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New Drop-Off Box... East Hampton has a new medication drop-off box, located at the East Hampton Police Department lobby. From left are Police Chief Dennis Woessner, Town Manager Michael Maniscalco and East Hampton Prevention Coordinator James Olsen. For more information, see page 14.

Airbnb Regulation Blasted as 'Political'

by Elizabeth Regan

Local short-term landlords are decrying as politically-motivated a move by the Town Council to regulate vacation rentals in town.

Roughly two dozen people, many of whom rent out second homes near Lake Pocotopaug or along the Connecticut River, converged in the town hall meeting room Tuesday night for a public hearing on a draft ordinance proposed by the council. Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said the draft language was prepared by Town Attorney Richard D. Carella, of the Updike, Kelly & Spellacy law firm.

The move is a response, in part, to the popularity of websites like Airbnb.com and Homeaway.com that have contributed to a thriving short-term rental market with no borders. The online-based transaction framework has emerged from coast to coast – and beyond – outside of existing regulations and taxation structures, much to the dismay of disgruntled neighbors or critics in the established hotel industry.

But locally, opponents and proponents alike said it's not complaints from neighbors that spurred the new proposal.

According to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, it's a matter of public health, safety and fairness. She has argued for more than two years that the rentals should be subject to rules and taxes like other businesses – such as the campground she owns on Markham Road.

The proposal would allow occupied homes with available rental space – not homes listed in their entirety – to be rented out for up to 30 days at a time once the owner pays a \$100-per-year registration fee to ensure compliance with all health, building and housing codes. There would be penalties of \$100 to \$300 per day for violations.

Critics at the public hearing argued the proposed ordinance effectively bans short-term rentals and quashes tourism by prohibiting owners from renting out homes on a short term basis unless they actually live there. Some said they think the measure has more to do with local political rivalries than the public good.

Resident Rich Leone, who said he's been renting out a house near the lake for ten years, described the proposal as a "politically-motivated" act targeted at one specific Airbnb operator.

While Leone did not name names during the public hearing, Engel told the *Rivereast* the next day that he must have been referring to former council member Sue Weintraub.

Weintraub rents out a 3,400 square-foot, three-level, five-bedroom Victorian villa with a wraparound deck, badminton and volleyball court, and 40-foot dock on the Connecticut River in Middle Haddam, according to the listing on Airbnb.com.

Weintraub, a member of the Chatham Party, **See Regulation page 2**

Traversa, School Board Clash Over Constable

by Allison Lazur

Since May, the Marlborough Board of Education has continued to request the presence of Director of Public Safety Services Jay Kehoe at one of its school board meetings.

However, First Selectwoman Amy Traversa continues to shoot down that request.

Since May, discussion of Kehoe attending a school board meeting has proven to be an item of importance among school board members who say they haven't had a chance to meet Kehoe, who visits the school two to three times a week and interacts with the students.

Board of Education Chairwoman Ruth Kelly told the *Rivereast* Tuesday she was ready to let the matter go after being informed by Traversa the request wasn't possible – but that the school board wished to pursue the issue.

At a meeting in July between Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz, Kelly, Traversa and Kehoe, Kelly said Traversa told her that "she didn't think it was appropriate for [Kehoe] to come to a board meeting. She said there were opportunities at town events where Officer Kehoe was present and members of the board could have met him."

Kelly said Traversa also noted that the school board meetings – typically held Thursday nights – were not during Kehoe's regularly-scheduled work hours.

When Kelly presented this response to members of the school board at a Board of Education meeting last week, they were displeased.

Board of Education Vice Chairman Wes Skorski said he didn't understand why Kehoe couldn't come and meet the board when "we are all taxpayers. We are paying his salary, we are paying [Traversa's] salary ... [and] he's in this school all the time."

At that meeting, the board decided to present a compromise to the selectmen by requesting an "afterschool meet-and-greet" where parents, students, teachers and school board members could meet Kehoe.

However, school board members Sue Rapelye and Michelle Padilla said they were concerned a meet-and-greet at the conclusion of the school day might conflict with their work schedules.

Still, Padilla said if an afterschool meet-and-greet is when the majority of the board would have the opportunity to meet Kehoe, she was in agreement with the plan.

She added that Traversa "has to realize if we are going to be accommodating, she has to give a little too."

Padilla said Traversa has noted Kehoe has a presence at various events in town – but Padilla said meeting Kehoe in those situations isn't

ideal, as he's on the job.

"If there is something going on in town we don't want to distract him from policing," she said. "Does he really want to be bombarded by nine board members at an event? He's still working."

The topic of concern continued during the public comments portion when Selectman Dick Shea voiced support for the school board's request.

"I know Jay Kehoe not terribly well, but well enough to think pretty highly of him, and the idea that he can't make the meeting of the Board of Ed because it's not during his working hours just doesn't sound like Jay Kehoe," Shea said.

He said he would raise the issue at the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen because he thought Kehoe meeting with the school board would be a "worthwhile endeavor."

"Anything we can do to improve the safety situation at the school, we owe it to those kids to do it," he said. "I would like to see the Board [of Education] make some noise because I think the idea that our constable can't make a meeting because it's not during his working hours is borderline absurd."

Shea did raise the issue with his fellow selectmen at their meeting this past Tuesday.

However, Traversa stood by her initial response and reasoning.

"While it's certainly Jay's prerogative to meet with [the school board] – unfortunately they want him to attend one of their meetings like a private audience – we just can't start doing that," Traversa said. "Jay is paid to be here during the day. He's paid for a 40-hour week. Him attending evening meetings is a departure from his regular schedule."

Traversa – who did not return calls for comment for this story – reiterated the option for school board members to meet Kehoe at Town Hall when he is working, adding, "It's not a good use of his time or his abilities to sit in a meeting."

Selectwoman Evelyn Godbout chimed in and said, "I think requests for Jay's time should really come through the selectmen."

Shea stood by his initial thoughts and said he didn't think the request by the school board was "unreasonable."

"I don't think his hours are that rigid," Shea said. "Obviously he has to be here at various times for special events, but this could be classified as that."

Traversa said "the amount of sincerity in the [school board's] request is lacking," citing an **See Constable page 2**

Regulation cont. from Front Page

served alongside Engel on the Town Council and the two often clashed on various issues, such as the dismissal of former police chief Matt Reimondo. She replaced Engel as council chairman in 2011 as the Chatham Party picked up four seats to claim the majority. Engel did not seek re-election that year and did not reappear on the local political scene until the 2015 election. That's when the Chatham Party got completely shut out and Engel took her place at the council table once more.

Engel told the *Rivereast* she did not know who would be targeting Weintraub, however. She laughed when asked if Leone might have been referring to her and said the thought never occurred to her.

Weintraub stood up during the hearing to say she rents out the house so she can afford \$18,000 in property taxes and maintenance costs.

"Our town does have a history of a lot of rentals around the lake. And all these would be affected," she said. "I believe the majority of them are people who rent them out short term, and they don't live on the premises."

Engel told the public she wasn't aware that the proposed ordinance states only owner-occupied homes are eligible for short-term rental.

"That's not how I would have read it," she told the audience.

Engel later said she would be in favor of removing that restriction from the proposal.

Weintraub on Wednesday wrote in an email to the *Rivereast* that it's hard to believe there'd be such confusion on an issue that should have been thoroughly vetted prior to the public hearing.

