



RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

Volume 43, Number 23

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

March 22, 2019



Ron Wenzel, of Hebron, spoke to visitors at Wenzel's Sugarhouse during the Maple Fest while steam emanated from the evaporator. Since there was no actual sap being boiled down during last weekend's festivities, Wenzel instead boiled water to give the illusion he was making syrup.

## Sweet Taste of Success at Maple Fest

by Sloan Brewster

Last weekend's 29<sup>th</sup> Hebron Maple Festival drew as many as 8,000 revelers for attractions concentrated in the downtown area and those that spilled out into more far-flung sugarhouses.

One of the festival's biggest draws remains the local sugar shacks.

At Wenzel's Sugarhouse on Saturday, Ron Wenzel told visitors about all things maple as they crowded around his steaming evaporator.

Amber and dark amber syrup are made the same way, he said. The color and flavor is the random result of what's in the sap, he said.

"Whatever is in the sap is what we get," he said.

To make syrup, sap has to be boiled to at least 219 or 220 degrees with two percent sugar, Wenzel told onlookers, showing off a hydrometer he uses to measure the density of the sugar.

If it's too thick, he adds more sap.

"It's not syrup until it gets to the right density," he said.

Crowds were great over the weekend, Wenzel said Monday. He estimated about 1,000 came to the sugarhouse Saturday and between 500 and 700 visited Sunday.

Meanwhile, at Woodyacres, Russ Schaller was also having a good showing of visitors and, in a phone call Tuesday, said more than 1,000 stopped by during the two-day event. In spite of making an extra batch, he sold out of maple

coated walnuts made in memory of his wife, Denise Schaller, who cooked up the tasty treat for the festival every year until she passed away on December 24, 2017.

"Somebody came in Sunday and wanted 20 bags," he said.

Schaller also sold out of maple candy and maple cream.

"We had enough syrup, but it was getting pretty low," he said.

Closer to the downtown area, crafters on Saturday filled the RHAM Middle School gymnasium.

The arts and crafts fair was new to the annual festival, according to event organizer and Windham Region Chamber of Commerce President Diane Nadeau. She said most of the crafters were local.

Amston native Melissa Tindall, who moved to Mansfield three years ago, worked on a painting as folks wandered past the table where she displayed glassware hand painted with animals and nature scenes.

With a degree in illustration from the University of Connecticut, Tindall paints from photos she finds interesting, sprucing up the design with added color.

Her 8-year old daughter, Deirdre Tindall, who said her mother's work was beautiful, chose a

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## New Chatham Health Director Named

by Allison Lazur

Colchester resident Russell Melmed, 43, will take over as the new director of Chatham Health next month.

The regional district serves as the health department for Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Portland and East Haddam.

Melmed has served as epidemiologist and supervisor of health education and community outreach for the Ledge Light Health District in New London for the past nine years. The district serves nine towns in southeastern Connecticut.

Melmed's five-year contract with the Chatham Health District will begin on April 23.

Hebron Town Manager and Chatham Health District Board of Health Chairman Andrew Tierney said the board considered eight applicants before selecting two for interviews.

The \$100,000 full-time position includes enforcing state health codes, providing direction to staff regarding new programs and policies, conducting surveys and studies of health resources in the participating towns and recommending programs to meet identified health needs, the job description states.

The incoming director told the *RiverEast* this week that location was a large driver in his decision to take the position.

He said he enjoys his job at Ledge Light, but as a Colchester resident, Chatham Health

is his personal health district.

"I want to contribute to my local health department and do the work for my community," he said.

With a passion for tick-borne diseases, Melmed directed the formation of a Lyme disease task force in 2017 that developed and distributed educational materials to residents and informed local physicians of the best practices of Lyme disease testing, according to his resume.

"I have a passion for understanding communicable diseases and I love talking to people about ticks," Melmed said.

He has also helped launch the Health Improvement Collaborative of Southeastern Connecticut in 2015, which brings together health care, social service, public safety, business, school and municipal sectors to improve the health of the population.

Initiatives include diabetes self-management programs, applying for grants to address opioid issues and expanding access to healthy foods through partnering with organizations that garden, Melmed said.

"Bringing people together who work on the same thing but don't know it – that's public health," he said.

As state funding for health districts decreases, Melmed said establishing partnerships with other agencies is one of his goals for

Chatham Health.

"The main thing that the health department should be doing – and I don't believe Chatham Health is doing – is partnerships," he said – specifically with Middlesex Hospital.

Melmed said through partnerships between the public health department and healthcare, a comprehensive health plan can be developed.

Melmed said he is looking forward to getting to know the staff members, their backgrounds, expertise, why they enjoy working in public health and what changes they want to see in the district.

The incoming director said the challenges he expects Chatham Health to be facing are not unique to the district, but the same issues a number of the 20 regional districts across the state are already facing.

"What we are seeing all around the state is an aging work force, especially in the bulk of environmental health. There are fewer people entering the workforce to replace future retirees," he said.

Tierney, the board of health chairman, agreed.

"Our biggest challenge is our employees are aging out," Tierney said. "There are not a lot of younger people available to fill these positions or choosing this career choice. We have to be competitive in the way we treat our employees with compensation, but at the same time we

need to be consistent in servicing the district. We have to keep towns in the district happy and do more health education within the district."

