sargent, Cheyenne Ciara Sargent; as well as extended family members reaching as far as Germany.

Richard retired from the City of New Britain after 25 years of service. He had a passion for bowling and was an avid sports fan with hockey being closest to his heart. He was a loving husband, father and giving person to all those closest to him.

The family will receive friends today, Sept. 29, from 5-8 p.m., at Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill, CT 06067. Funeral services will be Saturday, Sept. 30, at 10 a.m., also at Rose Hill.