"I don't know which is worse," Weintraub wrote. "That Council members wouldn't admit that they understood that residents like myself, who don't live in the houses we are renting short-term, would be stripped of these sacred, and up until now, 'legal' property rights, or that they didn't take the time to understand what they were going to vote on. Intentional or incompetence – you decide."

Residents with short-term rental listings in town described the new kind of tourism as a boon to the local economy.

Maryjane Fay, property manager for a house on Spellman Point Road, said her renters are usually over the age of 50 with "big, fat wallets."

"They go to our local restaurants, to purchase flowers at Paul's and Sandy's, to purchase clothing at the Red Door, to visit our boutiques, to pick things up at CVS, to walk our sidewalks, to enjoy Music on the Green and to go back and tell their friends and family what a wonderful time they had in East Hampton," she said.

The Spellman Point vacation home's owner, Marian Scott, was in tears as she told councilors she would lose the home if the proposed ordinance goes through. She has been coming to East Hampton from Austin, Texas, since 1998. She opened up the home to short term renters when her husband died in 2014, leaving her with four school-aged children.

At the end of the public hearing, council members granted a request by residents to work together to refine the ordinance proposal in a way that benefits everyone. They voted unanimously to table the issue until there's a new plan in place.

Those interested in being considered for a seat on a committee of council representatives and local stakeholders should contact Maniscalco, Engel said.

The Tax Man Cometh?

The town's move to address short term rentals in its code book comes on the heels of a state-imposed room occupancy tax of 15 percent that went into effect two years ago. The tax applies to stays of 30 days or less.

According to an Aug. 8 press release from Airbnb.com, the company has generated \$5.2 million in taxes for the state since July 2016.

There were 13 East Hampton listings on Airbnb.com as of press time, according to a website search by the *Rivereast*.

Engel told the *Rivereast* this week she would like to apply a local personal property tax for short-term rentals advertised on sites like

Airbnb.com. While the ordinance proposal does not address the tax issue, Engel said she was prepared to bring it up for discussion at Tuesday's council meeting before she saw how many people showed up.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco has said it would be an "incredibly onerous task" to come up with the value of each rental in order to apply a personal property tax.

Engel said she's been told the amount the town would bring in by taxing short term rentals wouldn't be enough to make it worthwhile – but she doesn't buy that argument.

"If it's not enough at an Airbnb, then you don't have to worry about it at my campground," she said.

Council discussion goes back at least to 2016, when Engel raised the issue in two consecutive meetings. The topic was not listed on the agenda in either case.

On June 28 of that year, Engel suggested she should be able to have an "Aircampground" if others are allowed to run an Airbnb operation without being taxed. She illustrated her point by referring to an unnamed woman with an Airbnb listing in Middle Haddam.

"[People] still physically go to that house in Middle Haddam that's called an Airbnb – they don't fly overhead. They physically go stay there, but her furniture and accoutrements are not taxed for that purpose, are they?" Engel said to fellow councilors.

Planning and Zoning

Some residents at this week's public hearing, like Chatham Party member Mary Ann Dostaler, wondered how much it would cost to implement the ordinance versus how much the town would bring in through fees and penalties. She also asked how a building, planning and zoning department that is already strapped for resources would be able to enforce the ordinance.

Maniscalco said Wednesday he can't comment on cost until he is able to evaluate the final version of the ordinance proposal.

Jeremy DeCarli – the Building, Planning and Zoning Official and the town's Zoning Enforcement Officer – said he has read the proposal but has not yet had a chance to "digest" it.

The zoning enforcement officer is responsible for reviewing complaints and assigning penalties as outlined in the ordinance.

"I do not want to speculate on how enforcement would be carried out at this point," he said. "Once the council has a final draft and is ready to move forward, we'll be able to have a conversation about enforcement. I think it's too early to know how this will play out at this point. It sounds like they're still very much in the draft stages."

DeCarli said the Planning and Zoning Commission is prepared to look into amending its regulations to address short-term rentals if directed to do so by the council. In the meantime, he said he believes the ordinance could stand on its own if approved without an accompanying set of regulations.

According to DeCarli, the issue typically arises in other towns based on complaints about traffic or noise and seems to be most often addressed through changes to zoning regulations as opposed to ordinance.

He said the commission previously declined to make changes to the regulations back in late 2016 because members viewed short term rentals as similar to longer-term rentals, which are not subject to special restrictions like bed and breakfast operations or inns.

"If I own a house and rent it year to year or month to month, it's really not much different from week to week," DeCarli said.

Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Kevin Kuhr said Wednesday he has only heard about the ordinance proposal second hand.

He acknowledged dealing with short term rentals seems like something that would fall under the commission's purview.

"I don't know why they want to micromanage that," he said of the Town Council, adding that there are bigger issues councilors could be tackling – like the health of the notoriously-impaired Lake Pocotopaug.

Constable cont. from Front Page

evening event on juvenile law that was held by Kehoe in May where no one attended.

This week Kehoe also noted the lack of attendance by parents and school board members at the May event, and said he was willing to meet with the school board if it was during his normal working hours on a Tuesday night when he works later.

Kehoe also said if the board was willing to meet earlier in the day on Thursday – its meetings are typically at 7 p.m. – an adjustment of a couple hours could be made in his schedule. But otherwise, to meet at their normally scheduled meeting would be a "drastic change" in his schedule, impacting police day coverage.

"I am willing to do whatever I can to foster good relationships between the Board of Ed and

the town," he said.

Kehoe also noted he's "looking to assist the school in any way I can." He said his goal is to be a "familiar face" if the students he meets with weekly are ever in a position to call the police.

"I'm trying to bring a human face to public safety in the school system," he said.

Kehoe explained he has experience with youth programs. He said he taught the first D.A.R.E program in the state, sits on the RHAM juvenile review board, and was also involved with the youth program at the Glastonbury Police Department.

"I have very strong feelings about investing in our youth," he said.

*From the Editor's Desk***Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

Holy cow, that must smell terrible.

That was what I thought to myself Monday evening when I first saw a video of a conservative online burning their Nike sneakers. It wouldn't be the only such video I saw – and indeed, on Tuesday I saw images of folks who had cut the Nike "swoosh" out of their socks or gym shorts or other Nike apparel.

Why the mass clothing and footwear mutilation? Was there a sudden conservative movement against the Greek goddess of victory?

Nope. Turns out people were flipping out over a Nike print ad that featured Colin Kaepernick, which dropped over the weekend. Kaepernick is, of course, the football player who in 2016 famously knelt during the playing of the National Anthem before games – kicking off a league-wide trend that shows no signs of stopping.

When the protest movement took off lots of conservative-minded folks took to the Internet to proudly show off their torching of their Jaguars or Steelers or Packers merchandise, as well as their burning of actual game tickets. So it only seemed fitting, I guess, that when the Nike ad dropped they'd do the same thing.

Geez – and they call the other side snowflakes.

The Kaepernick ad is powerful and yet simple. Featuring a close-up of Kaepernick's head, the black and white ad carries the caption "Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything."

Now, it's true the language there is a teensy bit problematic. Though Kaepernick, and others, have made it clear over and over again that it doesn't, a lot of people still think the protesting has something to do with not supporting the military. So, with that in mind, using the words "sacrificing everything" when there are plenty of tombstones marking the graves of people who really did sacrifice everything is a little bit.....tone-deaf. The Nike ad team had to have known the mere sight of Kaepernick – heck, the mere mention of his name – would have been enough to send

people into a frenzy, so tweaking them further by using those words in the ad copy.....I don't think even Don Draper would've been that bold.