Chatham Health District was faced with the possibility of both East Haddam and East Hampton pulling out of the regional district last year after officials expressed concerns including a lack of experienced staff members, insufficient staff coverage in the East Haddam town hall and delayed inspections.

The towns ultimately decided to continue as part of the health district.

In 2016, the town of Haddam withdrew from the district based on similar concerns.

Current department of health director Don Mitchell will be moving into a sanitarian position within the district until his planned retirement this fall.

Mitchell took the helm of the sinking health district in late 2015 after a settlement agreement with the Connecticut Department of Public Health forced the resignation of embattled former Director Thad King. A conflict of interest investigation by the state stemmed from King's work as a private certified water operator at the same time he was serving as director of the Chatham Health District.

Mitchell, who has been credited by board of health members with leaving the district in bet-

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**Brooklyn Burgos, 5, of Bridgeport, poses for a caricature by artist Dori Donegal, of Lebanon, during the Maple Fest last Saturday. After performing in a dance competition in the gymnasium of RHAM High School earlier that day, Burgos and her mother, Amanda Henning, happened upon the arts and crafts fair at the middle school – a new inclusion in the annual maple festivities.**

#### **Taste of Success cont. from Front Page**

vase painted with white birch trees as her favorite.

"I like it because it's really light and it's really easy," she said. "It's easy to see, it stands out."

At about 1 p.m. Saturday, Tindall said she hadn't had success selling yet but folks were taking business cards. That's when John Mathers, of Madison-based Elemental Allies, piped in a word of caution from the booth next door.

"Use discretion with your business cards," he warned. "One day we're going to have our mythical B-Back Day."

B-Back Day will arrive when all the people who don't buy anything and just take business cards return to make purchases and businesses finally get the profits they have been awaiting, Mathers explained.

As they chatted, a customer helped herself to one of Tindall's cards and commented on the array of art available at the table.

"It's beautiful stuff, it really is," she said as she reached for the card.

A few tables away, Daniella de Sousa of Spiral Arts Studio in Willimantic exhibited ceramic pieces she had sculpted. An adjunct art professor at Eastern Connecticut State University, she enjoys teaching and creating and offers workshops, open studios and make-your-own nights. As far as the festival was concerned, selling a few pieces would be great, but de Sousa said she was also there to spread the word about all the great things she offers at the studio.

"If I don't sell that's okay, I always get three or five people to come to the studio," she said. "I try to make room and opportunities for people."

Meanwhile in the center of town, the usual festival fun was ongoing, with food and vendors in the library parking lot, children's activities in the Douglas Library and the Hebron Historical Society's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Show in the Old Town Hall.

With quilts lining the walls and aisles of the building, there was also something new this year. Historical Society member Mary-Ellen Gonci brought in two historical sewing machines – an 1897 Wheeler and Wilson and a 1909 Singer – and some very old clothing, including a hand stitched wedding dress worn in 1832 by Eliza White.

"It appears to have a machine stitch on it now," Gonci said, speculating that someone may have added the machine work after purchasing a sewing machine.

There were also two-piece outfits on display, including one worn by Grace May Allyn on her graduation day from the New Britain Normal School, which eventually became Central Connecticut State University, and for her 1868 wedding.

The historical clothing was a conversation starter, according to Gonci.

"There were more comments and stories that people brought in," she said. "It created a whole new atmosphere for the whole day."

The historic clothing and machines will be on display through May during programs the Historical Society will hold in the Old Town Hall.

The Connecticut Quilts of Valor organization was on hand Saturday to present five veterans with Freedom Quilts, which, according to Jane Dougherty, Connecticut Quilts of Valor co-coordinator, are quilts the non-profit gives to service members who have been wounded in the course of duty.

The five veterans who received quilts this year included a Hebron couple – Air Force Veterans Tamara Sehi and Robert Sehi.

Initially, the wife had recommended that her husband be given a quilt, but while his resume was reviewed, Quilts of Valor staff discovered he had married someone from his unit, so to the wife's great surprise, she received one as well, Gonci said.

"It was a very emotional thing," she said.

The three others who received quilts were Hebron American Legion members Robert Warner, who served in the U.S. Air Force in Thailand from 1967 to 1971; John Gasper, who was in the Army infantry from 1969 to 1971 in Vietnam; and Edward Ames, Jr., who was in the Navy from 1952 to 1954 during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Historical Society members sold homemade maple baked beans and maple cookies during the festivities.

Since the cookies sold out last year on Saturday, they doubled the batch and made 600 cookies this year, said the Historical Society's Louise Casarella.

The cookies were made with Hebron dark amber syrup, which according to member Shelley Neubaure, is good for baking as it has the most flavor.

The baked beans were also made with the dark syrup and had sold out by around 2 p.m. Saturday, Neubaure said.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said this week that the tractor parade downtown was also success. Tierney, who ended up riding a tractor again this year despite earlier plans to take to the sidelines, described the crowd watching the parade from the street as "huge."

Tierney said the Lions Club's pancake breakfast on Sunday was a success as well.

"The pancake breakfast was fantastic," Tierney said. "It was really good this year. Everybody complimented [the Lions] on how good the pancakes were."

It went so well that Wenzel, who donated the syrup to the affair, sent a second five-gallon batch when the first offering ran out before 9:30 a.m., he said.