But the fact of the matter is Colin Kaepernick did sacrifice an awful lot. As the controversy grew, he was eventually cut by the 49ers and then, despite being a pretty decent quarterback, wasn't picked up by any other football team, even when the need for a quarterback would arise. By kneeling during the National Anthem, Kaepernick essentially cost himself his livelihood.

And here's the thing: Had Kaepernick really been kneeling to protest our military, or to spit on the flag, or to say "I hate America and everything it stands for," then yeah, I'd feel he was getting his just desserts. Even when I haven't supported a particular war, I've always supported the troops.

But Kaepernick was doing no such thing. He, and the other players like him, are using that platform as a way to protest what they feel is mistreatment of black people in this country by police. People have argued he and the other players should protest on their own time, but by choosing that moment – National Anthems before football games are always televised, and let's not forget football is by far the most widely-watched sport in America – there's no denying they're bringing attention to their cause.

And, as someone who has been quite frankly appalled by some of the police brutality I've seen on display on the national news in recent years, I think it's a pretty worthwhile cause.

I hope in time more people will realize the protesting has nothing to do with the troops, or hating America, or being disrespectful. And Nike supporting the man who started the protesting has nothing to do with those things either. The anger in this country is off the charts right now; it's the worst I've ever seen it. We don't need to make up things to be angry about that aren't really there.

* * *

See you next week.

Pounds of Produce Make a Difference in Colchester

by Allison Lazur

The Colchester Giving Garden has reached a milestone. The five-year-old garden – located behind the senior center – has grown and donated over 5,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables to people in need.

The main 40-foot-by-40-foot garden sits next to a 30-foot-by-35-foot garden and is home to an extensive variety of fruit and vegetable crops maintained by an approximate 30-person all-volunteer crew and funded by private donations and grants.

The garden, started in the spring of 2013 by resident Peg Filloramo – and two other women in town who are no longer involved – was a tribute to her son John Matthew who died in 2011.

Filloramo said she was inspired after reading a *Hartford Courant* article in 2012 about a similar garden in Old Saybrook.

“My husband and I had lost an adult son and we wanted to do something” to remember him by, Filloramo said. She said she saw the *Courant* article “and I was like, ‘This is what we need to do because he was a very good gardener.’”

Filloramo said she and her husband initially sponsored the garden, by funding some of its needs.

Up until its purchase by the town last year, the senior center property was owned by the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees. So in 2013, when Filloramo launched the garden, she needed permission from both the trustees board and the Town of Colchester.

“They were all in favor of it,” she said. “There had been a garden here that had been neglected for a couple of years that used to be run by the senior center and young students.”

The Giving Garden falls under the umbrella of the town’s food bank and social services program, she explained.

Filloramo said the first year of the garden, she and volunteers turned the soil and installed a new fence and were able to yield approximately 400 pounds of produce. The season kicks off in April and concludes at the end of October.

“That first year we were pretty excited because we had never done it before,” she said. “My husband and I have gardened over the years and have had vegetable gardens, but usually we buy the plants and drop them in; this was a lot different.”

Filloramo said approximately 50 percent of the plants were grown from seeds while others began from small starter plants.

She explained that seeds and plants are donated by various organizations such as the Eastern Connecticut Gardeners Association and the Charles Hart Seed Company in Wethersfield, as well as various agricultural classes in vocational schools throughout the state that specifically donate starter plants.

The garden has also been awarded various grants from such organizations as the Colchester Lions. Resident Kevin Byrne, who also volunteers, writes grants for the organization.

Byrne said he volunteers because “It’s good to be with everyone who has a common purpose. It’s easy to help because it’s such a small commitment.”

Filloramo said the garden is open to “anyone who wants to help,” regardless of their experience.

“We always say you don’t have to be a gardener to volunteer,” she said, adding it’s a “come when you can” type of commitment.

Volunteers gather on Tuesday nights to pick the produce to later be weighed and donated to area soup kitchens, the town food bank and the town’s free luncheon program.

Sue Haas, who is also coordinator of the community free lunch program at St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, said in a letter to the *Rivereast* that she started volunteering in 2014 and “got hooked.”

“The wide variety of fresh veggies [the free lunch program] receives go far in helping us continue to provide a variety of nutritious meals to our at-risk fellow community members at no cost to them,” she said.

While the goal is to help others, Haas said “I have gotten more out of my volunteering than I have given.”



The Colchester Giving Garden has grown and donated over 5,000 pounds of produce to area soup kitchens, town free lunch program and food banks since its establishment in 2013.

“I have learned a great deal from my fellow gardeners and because of this have greatly increased my own home garden yield,” she said.

Filloramo said she’s also learned a great deal of gardening tips over the years from those who volunteer.

“It’s fun because you learn a few new things each year,” she said.

The garden also hosts area students who come to learn about the plants while helping out.

“This year I was asked by a daycare center in town to run a program this summer for some of the children. The [kids] came three different times over the summer and I had them planting things, trimming the basil, and weeding,” she said.

Filloarmo said she hopes the concept of the giving garden grows in the future.

“I’d love for it to be a bigger thing in Connecticut – that more people get inspired,” she said, adding, “I’m more than willing to help folks if they want to start something in their own town.”

Anyone interested in volunteering can show up at the garden, located behind the senior center at 95 Norwich Ave., at 5 p.m. Tuesdays. Filloramo also said if any home gardeners have a surplus of fruits and vegetables and don’t know what to do with the produce, they can bring it to the giving garden between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays.

The produce will be added to the donated amounts and “get to the right places,” she said.

Colchester Teacher of the Year Encourages Empowering Students

by Allison Lazur

Barbara Johnson, Jack Jackter Intermediate School library media specialist, was recently named the school district’s teacher of the year for 2019.

She’s also been selected as one of 16 contenders for the state’s teacher of the year title; she will find out in December after an extensive interview process if she has won.

Johnson has been the library media specialist for Jack Jackter Intermediate School since 2015, but has been with the school system for about 10 years.

She told the *Rivereast* in an interview Wednesday that when she first arrived to Colchester schools 10 years ago, she was the technology/resource teacher at Colchester Elementary School (CES) and quickly discovered that she and the school librarian should “co-teach and co-build lessons, collaborating together.”

“When I first got here technology was kind of being taught in isolation, but after working very closely with the librarian at [CES], we quickly found that technology should be integrated into research and what she was doing in the library,” she said.

Since then, Johnson has focused on how to empower students by finding solutions to their own problems in school and life.

“I feel like some days I get to just sprinkle magic fairy dust everywhere,” she said. “At this age level all you do is show them how to fix a problem that to them seems so big and overwhelming – like my keyboard isn’t working – and you have now sprinkled magic fairy dust on that kid [and] empowered that kid to fix their

own problem.”

Johnson also teaches an information literacy class to third-, fourth- and fifth-graders that “teaches kids how to ask questions, conduct research and answer their own questions in life,” she explained.

Johnson said she doesn’t want students simply Googling everything, without knowing if what they’re finding is “right and trustworthy and not biased.” The information literacy class helps with that.

Before coming to Colchester, Johnson taught pre-kindergarten in North Stonington and kindergarten and third grade in Jewett City. She also served as the director of technology for the Diocese of Norwich school system before coming to Colchester.