Sugar on snow, which was available at the Company 1 Fire Station on Main Street, was also a hit, Tierney said.

Another perk to the festivities was that overflow business went into the local establishments, Tierney said.

Businesses were very happy to have all those visitors, he said, adding that Nadeau had done a great job organizing the event through the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce.

Some folks have emailed him with concerns that the maple aspect of the annual festival is diminishing, Tierney said. Nadeau and the town continue to try and get more maple vendors and events.

"The maple went great as far as I was concerned," he said.



**Russell Melmed (right) this week signed a tentative agreement with Chatham Health District Board of Health Chairman Andy Tierney to begin work as the district's new director on April 23.**

#### **Chatham Health cont. from Front Page**

ter shape than he found it, said he will be available to the incoming director to answer any questions that he might have.

Mitchell said he expects the biggest challenge Melmed will face is fulfilling the broad range of job responsibilities.

"There's a lot that goes into being a health director in a district that is not based in a town hall – it's far more difficult," Mitchell said. "You have no town finance director to do your finances or human resources to handle hiring."

Mitchell said he is looking forward to stepping back into the sanitarian role.

"There are certain things I really enjoy about the field work," Mitchell said. "It's really a delight getting to work with a variety of people [such as] homeowners and contractors."

Tierney said Mitchell should be commended for "being the bricks and mortar" that held the district together.

"The district is now financially stable again," he said.

# Lead Remediation Plan on the Drawing Board in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

The Board of Selectmen recently selected a Hamden-based company to draw up plans to replace lead-ridden piping at Hebron Elementary School.

Selectmen voted Mar. 7 to select Silver / Petrucelli & Associates out of two bidders to create schematic designs for the project, which will replace all lead piping and fixtures in the building.

Selectmen opted for the Hamden-based firm because of its experience, said Town Manager Andrew Tierney.

While BL Companies, of Meriden – with a \$56,000 bid – was the low bidder, a deeper look at the documents revealed that Silver / Petrucelli – with a \$61,000 bid – offered more services and had more experience, Tierney said.

“When you look at the services provided with them, they had a little more experience and expertise,” he said.

The Board of Education last week set aside \$65,000 to pay for schematic drawings, Schools Superintendent Timothy Van Tassel said.

The contract is currently being reviewed by Town Attorney Ken Slater, Tierney said.

The source of the lead is believed to be solder used in piping in the wing of the school that was built in 1963, Van Tassel has said. Lead amounts in pipes in the wings added in 1988 and 2000, when the solder was no longer used, are below the legal threshold but not zero.

Still, according to Mal Leichter, chairman of

the Hebron Elementary School Drinking Water Remediation Building Committee, the plan is to replace all the pipes in the school.

John Collins, committee member and member of the Board of Selectmen, has said there could be small amounts of lead in pipes in the other wings of the school and water movement could carry it to the new pipes.

“Are we going to only rip out the old pipes and then have the new pipes be hit by lead?” he said at a selectmen’s meeting last month. “We don’t want that.”

According to the Department of Public Health [DPH], state oversight is triggered when lead in drinking water exceeds 15 parts per billion. But the Federal Environmental Protection Agency is now saying the only acceptable number is zero, Leichter said – which could result in a stricter threshold at the state level as well.

“[Based on] all the implications that go with young children and their exposure to lead and the long term health issues that result from that, the committee is looking to replace all the pipes.”

According to a press release from Silver / Petrucelli, replacing all the piping in the school with a lead-free solution will mean “the town will instantly meet any new regulations issued” by the EPA.

“Lead is a known neurotoxin that can cause serious health problems, especially for children,” said Bill Silver, AIA, Silver / Petrucelli

& Associates’ president. “So we can appreciate the urgency of this project to educators and parents. Rather than spending more time and money than the town already has on investigating the sources of the contamination and designing piece-meal solutions that might not eliminate the problem, we recommended and supported the town’s decision for a full replacement of all lead piping and fixtures. Our engineering team is ready to mobilize and begin the design immediately.”

Leichter said he received the proposed contract for the schematic designs from the firm’s attorney, Fred Hedberg, and that it looked fine to him. He forwarded it to Tierney and Slater for their review.

“We expect to have the schematic designs completed and be meeting with the state in six to eight weeks from when the architect signs the contract and it is approved by the Board of Selectmen,” he said.

Silver / Petrucelli will create schematic designs and estimate the cost of the project, Leichter said. They will then apply to the Department of Administrative Services for a reimbursement grant for 54 percent of eligible costs.

Getting the plans actually approved will be a bit more complicated, he added.

“We’re one of seven or eight schools or towns who have reported this issue,” he said. “The Department of Administrative Services is not

familiar with this issue; they don’t feel they have enough experience to approve the design and scope.”

The department is looking for recommendations from the DPH Public Drinking Water Section for an appropriate remediation plan, Leichter said.

It’s believed that Hebron will be the first school-wide lead pipe replacement in the state, according to a press release from Silver / Petrucelli.

Lead was first discovered in the school’s water in November of 2016.

When the toxin was detected, the Board of Education was subjected to additional scrutiny from DPH through an administrative order. Officials gave the department monthly reports regarding an injector system installed to treat the water with zinc orthophosphate, a corrosion inhibitor, and monitored the water by taking regular samples.