In her role with the diocese, however, Johnson said she found herself “in way too many meetings and not enough classrooms,” so she came to Colchester.

“I really feel like I found a home in Colchester,” she said. “The administrators and the staff that brought me here from Colchester Elementary School are amazing.”

In addition to focusing on the students, Johnson said she serves as a “translator” between teachers and technology.

“We have such amazing teachers in this district and as a librarian my main job here is to make sure teachers have what they need as far as resources, knowledge and technology,” she said.

Johnson also emphasized that technology must be used with a purpose.

“We have to look at what’s being taught in the classroom and then identify where technol-

ogy can be helpful,” she said. “The library is about providing opportunity and equity to kids; you have to meet everybody where they are; you have to be prepared for anything.”

Johnson explained that as a teacher often times the challenge is to be in several places at once, but with technology, that sort of personalized education can be achieved.

Through tools like digital media, video creation tools and Google classroom with even the youngest of learners, teachers are able to tailor the needs to each student, she said.

Johnson is also preparing her students to have a positive outlook on problems that arise later in life by starting with showing students how to tackle problems within the classroom.

“We concentrate on what we can do and not so much on what we can’t,” she said, adding to teach children to be focused on what they can do today to be successful, as well as what’s going right, helps make the problems students face seem not so major.

Johnson also focuses on sharing picture books with the students that focus on young people who are creating solutions to problems in their lives.

“The great thing about the library is we empower kids; we show them that they can make a huge difference in this world,” she said. “We talk about some of the problems they see around the world today and to think innovation and think ‘I can fix that problem.’ The biggest thing I can do as a teacher for children is to get them to think bigger than themselves, but also to think about everyone else that needs their help.”

Because the district has made libraries a priority, and Johnson is equipped with a “fully



Jack Jackter Intermediate School’s library media specialist Barbara Johnson has been named the district’s Teacher of the Year.

staffed and well-funded resource” she called herself “fortunate.”

“We just want the best for the kids,” she said. “We just want them to be good people and great learners; they are the future. So if I can send them out of here caring about what that future looks like, then we’ve done a good job here.”

Just How Toxic is the Algae Bloom in East Hampton?

by Elizabeth Regan

Town officials have reason to believe high levels of potentially toxic bacteria in Lake Pocotopaug's blue-green algae bloom may be even greater than previously reported.

The Chatham Health District last Friday ordered the closure of Sears Park Beach when water sample testing at Northeast Laboratories in Berlin showed blue-green algae levels of 119,000 cells per milliliter. The state-recommended threshold for closing the public beaches is greater than 100,000 blue-green algae cells per milliliter.

But the health district's findings have been called into question after consistently higher blue-green algae levels have been reported by the town's certified lake manager, George Knoecklein.

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

The discrepancy in results was brought to the public's attention earlier this summer when Town Manager Michael Maniscalco told members of the Town Council separate water samples taken at different locations within the lake by the health district and Knoecklein have produced "drastically, drastically different results."

Knoecklein has been monitoring the lake for the town since 2014 and has studied scientific data collected over the past three decades.

Knoecklein and the Chatham Health District agreed in July to run concurrent tests at the Sears Park beach to check the validity of the health district results.

Water samples taken by a Chatham Health sanitarian on Aug. 8 were tested by both North-

east Laboratories and GreenWater Laboratories, of Palatka, Fla.

Testing by the Connecticut-based facility came in at 55,000 blue-green algae cells per milliliter. The Florida laboratory's results came in at 401,161 blue-green algae cells per milliliter, based on a report provided by Knoecklein Thursday morning.

Both samples were gathered the same day, at the same place and by the same health department sanitarian.

Northeast Laboratories Director Alan Johnson said Thursday he has not heard from Chatham Health District about the discrepancy. He said he could not respond in detail without knowing more about the situation.

He said he is confident in the laboratory's ability to examine these types of samples.

"We've been doing this for 40 years," he said.

Certified Lake Manager Hillary Kenyon, who works with Knoecklein, said she trusts the GreenWater results. She described the Florida employees as experts in the field.

While she was not sure why the other laboratory got such low numbers, she said reasons could include a microscope that's not sufficient for smaller species or issues with counting methods.

Chatham Health District Director Don Mitchell said he has reached out to the state Department of Public Health for guidance.

"Do we necessarily know that the Connecticut lab is wrong? No. We don't know which was wrong, but they obviously can't both be right," he said.

He said Northeast Laboratories is the only facility in the state for this type of testing. According to Mitchell, the samples are dropped off and picked up at the Berlin laboratory by Chatham Health District staff members for the quickest turnaround possible.

He acknowledged the samples could be

mailed to an out-of-state facility but questioned if the turnaround would be fast enough.

The report from GreenWater Laboratories in Florida was dated Sept. 4, almost one month after the Aug. 7 sample date.

"We're trying to make sure we've got the best results possible, the most accurate results. And right now we don't know what that is," Mitchell said.

Maniscalco could not be reached for comment on the newly-released test results as of press time.

For the past three years, the beach has been closed for several weeks in August due to blue-green algae levels. In 2014, the bloom arrived later in the season – just in time to close the beach for Labor Day weekend.

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

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

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

The health department closed the Sears Park beach because it's the only location tested by its sanitarian. The closure ordered by the health district does not affect any other areas of the beach, public or private.

Resident Kevin Kuhr, who is also the chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission, sent an email to Maniscalco this week to ask that information about any beach closures be more readily available.

He said he was not aware the health district had closed Sears Park Beach. If he had been,

he would not have let his 6- and 4-year old niece and nephew go swimming.

"I would hate to see anyone, especially a young child, spend a night in the hospital because the families were not notified there was a high algae count," Kuhr wrote.

He told the *Rivereast* this week that the community has been notified in the past through the emergency alert phone system.

Friends of Lake Pocotopaug member Joe Carbonell also wrote to Maniscalco to let him know the issue had been raised at the organization's meeting this week.

"Though we do our best to notify neighbors and friends, and we know the town posts at the Sears Park beach, members saw many children swimming around the lake, along with dogs being in the waters," he wrote.

He said there was "total agreement" among Friends of Lake Pocotopaug members that their concerns be brought to Maniscalco.

"We do not want to have a fatality to bring this to light," he said.

Maniscalco said earlier this week he "might order a couple more weeks" of water testing at the lake to continue monitoring blue-green algae levels. He could not be reached for updated comment by press time.

Mitchell said the health district typically stops testing for bacteria in area lakes after Labor Day, which serves as the unofficial end of the season. He said it's up to East Hampton officials to decide if they would like to continue testing in the coming weeks.

Kenyon, the certified lake manager, said it's her personal opinion there should be ongoing toxin testing in lakes with high cyanobacteria numbers.

There has been no discussion about conducting another round of concurrent testing between Northeast Laboratories and GreenWater Laboratories, according to Mitchell.

What to Do with Old Firehouse in Andover?

by Sloan Brewster

While discussing the possibility of condemning and razing the old firehouse, the Board of Selectmen has agreed to have the air quality tested in the old building, which houses the Andover Senior Center and is plagued with mold.

Town Administrator Joseph Higgins gave the board cost estimates for testing the air at its meeting Wednesday, saying that while there has been a lot of chatter about the mold, no actual testing has been performed.

He recommended spending \$440 on the test while advising the board that if the air proves toxic, costs will increase.