Ultimately, the DPH removed the administrative order and shifted it to a looser agreement to continue monitoring the water. When the lead continued to be detected, the district combined the corrosion inhibitor with a flushing protocol.

In November of last year, Van Tassel and the education board reported to selectmen that measures the district had taken to mitigate lead had not proven successful and it may be time to consider replacing the affected pipes.

## RHAM Schools Chief Trims Budget, Adds Building Monitor

by Sloan Brewster

RHAM Superintendent of Schools Patricia Law has cut \$149,002 from her proposed 2019-2020 budget.

The reduction brings the RHAM spending plan from \$29.78 million in operating expenses to \$29.63 million – a 4.12 percent increase over the current year. Her initial request was 4.63 percent over the current year.

Reductions include \$198,869 in changes in special education tuition, services and transportation, \$76,531 in savings on a new bus contract and \$11,783 in new hire adjustments.

Law’s revisions also included some add-ons not included in her initial proposal.

The list includes a new door monitoring position, Law told the RHAM Board of Education at its meeting Monday. The position is a response to a concern that RHAM High and Middle schools remain unlocked after school until 11 p.m.

Locking the doors 24 hours a day is a priority of hers, Law said.

“The concern that I have is that at 3:30, our door becomes unlocked and anybody can get into the building,” she said. “I firmly, firmly believe we need to lock our building.”

The new monitor would admit people during scheduled events and would run \$28,618 at the high school and \$2,560 at the middle school.

Key fobs would be provided to folks who rent space inside the buildings and use them regularly during off hours and on weekends, Law said.

The town’s Parks & Recreation Department, which is one of the off-hours users of the building, is pleased the schools will be locked, Law said.

“Hebron Parks & Recreation is very much in favor of moving this forward and locking down the building,” she said. “They will have

someone there to open the door when they use the building.”

Amy D’Amaddio, school board chairman, asked Law why she was planning to wait until next year to lockdown the buildings.

“Why not start it now?” she asked.

Law said that while she feels very strongly about doing it and wishes she could do it now, she does not have the funding to do so.

Some board members asked if Law had considered hiring a security guard who would make sure people go where they are supposed to go rather than someone who would simply monitor the doors, but Law said that she had not.

“I’m not as worried about people wandering,” she said. “I do not see that as a major issue.”

She said she was prioritizing a monitor, not someone who would patrol the buildings.

School board members sounded receptive to the plan.

“I’m a huge fan of really any way you can increase security at the schools, especially in the current environment,” member Scott Fleehler said.

Fleehler also commented on the difference between a monitor and “the next level of security” by describing a scenario in which someone with ill intentions took advantage of circumstances to get in on false pretenses.

“You’re walking in, you see a bunch of basketball uniforms, you say, I’m here to go to the basketball game,” he said.

Law said she understood exactly what he was saying.

“We’re not going to be able to prevent everything, but do as much as we can,” Law said.

A public hearing on the education spending plan will be held Monday, April 1 at 7 p.m. in the RHAM High School auditorium.

## Sewer Line Replacement Under Way in East Hampton

by Allison Lazur

A pipeline that ruptured earlier this year and leaked approximately 12,000 gallons of sewage into the Lake Pocotopaug watershed is being replaced and is expected to be completed by the end of the week.

The 450-foot sewer line extends from the intersection of Old Marlborough Road and Day Point Road toward Route 66.

Public Utilities Administrator Tim Smith said Wednesday the project will cost about \$50,000.

The new line will be installed by Steve Motto of East Hampton-based Dream Developers. Motto is the project manager for the town hall hub currently under construction nearby on Route 66.

Construction was expected to close only one side of the road, according to Smith.

Replacement funds come from the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) budget, which in turn comes from residents who pay for sewer, Smith said.

The rupture that prompted the replacement came on the heels of two separate breaks last November – the first one leaking up to 10,000 gallons into the watershed and the second leaking 1,800 gallons.

Smith said he’s not aware of any other leaks, but that the environmental and engi-

neering firm DPC LLC is currently reviewing the entire system to “see where we are at and if we have any other force mains that might cause a problem.” The review comes with a price tag of about \$17,000.

Smith said he will be “making the recommendation to the WPCA that additional funds” be included in the upcoming budget for any sewer-related projects. He could not offer specific dollar amounts at this time.

He said a likely increase in the sewer pay rate will occur, “not specifically because of this incident,” but because of any additional work that would have to be approved by the WPCA moving forward.

Conservation-Lake Commission Vice-Chairman Joe Carbonell said he believes the replacement will fix the current problem on Old Marlborough Road, but hopes there is a long range plan in the works to replace the approximately 40-year-old system.

Leaks are an issue that “could happen anywhere,” Carbonell said.

He also told the *Rivereast* this week he thinks there needs to be more “forward thinking” when it comes to lake contamination.

“It bothers me that today, with all the science we have and road construction and technology, that the water – clean or dirty – runs into the lake,” he said.

# PHS Mounts *Bye Bye Birdie!* Production

by Allison Lazur

Set against a backdrop of upbeat music and poodle skirts is Portland's High School musical *Bye Bye Birdie!*

The cast of nearly 40 and orchestra pit of about 30 tells a love story, said middle school band director and producer Sarah Ketterer.