While selectmen ultimately voted in favor of the test, they initially went back and forth about whether there was any need for the test, with the three in attendance and several audience members agreeing on one point – the mold is present.

"I don't believe that any seniors should ever be in that building," Vice First Selectman Jeff Maguire said. "You've got mold."

"And bats," chimed in Eric Anderson, planning commission chairman, who sat in the audience.

Curt Dowling, chief engineer of the Andover Fire Department said there has been mold in the building for 80 years and the basement/garage, where the toxin originates, should be sealed off.

First Selectman Robert Burbank said several

years ago an air conditioner with an air purifier had been installed in the building and should be on all the time.

Maguire, who ultimately voted against spending the money, said the results were obvious and everyone was aware there is mold in the building.

Selectwoman Cathleen Desrosiers said it was a choice of two options.

"Do we want to spend any money on that building at all or do we want to consider having it razed?" she asked.

Dowling recalled a 1978 fire truck the department had purchased, and said the mold eventually ruined it.

"It was so far rotted in 12 years that we had to scrap it," he said, adding that he wondered how senior center vehicles parked there were faring.

Anderson said vehicles weren't the only concern.

"Remember, you're still exposing workers every time they open the [garage] door to get a vehicle," he said.

When it still occupied the building, the fire department tried various measures to get rid of the mold and nothing worked, Dowling said.

"It would be ridiculous to try to clean the mold," he said. "It's not worth rebuilding or anything down there. It's a waste of money."

According to Town Historian Scott Yeomans, the building started out as a schoolhouse on the

grounds of the original town meeting house before Sacketts, a hardware store that sold such things as shovels and brooms, was built. Clothing could be purchased upstairs and Yeomans said his aunt told stories of going there to buy ribbons for her hair.

In 1938, the town purchased the building for \$1,000, the Andover Fire Department was formed and the building became the firehouse. Over the next 52 years, the building grew, getting three to four additions, Yeomans said. The department occupied it until December 1990, at which point it moved into its current location on School Road. In 1991, the town took the building back and shortly thereafter, the senior center moved in.

Discussion at Wednesday's meeting repeatedly circled to the possibility of taking down the building.

"Do we spend the \$440 or do we say forget it [and] lock the building?" Desrosiers said. "It's one or the other. We either fix it or tear it down."

"If it can't be mitigated to a safe level than we should consider condemning it," Burbank said.

Some seniors already avoid the building due to mold sensitivity, Senior Coordinator Cathy Palazzi has said.

During a tour of the building by the *Rivereast* last week, the upstairs portion had a harsh mildew/mold-like odor. Down in the garage/basement area the smell was much stronger and

along the wall and on the ceiling the large patches of mold could be clearly seen.

Ultimately, the board voted 3-1 in favor of the air quality test, with Maguire opposed. Selectmen Julia Haverl and Jay Lindy were absent from the meeting.

Green Home Solutions of West Hartford will perform the test, Higgins said. They will take seven different air samples inside the building.

Maguire warned the test was a waste of money and said if it comes back with poor air quality, they won't be able to use the building anymore.

"We need a better plan," he said.

Meanwhile, Tony Ruggerio, a representative of the First Congregational Church, invited the seniors to take up residence there. The town and church have an agreement that the town can use the church in exchange for plowing the parking lot, he said.

"We just went through and painted it and renovated it," he said.

Details – such as bringing the kitchen up to meet current codes – would need to be hashed out before the seniors could come in, he said.

Reached for comment Thursday about Ruggerio's offer, Palazzi said she actually wouldn't be in favor of moving into the church because of all the exercise equipment, televisions and other items currently in the center; it wouldn't be logistically possible, she said.



With little room for storage in the public works facility, shelves are full and boxes are piled on the floor (top left). A graphic of a proposed new public works complex on John E. Horton Blvd. in the Village Green District shows a more spacious facility that would include a green area for town events and gatherings. Officials said additional town facilities, such as the fire department and town hall, could be moved there in the future.

Public Works Lays Out Vision for Hebron Complex

by Sloan Brewster

The Public Works department would like to find a new place to call home while at the same time creating a long term plan that suits the towns' needs - and has put an approximately \$10 million price tag on its vision.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney, a former public works director in town, said the department long ago outgrew its current facility on Old Colchester Road.

"[Building a new facility] has been looked at for over 10 years," Tierney said. "We've looked at multiple sites: Some of them were wetlands, some of them weren't logistically located, some of them weren't available. It's something the town needs to move forward with."

In a presentation to the Board of Selectmen in August, Public Works Director Kevin Kelly, Town Planner Michael O'Leary and Town Engineer Tom Fenton discussed deficiencies with the current facility and recommendations for possible locations for a replacement.

O'Leary brought the conversation around to building a complex on a 2.8-acre parcel on John E. Horton Blvd. in the Hebron Green district that, he said, had been considered for a public works facility two years ago.

The Hebron Green district is a 130-acre parcel in the center of town owned by the Horton Brothers LLC. In 2000, the area was rezoned for mixed-use development to encourage economic growth in town. The mixed-use zoning designation is meant to combine residential, commercial, cultural and institutional uses compatible with the town's historic center.

Building the new facility could foster economic and municipal development in the dis-

trict, Kelly said.

"The future thought is that possibly, at some point in the future, they could move the fire department down there and open the center for development and maybe further down the road [put] town hall or the senior center [there]," he said. "That's why they're calling it a complex."

The plan also includes creating a green to hold town functions and gatherings across from the public works building, Tierney and Kelly said.

The estimated cost of building the structure in the village district is \$9.8 million, according to the presentation.

During a tour of the existing facility on Tuesday, Kelly showed the *Rivereast* some of its inadequacies. He started in his own office, suggesting the tour as a means to give his administrative assistant, Donna Godbout, privacy to complete a phone call.

The pair shares an office and Kelly pointed out that neither can make a call - nor be interviewed - while the other is on the phone.

The next area of concern was the break room and kitchenette, he said. The cramped 10-by-12-foot area, which has a small table and chairs, a stove, refrigerator and a desk, is shared by 14 employees plus part-timers and serves as the foreman's office.

For additional room for breaks, the department has put a few two-seat tables upstairs in the parts room.

"We make do," Kelly said. "We're not foolish."

The crew also makes do while on the job overnight, such as during snowstorms, as there

are no bunks or sleeping quarters in the facility.

"A couple guys pull over and sleep over the steering wheel in their truck," Kelly said. "Guys who live in Hebron will sneak home."

With the shelves full in the parts room and boxes piled on the floor, there is little room for storage, and the women's bathroom and downstairs hallway have become makeshift storage areas holding file cabinets and other items.

The bigger concern, however, is the heated garage where trucks and equipment that can't be left outside in the winter are stored, Kelly said.

"The vehicles are worth a lot of money, so we want to take care of them," he said.

According to a feasibility study completed in 2012, the 50-by-100-foot building has four bays that are two vehicles deep. Three of them are open to one another and the fourth is closed by a partition and serves as the mechanics' bay.

In the winter, nine vehicles are squeezed into the three open bays, Kelly said, showing a picture of trucks and snowplows sitting nose to nose in the constricted space.

"If I'm going to get to this truck," he said, pointing to one on the far end, "I've got to climb over all the plows."

There is also no wash bay, which is required by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Employees rinse salt off vehicles outside, Kelly said.

In addition, plow racks outside, which serve as shelter for some of the vehicles, are coming to the end of their useful life, Kelly said. And, with the need to store a couple thousand tons

of salt, the salt shed, which only holds 600 to 800 tons, is not big enough either.

The original plan was to knock down the current facility and build a new one on the same premises, Kelly said. But since the department shares the site with the recycling center and transfer station, the two areas would have to be reconfigured and abutting property purchased to make room for a larger public works facility. There are also elevation issues that would have to be tackled, he added.

The transfer station sits below the public works facility, at the foot of a short hill.

To rebuild on the existing site would run about \$8.4 million, according to the August presentation. The number does not include the cost of restaging the public works and recycle operations elsewhere during construction.

In addition to looking at the existing site and the one in the village district, the town has also considered putting a facility at Burnt Hill Park, Kelly said. The site is limited by a single way in and out, and overflow parking for crowded events at the park would have to be eliminated to accommodate the structure.

"We're hoping that we can someday make all the numbers work so that we can put up a new building that's more efficient for us to work out of," Kelly said. "It's going to come in somewhere in the vicinity of probably \$10 million. We're trying to get that number down. The problem is the longer we wait, the price goes up every year."

The goal is to start building a new facility next year, Kelly said. The proposal would have to be approved by selectmen and then by the public in a referendum.

East Hampton Police News

8/25: Jose Avila, 35 of 159 Preston St., Hartford, was issued a ticket for failure to obey a stop sign and operating a motor vehicle without a license, East Hampton Police said. During the same incident, Jorge Guzman, 33, of 22 Burton St., Chicopee, Mass., was issued a summons for misuse of a marker plate and allowing operation of an uninsured motor vehicle.

8/28: Kenneth Barber, 30, of 8 Midwood Farm Rd., was issued a summons for second-degree threatening.

Also, from Aug. 20-26, officers responded to 12 medical calls, three motor vehicle crashes and 10 alarms, and made 20 traffic stops.

Colchester Police News

8/29: Colchester Police said Kimberly Ann Benevides, 49, of 147 S. Main St., was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under suspension, DUI and failure to display lights.

8/31: State Police said Laron L. Johnson, 26, of 58 N. Moodus Rd., Apt. A, Moodus, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

9/2: State Police said Edwin Santana, 38, of 19 Charter Oak Pl., Hartford, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under suspension and DUI.

Four-Vehicle Collision, Four Injured in Marlborough

A four-car collision occurred Wednesday morning on Route 2 near the exit 12 on ramp at approximately 10:29 a.m., according to Fire Chief Kevin Asklar.

Asklar explained that cars were stopped for roadway construction. However, a vehicle traveling westbound did not stop resulting in a collision.

Asklar said four individuals with injuries

were transported to Hartford Hospital and Middlesex Clinic by ambulances from Glastonbury, Colchester, East Hampton and Marlborough. A second ambulance from Colchester responded to an additional Marlborough medical call while the fire department was dispatched, Asklar said.

State Police would not provide any additional details by press time Thursday.

Marlborough Police News

8/31: State Police said Richard J. McCormick, 40, of 112 Midland Dr., Colchester, was arrested and charged with DUI and following too closely.

8/31: State Police said Brianna T. Grant, 24, of 49 S. Buckboard Ln., was arrested and charged with failure to carry registration/insurance card, DUI and failure to drive right.

9/2: State Police said Hakeem Bazemore, 33, of 295 Old Stafford Rd., Tolland, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, fourth-

degree sexual assault and second-degree unlawful restraint after police received a report of sexual assault on Stage Harbor Road.

The call came from a male who stated a female had allegedly been assaulted by Bazemore. The female had already left the scene and returned home at the time of the report.

After a subsequent investigation, Bazemore was taken into custody without incident, police said.

Flat Tire Causes Single-Vehicle Collision in Marlborough

State Police said a flat tire is to blame for a single-vehicle collision with a dirt embankment.

On Sept. 1 at approximately 11:07 p.m., a Lincoln LS driven by Sean R. Gillis, 31, of 173 S. Main St., Apt. 2, Brooklyn, was traveling east in the right lane of Route 2 near the intersection of Park Road, when the vehicle's rear right tire went flat.

The vehicle swerved to the right across Route 2, into the median and subsequently struck a dirt embankment before coming to a final rest.

Police said Gillis had a small laceration to the bridge of his nose and complained of soreness. He was transported to Middlesex Hospital by the Marlborough Fire Department.

Portland Police News

8/27: Thomas Rivera, 34, of 515 East Main St., Middletown, was charged with third-degree assault and second-degree breach of peace, Portland Police said.

Professor from Hebron Pens Definitive Text on Walls

by Sloan Brewster

When the 2016 elections hit and folks started talking about installing a wall on the U.S. border, local historian David Frye realized the time was ripe for a book on walls.

The result was *Walls: A History of Civilization in Blood and Brick*, which was published by Scribner and released last month.

Frye, a professor at Eastern Connecticut State University, was working on a project about civilization and the barbarians in late Roman history when walls started popping up in his research.

"I just kept encountering walls everywhere ... Really just all over the world and I realized that historians hadn't done anything with them," he said. "Here were these walls, tens of millions of people who had worked to build them, hundreds of millions of people had lived behind them but they had been completely overlooked, except Hadrian's [Wall] and [the Great Wall of] China."

The long list of places where he came across walls included China, Iran, Bulgaria, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and the United Kingdom, to name a few.

"Right now over 70 countries have border walls/barriers," he said. "A place like Saudi Arabia is mostly surrounded by thousands of miles' worth of barriers; India has thousands of miles of walls snaking through the Himalayas; in Israel, there are nearly a thousand miles of walls, they're on almost every continent."

Frye continued his research for what he thought would be a book on barbarians, collecting the information on walls and tucking it away.

While most of his research was from primary sources and work by archeologists, he also went on archeological digs twice in northern England at the Roman Fort of Vindolanda. At the site, they found long lost letters from Roman soldiers to their families.

"Letters asking for underwear and socks, just

sort of care packages from home that they're asking for," Frye said.

There were also letters from the wife of the commander of the fort to another commander's wife about a birthday party they were planning, he said. But for Frye, the site was relevant because it was next to Hadrian's Wall. The defensive structure was built by the Romans.

Frye also helped conduct excavations in what had been a Roman frontier in the Transylvanian section of Romania. Though not directly near a wall, it was in a zone where walls were being built. It was also where Frye was when he became interested in walls.

As with the research on the fort and frontier, most of Frye's research on walls was imbedded in research for the barbarian book.

While Frye's research on barbarians took several years to compile, he ultimately chose not to use most of it. Instead, he wrote the book on walls, completing the additional research in about two years.

"The elections hit and people were talking about walls; I said this is the moment," he recounted of when he decided to surrender to the new topic. "In a way I think that I lucked out that that exploded about walls in politics."

In the course of his research, Frye learned several things that he found interesting.

The first was just how crucial prehistoric walls were to the evolution of civilized society.

He also came to realize how much contemporary walls have affected people's thinking.

"[I discovered] how we've started to see walls as symptoms, especially the Berlin Wall," he said. "I don't think there is anything out there that has affected our thinking about borders and walls like the Berlin Wall."

But the perception most people carry about that wall was not the one that politicians shared when it was constructed overnight in August 1961, according to the historian.

"The initial reaction from western governments was one of relief, not outrage," Frye said.