The Broadway musical premiered in 1960 and was based on the book by Michael Stewart. It was released as a film in 1963.

Despite Conrad Birdie – played by senior Brendan Albert – being the title character, the show is a love story between Birdie's producer Albert Peterson, played by senior Matt Major, and his secretary Rose Alvarez, played by senior Glenda Black, Ketterer said.

The large scale production was selected by Ketterer and Directors Samuel Tucker and Kristin Novak last June, with preparation for the spring performance beginning last December.

"The last couple of shows we've seen a huge boom in student involvement and so it was just a good time to do a show that has a lot of ensemble roles [and] a fairly large title cast," Ketterer said.

Since the decision was made four years ago to stage a show every year, versus every other year, Ketterer said, "it's helped keep that culture going so it wasn't like trying to reinvent the wheel with a new set of kids every two years."

Black and Major told the *Rivereast* this week

they both prepared for their lead roles by watching the movie and various versions of the production on the online video platform Youtube.

"I did everything I could to prepare to try and really make Albert come to life," Major said.

Major, who also was involved in past Portland productions of *Mary Poppins* and *The Pirates of Penzance*, said in between tap shoe clicks that he loves all the dancing in the show.

"Tap dancing is probably one of my favorite parts," he said.

Beaming, Major described his character as "goofy" and "a total idiot."

"He's clueless when it comes to girls and just everything he does is great," Major said of Peterson.

Black, playing the other lead role, said she has served as clarinetist in the pit orchestra in the past. She called her lead role "a completely different experience"

than her time in the pit.

"There's so much hard work that goes into it and it's so difficult, but it's so worth it. I just get so much joy from being on stage, performing and being someone that I'm totally not," Black said, adding, "I am totally not a Rose; I am not as confident or as spunky or sassy."

Many students involved in the yearly musical also participate in other activities ranging from varsity sports teams to the Student Senate, Ketterer said.

"It's a scheduling conundrum," she said. "It's



Portland High School's annual spring musical tradition continues this weekend with a performance of *Bye Bye Birdie!* The show runs tonight at 7 p.m. and tomorrow at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., with tickets available at the door.

a huge commitment for the kids. They really have no life for the length of the musical production because they're balancing so much."

While Ketterer said Novak and Tucker try to always select "upbeat and fun showstoppers," Major called this year's production arguably one of Portland's best.

"I think this show has potential to be one of the best ones Portland has ever done," he said.

"The way the cast is working so well together – the chemistry is great [and] everyone's bonding really well. Everyone just feels like a family here."

*Bye Bye Birdie!* can be seen tonight at 7 p.m. and tomorrow at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Ticket prices at the door are \$10 for adults, \$6 for children under 12 and \$8 for students and seniors.

# BOS Approves Museum Roof Replacement in Andover

by Sloan Brewster

The Andover Museum is finally going to get a new lower roof.

Earlier this month, the Board of Selectmen approved an \$11,260 bid by Seacoast Construction to fix the roof.

Two previous requests for proposals issued since October yielded bids far exceeding the \$10,000 budget for the job, with at least one coming in at nearly \$110,000.

While slightly over budget, Seacoast's bid was the lowest that came in this time, Town Administrator Joseph Higgins told selectmen.

"They seem to have everything in order," he said. "I would recommend allowing them to do their base bid."

Board of Finance member Adrian Mandeville also recommended using Seacoast and sent an email saying as much, Higgins said.

"The low bidder is a qualified bidder," Higgins read from the email. "Their bid is considerably lower than the next qualified bid."

Robert Burbank asked what the job would entail, specifically to gauge whether it would involve replacing plywood and how thick the plywood would be.

While not answering the question directly, Higgins pointed out that the budget for the project was only \$10,000.

Jeff Maguire, vice first selectman – who is an accountant with his own firm – asked Higgins to calculate the maximum cost of the project, if plywood needs to be replaced.

The request led to a back-and-forth between Maguire and Higgins.

"I guess that maybe my profession is bad for

the job," he said to Higgins. "Did you do that math?"

"No," Higgins replied. "But I'm not preventing you from doing it either."

"Joe. Joe. I am not getting paid \$85,000 to sit in that seat; do you understand what I'm saying?" Maguire responded.

In the end, board members did the requested math, coming up with the worst case scenario number of \$14,000, if plywood does in fact need to be replaced.

Burbank said the board could approve the \$11,260 and has the authority to add up to \$2,000 more if something goes wrong and an additional appropriation is needed.

"We do not have enough flexibility in our authority to approve up to \$15,000, in my opinion," he said.

The board approved the \$11,260, with plans to go to the Board of Finance for any additional appropriation exceeding the \$2,000 selectmen can authorize.

The upper roof on the building was replaced roughly 10 years ago after some items inside the museum were damaged due to leaking, according to Scott Yeomans, town historian.

The museum holds items with significance to local history, such as coal stoves, looms, spinning wheels, a carriage, a sleigh, postcards and photos, Yeomans has said. A large mural painted by local artists depicts major events in Andover history from the 1600s to now.