Their relief was so strong that they simply

went about their affairs when they heard it had been constructed, he said. For example, when then-U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk heard about the Berlin Wall, he went to a baseball game. Harold McMillan, England's prime minister, went on a hunting trip.

The international fear then was thermo-nuclear war, Frye explained. The Berlin Wall was solving that problem.

According to Frye, it was John F. Kennedy who said "a wall is a hell of a lot better than a war."

"It was the reporters over there who changed that perception," he said. "Today we don't think of it as something that deescalated ... We think of it as the ultimate symbol of walls and the evil of walls."

It took Frye about one year to write the book, he said. The hard part was organizing and condensing the massive amounts of information he had stored in three drawers of notecards and merging it with the general background knowledge he already possessed.

Frye called his writing process "old school."

He writes on index cards, which he keeps in stacks beside him while he is reading on the couch so he can jot notes as he goes. As he fills out cards, he spreads them around him.

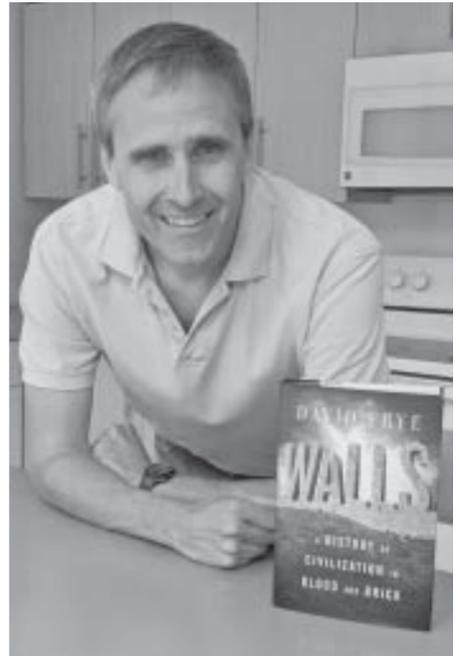
"I'm lying on the couch reading with a big mess," he said. "My wife hates it, my wife hates it."

With *Walls*, Frye is hoping to reach beyond an audience of historian readers to general readers.

The book has been widely praised in early review.

"David Frye writes about walls, and what lies on either side of them, with so much grace and insight that you hardly notice that 4,000 years of history have passed and now you have to rethink all your preconceptions," Barry Strauss, author of *The Death of Caesar: The Story of History's Most Famous Assassination*, wrote. "Read this book."

Walls was recently chosen as a selection of



David Frye, of Hebron, shows a copy of his new book *Walls: A History of Civilization in Blood and Brick*, which was published by Scribner and released last month.

the History Book Club, a group that selects and provides titles at low cost to members. It can be found with the club's new arrivals at historybookclub.com

Released on August 21, *Walls* is available at Barnes & Noble, on Amazon and through other online bookstores.

Walls is being published in translation internationally including in the United Kingdom, China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Lithuania.

"We're hoping to get some others," Frye said.

Five Killed in East Hampton Crashes in Recent Weeks

by Elizabeth Regan

The death of an East Hampton man on Labor Day brings to five the total number of people killed in motor vehicle crashes in a 34-day period.

The Sept. 3 car-versus-motorcycle crash occurred around 5:55 p.m. at the intersection of Laurel Ridge and Route 66, according to police. Motorcycle operator Roland Cyr, 51, died at the scene.

Police said Carla Salerno, 72, of Middletown, was taken to an area hospital for treatment by East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association. She was the driver and sole occupant of the car.

East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner said Life Star responded but ultimately was not needed.

Members of the Marlborough Fire Department joined East Hampton emergency services at the scene, according to Woessner.

He said Connecticut State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Squad responded to map out the crash site, but East Hampton Police Department remains in charge of the investigation.

The crash follows an Aug. 16 crash that killed a local man after his motorcycle collided with a cruiser driven by a Portland police officer at the intersection of routes 66 and 151.

On July 31, all three people involved in a two-car crash on Route 16 near the Salmon River were killed.

Woessner said East Hampton police have begun conducting targeted speeding and DUI enforcement in the area of all three accidents.

One driver was pulled over by Officer Hardie Burgin on Labor Day weekend on Route 16 for passing in a no-passing zone, according to Woessner.

Burgin is the same officer who released a statement on the day of the August crash in his capacity as the president of the police union.

"The officers of the East Hampton Police Department are deeply saddened by the recent fatal motor vehicle accidents in our town," he said in the statement. "We as law enforcement officers enforce motor vehicle law in an attempt to ensure safe driving on our roads. With recent budgetary uncertainty, a rapidly growing community, and staffing levels lower than a decade ago, the officers of the East Hampton PD will continue to do everything within our ability to attempt to deter any future tragedies. We ask that you all be mindful, and please drive carefully."

Woessner emphasized obeying speed limits and drunk-driving laws could go a long way toward eliminating crashes in town.

He cautioned he is not saying any of the recent crashes were caused by speeding or drunk driving.

"I'm speaking in generalities because I'm not trying to release anything about the current accident investigations we have going on," Woessner said.

Investigations into all three crashes are ongoing.

Anyone with information on the Sept. 3 crash is asked to contact East Hampton police at 860-267-9922.

Obituaries

Colchester

Pearl Shirley Doubleday

Pearl Shirley (Le Fort) Doubleday, formerly of Hebron, widow of the late Maurice A. Doubleday, died Saturday, Sept. 1, in Colchester. She was born in Manchester, CT on January 13, 1932, to the late Warren E. and Florence (Hart) LeFort.



Pearl Shirley graduated Class of 1951 from South Manchester High School. She married Maurice on June 23, 1951. From September 1960 to June 1970 she worked at Arbor Acres Farm, Inc., in Glastonbury, the last four years as assistant export manager shipping day old pedigree chicks around the world to the many branches. Pearl Shirley was a member of the Manchester Grange 31 since 1947 and became a life member. She also joined the Amston Lake Fire Department Auxiliary in 1960. She became a charter member of the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary and is also a life member. She was a secretary in both Auxiliaries for many years. Pearl Shirley was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron. She lived in the Hebron area until 1998 before moving to the Florence Mill Senior Complex in Rockville, where she became Chair Person of the Florence Mill Activity Club for many years.

Pearl Shirley is survived by a daughter and her partner, Mary Ann and Floyd Bealer of Amston; her beloved granddaughter, Stephanie Ann, and her beloved grandson, Stephen Maurice, both of Amston.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 10:30 a.m., at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church Rd. in Hebron.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hebron Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 911, Hebron, CT 06248.

Andover

Priscilla H. Bronke

Priscilla H. (Hill) Bronke, 81, of Andover, wife of the late Victor W. Bronke Jr., passed away peacefully Sunday, Sept. 2, 2018, in Manchester. Priscilla was born in Northfield, Vt., Oct. 4, 1936, to the late Ray and Laura (Farrington) Hill.



Priscilla touched everyone she met with her kind heart, sweet disposition, and feisty spirit. She loved spending time with family and friends and giving back to her community. Priscilla grew up in Manchester and graduated from Manchester High School and the University of Connecticut. She had been an Andover resident for the past 53 years.

Priscilla was a school teacher for the Vernon Board of Education for over 35 years and was recognized as the Teacher of the Year in 1989. Priscilla was a very active member of the First Congregational Church of Andover, serving as a deacon and as the leader of the Sonshine Stampers. The Sonshine Stampers create handmade greeting cards in fun and fellowship with their proceeds benefiting the church.