The museum acquires most of the items it gets through donations, though a few things have been purchased on eBay, according to Yeomans. The most recent eBay acquisition was



After several months of searching for a contractor to replace the lower roof on the Andover Museum, the Board of Selectmen has hired Seacoast Construction. The museum holds items with significance to local history, such as coal stoves, looms, spinning wheels, a carriage, a sleigh, postcards and photos and has a large mural painted by local artists depicting major events in Andover history from the 1600s to now.

a toy bureau made at the Watrous Factory, which was owned by Andover residents. The bottom of the toy is stamped with the word Andover.

The collection in the portion of the building with the current roof issues has not been dam-

aged, but that part of the building is actively used, Yeomans has said.

Work on the roof is scheduled to start Tuesday, March 26, and should take three days to complete, Higgins said.

*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Elizabeth Regan

*Note: Editor Mike Thompson is on vacation this week.*

The dog came to us 14 years ago with the nickname Roxie Amoxicillin. She'd been brought back from the brink of death by foster parents after her owners tied her to the fence of their Providence, R.I. home and never came back.

Chris and I were newly married, living in a circa 1790 cape across the street from the public works department in a run-down Connecticut mill town. Roxie arrived courtesy of an adoption posting we found online, making her first visit with her foster mother and the woman who ran the pit bull rescue that saved her. We kneeled in the old kitchen with the walk-in fireplace and Roxie came to me right away, paws click-clacking on the wide board floors.

We took her camping during our trial weekend. Her rescue mom laughed when we showed her pictures of Roxie with her halter on backward. She let us keep her anyway.

Roxie was about a year old, still weak from abandonment and heartworm but steadily improving, when I took her on our first walk through the crumbling vestiges of industry surrounding her new home. We passed a tire shop run by a reputed cult leader, a Chinese restaurant, a trophy shop and a low-end department store that was driven out years later by Internet retail. We were about halfway through our three-mile jaunt when the shade of a big, leafy tree beckoned from the middle of someone's front yard. Roxie plopped herself down. I tugged on her leash, hoping to move her to a more public resting spot, but she wouldn't budge. My eyes were wide as I looked around in fear of a grumpy homeowner who never emerged. She rose, rejuvenated, eventually; we were on our way again.

Another time, on a strange, rutted road along the train tracks near the fire station, Roxie and I stumbled upon the largest rabbit in the history of civilization. It sat at least 3 feet tall on its haunches. I would've believed I was imagining the whole thing if Roxie hadn't squatted right there in the middle of the road to take a primal, terror-induced dump at the sight of it.

We went on like that – in turn unsure, stupefied and persevering – for the rest of our life together. Chris and I brought home our first baby not long after. We moved down-

state to a town characterized not by rotted factories, but by barns, silos and tractors. We had another baby. We all grew up together in a big yard with a pool and a screened gazebo with cheap lights strung from the eaves.

Roxie in her younger days loved to swing from a rope locked between her teeth as Chris attempted to tug it away. The strength of her bite was surpassed only by her obedient will. She was a zoomer, too, her toenails scratching mementos in the wood floors and pulling up loops of carpet as she raced back and forth in the halls. I didn't know before Roxie that watching a dog on the run could be one of the greatest joys in life.

She outran death more than once, to be sure. The antibiotics came out again for too many ear infections to count, two freak attacks by unleashed dogs and a still unexplained affliction that left her paralyzed as thick fluid compressed her spine. Surgery by a veterinary neurologist with exceptional Oxford shoes and an equally nice face brought her back from the brink again.

Antibiotics couldn't heal her this time around – not that we didn't try. The vet prescribed one last 7-day regimen just in case. His real suspicion, though, was a liver tumor. She ate less and then nothing. She could barely walk. Chris carried her into the vet's office on a rainy Sunday morning while I held the door for them. We walked out alone.

To me, she was perfect. She didn't like cats and neither do I. Her unique warble - a yodel, almost - belied her steely jaw. She was loving but not demanding. She scared off intruders while welcoming guests. She was always there for us, and I'd like to think we were there for her, too. This is the only kind of family our household has ever known.

You could say Roxie was lucky that someone finally unhooked her from the fence that day almost 15 years ago. You could say the fates smiled on her emaciated frame when she crossed paths with a construction worker who happened to know a lady who rescued pit bulls. You could say her good fortune was secured when a foster family with two stocky, well-behaved dogs took her in and healed her, then put her miraculous story on [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com) for us to stumble upon.

You could say all those things, and you'd be right. But here's what I'm saying: The really lucky ones are us.

## East Hampton Police News

3/1: Joseph Barone, 50, of 28 Main St., East Hampton, was issued a summons for operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle and misuse of plates, East Hampton Police said.

3/4: Steve Harris III, 47, of 27 Park Ave., Windsor, was issued a summons for driving a motor vehicle with a suspended license and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said. The summons was issued after an investigation into a car crash involving a utility pole on Lake Drive near the intersection of Staeth Rd. No injuries were reported.

3/8: Dustin Feliciano, 19, of 4 N. Maple St., East Hampton, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle without permission and operating a motor vehicle without a license, police said.

3/8: Crystal Amato, 37, of 253 West Rd., Colchester, was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

Also, from March 4-10, officers responded to 16 medical calls, four motor vehicle accidents and one alarm, and made 12 traffic stops, police said.

## Two-Vehicle Colchester Collision, Minor Injuries Suspected

Colchester Police said a two-vehicle collision left one man with suspected minor injuries.

At approximately 3:41 p.m. on March 13, a Nissan Altima, driven by Saxon D. Netopski, 20, of 1306 Old Colchester Road, Oakdale, was stopped in traffic on Old Hartford Road waiting to turn left on Park Avenue when the vehicle was rear-ended by a Toyota Tundra,

driven by Fred R. Douglas, 83, of 323 Mt. Parnassus, East Haddam.

Netopski's passenger, Anthony T. Vidunas, 24, of 43 James St., Colchester, was transported for minor injuries by the Colchester Fire Department to Middlesex Hospital Marlborough Medical Center.

Douglas was found at fault for the collision, police said.

## Four Vehicle Andover Collision, Minor Injuries Suspected

State Police said a four-vehicle collision left one 16-year-old female with suspected minor injuries last week.

At approximately 5:35 p.m. on March 12, three vehicles were all stopped at a traffic light located at the intersection of Route 6 eastbound and Route 316: A Subaru Impreza driven by Robert L. Devaux, 53, of 23 Shuba Lane, Chaplin; a Hyundai Accent driven by Dennis M. Jarvis, 57, of 97 South Ridge Dr., Willimantic; and a Subaru Forester driven by Jayshelly Ochoa, 19, of 492 Windham Rd.,

Willimantic.

A fourth vehicle, a Ford Escape, driven by a 16-year-old female, failed to stop at the traffic light and rear ended the Subaru Forester, which in turn rear-ended the Hyundai Accent, which subsequently rear-ended the Subaru Impreza.

The 16-year-old was transported by the Andover Fire Department to St. Francis Hospital with suspected minor injuries and was issued an infraction for following too closely, police said.

## Colchester Police News

Olivia McGuinness, 21, of 5 Cobble Way, Apt. 4, was arrested March 12 and charged with permitting a minor to possess alcohol, state police said.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Evelyn Schutz

Evelyn Forrester Wootton King Schutz, 98, of Federal Way, WA, and formerly of Colchester, passed away on January 15. Born in New Haven on December 13, 1920, she was the daughter of the late Wilbur Forrester and Matilda (Moeller) Wootton.

Evelyn grew up in Hamden and graduated from Hamden High School in 1939. She was predeceased by her first husband, Russell E. King, in January 1968. Evelyn later married Joseph J. Schutz, who also predeceased her. She was predeceased by two sons, Charles Schutz and Stephen Schutz.

Evelyn first retired after a 28-year career as a Master Weaver for United Elastic Corp in West Haven. She then worked for the Hamden Public Schools for many years. Evelyn was a former member of the Golden Rod Eastern Star, Bellville and the Colchester Senior Center. She was an active member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron.

Evelyn will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her daughter, Linda Kristan of Maine, and by her son, Timothy Schutz, of Federal Way, Wash.; twelve grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren; and many extended family and friends. Ev is also remembered for her proficient skills as a seamstress and needleworker. Her kitchen was a hub of many happy family gatherings and the ever-full cookie jar.

Calling hours will be held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester on Friday, March 29 from 5 - 7 p.m. The funeral service will be held Saturday, March 30 at 11 a.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church St., Hebron. Burial will be private.

Donations in Evelyn's memory may be made to the Eastern Star Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

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

## East Hampton

### Rose Exner

Rose Louise (Brewer) Exner, 102, of East Hampton, predeceased by her husband and sweetheart, Dennis J. Exner, passed away on Friday, March 15. Born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Louise (Boswell) Brewer.

Rose is survived by her son, Frank Exner of Lubec, Maine; her daughter, Corinne "Pinky" Perra and her husband, John, of East Hampton; four grandchildren, Tracy Perra Szeghy and her husband John, Kevin Perra and his wife Margie Shim, John Rebelo and Louie Rebelo; and six great-grandchildren, Lucas, Nathalie, and Julien Perra, and Jack, Rose and Grace Szeghy.

Along with her parents and husband, Rose was predeceased by her daughter, Jan Exner Rebelo, and a grandson, John Perra, Jr.

Rose had the most wonderful life. She loved to travel. Family, relatives and friends were everything to her. We will all miss her and will love her forever.

Family and friends called on Thursday, March 21 at the Doolittle Funeral Home in Middletown. Graveside services will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Rose's memory may be made to Dana Farber/ Jimmy Fund, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, visit [doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://doolittlefuneralservice.com).



## Marlborough

### Eleanor L. Fries

Eleanor L. Fries, 94, of Marlborough and Tequesta, Fla. passed away on February 22. Her passing was peaceful and with the beauty and dignity with which she lived her life. She was born in Novinger, Mo. on April 28, 1924 and moved to Connecticut in the late 1940s.

Eleanor was predeceased by her husband, Nelson H. Fries, in 2011. Together they were among the original developers and owners of Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. Eleanor was a very kind and caring mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. Her family was at the core of her life. When not attending family events, she would enjoy playing golf until the age of 92, reading books and watching the NY Yankees. Eleanor was a member of the Board of Education for RHAM High School and the first woman president of the Blackledge Country Club Women's Golf League.