Priscilla is survived by her son, Jeffrey V. Bronke and his girlfriend, Tina Leon; her daughter, Patti B. McNamara and her husband, Brian; two stepsons, James V. Bronke and Jonathan C. Bronke and his wife, Mary; two stepdaughters, Martha L. Bronke and Carol M. Morse; a stepbrother, Earle Ecabert and his wife, Nancy; three grandchildren, Ben Oswalt, Daniel Bronke, and Peter Bronke; as well as numerous step-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to her husband and parents, Priscilla was predeceased by her brothers, Francis Hill and Randall Hill.

A time of visitation was held Thursday, Sept. 6, at Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. A funeral service will be celebrated today, Sept. 7, at 11 a.m., at the First Congregational Church of Andover, 359 Route 6, Andover. Everyone is asked to please go directly to the church. Burial will follow in East Cemetery, Manchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Priscilla's name can be made to First Congregational Church of Andover Memorial Fund.

To leave an online message of condolence for her family, visit holmeswatkins.com.

Hebron

Barbara A. Jakacky

Barbara A. (Camillucci) Jakacky, 55, of Hebron, entered into eternal rest Thursday, Aug. 30, at the Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan, N.Y.



Born in New London, she was a 1981 graduate of St. Bernard's High School in Uncasville, and a 1986 graduate of the University of Connecticut where she received a bachelor's degree in cytogenetics. She moved to Hebron in 1999.

Barbara worked as a cytogenetic technologist at UConn Health for more than 30 years. She was an avid fan of lacrosse, and would often be heard cheering on members of the Kingswood-Oxford, Rip-It and RHAM lacrosse teams from the sideline. She was also active in RHAM Youth Soccer, the Junior Olympic Archery Division and the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America. Barbara was also an avid reader and loved participating in a local book club. Over the years, Barb played in multiple volleyball leagues and enjoyed traveling, especially to the beach. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family and dog Luna.

She leaves behind her husband of 20 years, Joseph A. Jakacky; sons, Colin J. Jakacky and Owen M. Jakacky, both at home; parents, Robert H. K. and Jane (Grippio) Camillucci of Waterford; brother Robert M. Camillucci and wife Sandy of Hood River, Ore.; sisters Ann C. Camillucci and D.J. Camillucci, both of Waterford; nieces Grace, Ella and Tess Briggs; and her faithful dog Luna Sophie Lagotto.

Calling hours were Tuesday, Sept. 4, at the Impellitteri-Malia Funeral Home, 84 Montauk Ave., New London. Relatives and friends met Wednesday, Sept. 5, at St. Patrick Church, 32 East Main St., Mystic, where a funeral Mass was celebrated. The burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

Portland

David William Coleman

David William Coleman, 78, of Newington, husband of Cora Sheffield Coleman, passed away Monday, Sept. 3. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was the son of the late William and Mamie (Graig) Coleman.



David lived in Middletown and Portland all of his life. He was a member of Cross Street A.M.E. Zion Church and a member of the George W. Crawford Lodge No. 21 Masonic Temple. He worked for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Manufacturing. David was a good handyman and he loved to fish.

Along with his wife, David is survived by a son, Bill Coleman of Newington; a daughter, Cheryl Freeman of Newington; a sister, Judith Washington; special cousins, Liz Davis and Barbara Miller; seven grandchildren, Janae George, Nashayla Coleman, David Coleman, Austin Coleman, Michaela Diorio, Shante Mack and Jenna Mack; seven great grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Phyllis Riddick.

Funeral services will be held today, Sept. 7, at 1 p.m., at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown. Burial will follow in the State Veterans Cemetery, where full military honors will be accorded. Family and friends may call today from noon-1 p.m., before the service.

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

Colchester

Therese Mae Firgelewski

Therese Mae "Terry" Firgelewski, 90, died Tuesday, Aug. 28, at Harrington Court in Colchester, where she had enjoyed living for the past few years.



Terry was born Nov. 8, 1927, in Mystic. She attended Mystic schools. She obtained her RN diploma at Providence Hospital. She went on to work for the VNA, then L+M Hospital part-time, while also working on the Firgelewski farm. She was also the director of nurses at Saybrook Convalescent Hospital in Old Saybrook for more than 35 years. Terry was a well-loved and respected nurse there and never hesitated to pitch in and help do patient care on the units.

Terry was predeceased by her parents, her four older siblings, her beloved husband, Joseph S. Firgelewski, of more than 50 years, and a very special friend, Denise Hayden Firgelewski, who was like a daughter to her. She leaves behind three nephews, one niece, five great-nephews and three great-nieces.

Calling hours will be held from 5-7 p.m. today, Sept. 7, in Fulton-Theroux Funeral Home, 13 Beckwith Lane, Old Lyme. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, in Christ the King Church, Old Lyme. Interment will follow in Grassy Hill Cemetery, Grassy Hill Road, Lyme. A reception will follow at the Lyme Firehouse, Route 156, Lyme.

Visit fultontherouxoldlyme.com for tributes and directions.

Portland

Marie T. Norris Grant

Marie T. Norris Grant, 82, of Bridgeport and Lady Lake, Fla., passed away peacefully Thursday, Aug. 16, in Portland. Born in Bridgeport, she was the daughter of the late Mary Madigan and Richard Norris, and sister of late Kathleen Turro.



Marie lived in Connecticut, then retired with her husband to Florida. She worked at Warnaco. Loving wife and mother, Marie was married to Meredith for 62 years.

Marie is survived by her husband Meredith and their six children: Richard Grant, Bridgeport; Elaine Lonardi and Bruno, Verona, Italy; Michael and Julia Grant, Milford; Jeffrey and Leslie Grant, Portland; Kevin and Jennifer Grant, Indian Trail, N.C.; Karen Pereira and Joseph of Shelton. She also leaves behind 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A Mass will be celebrated at St. Margaret Mary Church, 50 Donovan Ln., Shelton, today, Sept. 7, at 11 a.m.

East Hampton

Roland H. Cyr

Roland H. Cyr, 51, soulmate of Denise (Morrissey) Cyr, of East Hampton, was tragically taken from his family Monday, Sept. 3. He was raised in East Hartford and was son to Phyllis Cyr and the late Hector Cyr.

In addition to Denise, he leaves behind: his twins, Brandi (Shawn) and Robert Cyr, daughter, Jessica Jackson and two sons, Revelin and Kane Meunier; his siblings: Debra Cyr, Jose (Kristina) Santana Jr., Jeffrey (Patti) Santana, Crystal (Keith) Santana, Dina (Leo) Viruet, Dana Santana and Jason (Emily) Santana; his precious grandchildren: Kahleel, Kahleah and Jahleel Jackson, including an expected grandson, Bexley Roland Beach. He leaves his special Aunt JoJo and his man's best friend, Cada; his biological parents, Jose Santana Sr. and the late Diana Belanger. He also leaves many nieces, nephews, cousins, dear friends and extended family.

A time of visitation will be held Saturday, Sept. 8, from noon-3 p.m., followed by his Celebration of Life Service at 3-4 p.m. at the Newkirk & Whitney Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Ave., East Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, please honor Roland by making someone smile today or practice a random act of kindness.

For messages or directions, visit newkirkandwhitney.com.