She is survived by her two sons, Craig and Mark, and Mark's wife, Nancy Taylor. Predeceased by her granddaughter, Mary Ellen Fries, she is survived by grandchildren Kevin Fries and wife Dawn, Emily Elder and husband Ben, and Matthew Fries and wife Lia Arnzen; great-grandchildren Emma, Scott and Ryan Fries, Adam and wife Kaitlyn, Tyler and Alissa Cafro, and Asa, Eleanor and Benjamin Elder; and great-great-granddaughter, Piper Cafro.

The family is inviting family and friends together to share memories of Eleanor with one another on Saturday, March 23 from 1-4 p.m. at the Glastonbury Boathouse at Riverfront Park, 252 Welles Street, Glastonbury.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like to suggest memorial donations to High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Inc. 36 Town Woods Rd. Old Lyme, CT 06371, Emma Fries's favorite horseback riding program for the past 15 years, or Newtown Scholarship Association, Inc. P O Box 302, Newtown CT 06470. The family has established The Nelson and Eleanor Fries Memorial Scholarship.



## Colchester

### Ella Woods

Ella (Hamel) Woods, 93, of Colchester, and formerly of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, widow of the late Edward J. Woods, passed away Sunday March 3. Born July 24, 1925 in Pembroke, N.H., she was the daughter of the late Louis and Laurence (Ricard) Hamel.

Among her favorite things, Ella loved camping and had owned a campground for several years. She loved playing solitaire on the computer, watching the Red Sox and Patriots, and her lollipops or cough drops. Mrs. Woods went to college later in life, earning a degree in accounting and working in the field until her retirement. She loved being with her family and making new friends.

She will be forever loved by her four children and their spouses: Edward (Carol) Woods, Jr., Gary (Nancy) Woods of Lowell, Mass., Cyndy Woods of Clearwater, Fla., and Karen (Ray) Conroy; her sibling, Donald and Joanne Hamel of Florida, Jeanne and Norman Leduc, of Tyngsboro, Mass., and Pat and Dick Curtis of Pennsylvania; 12 grandchildren, several adopted grandchildren who helped care for her, two great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her daughter, Kathy Gardner, with whom she had made her home in later years before Kathy's passing, and two siblings, Dorothy Smith and Louis Hamel.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601.

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).



## Marlborough

### Thomas E. Rankl

Thomas E. Rankl, 70, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Mary (Bratton) Rankl, died with Mary by his side Thursday, March 14 at Middlesex Hospital. Born Dec. 22, 1948 in Hartford, he was the son of the late Edward and Rita (Nowsch) Rankl.

Tom was the owner of Edward Rankl and Son Construction, which has been in business for 66 years. He was an avid card player and enjoyed playing in a setback league at the VFW with his card partner, Larry Emmons, along with his fellow card enthusiasts for over 30 years. Tom enjoyed tractor pulls, going to the casino, collecting coins, guns and cars. He was a life member of the Moose Club.

Besides his wife Mary, Tom is survived by his daughter, Gerie Vogt of Fla.; granddaughter Sydney Vogt of Fla.; two sisters, Barbara Prescott of Maine and Janis Stanley of V.T.; eight nieces and nephews; and many grand-nieces and grand-nephews. He was predeceased by his sister, Rita Sears.

A celebration of Tom's life will be held Sunday, March 31 from 1-4 p.m. at VFW Post 5095, 20 North Maple Street, East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the American Cancer Society for lung cancer research at 800-227-2345 or [cancer.org](http://cancer.org).

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).



## Colchester

### George F. Gardner

George F. Gardner, 62, of Colchester and formerly of Salem, passed away suddenly at home on March 13.

George was a kind and gentle soul with a big heart who loved to make people laugh. George was a talented musician, vocalist, photographer, and lover of growing beautiful flowers especially his favorite, Morning Glories. George enjoyed camping and hiking in New Hampshire and Maine. He loved reading the bible and discussing God's words with friends and like-minded people.

George is survived by his only daughter, whom he loved, Christina Lee Gardner. George leaves a great big hole in the hearts of many life-long friends and family. Special thanks to those people that were there for George during his final days - Michael Curtin of Connecticut, Edward Ely of Texas, Mia Kopko of Florida, and Bonnie C. Rebillard of Connecticut. George will be missed.

Funeral services will be held privately. The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of services.

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



## East Hampton

### Patricia M. Royce

Patricia M. Royce, 76, wife of 58 years to Paul Royce Sr. of Walnut Ave., East Hampton, daughter of the late Robert Stark Sr. and Rita Lattrell, entered into eternal rest with her family at her side on March 8 at Marlborough Health Care after a brief battle with cancer.

Besides her husband, she leaves her son Paul Royce Jr. and wife Christine of Higganum, grandchildren Steven and Elysa, brother Robert Jr., and his wife Toni and sister Marge Lagendyk, all of Florida. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her sister Helen Wright and her brother James. She also leaves behind her favorite niece Terry-Lynn and her best friends Donna, Joane, and her furry buddy Taco.

Pat was employed for 28 years for the State of Connecticut Department of Labor, retiring in 2004. Patty was also a member and Past President of the East Hampton Fire Department Ladies Aux.

Funeral services were private. To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).



## Colchester

### Janet Bonfoey

Janet Bonfoey, 63, of Colchester, passed away on Friday, March 8, at Hartford Hospital after a brief illness. Born January 30, 1956 in Nyack, New York, she was the daughter of the late George and Joan (Travis) Cuff.

Janet is survived by her husband of 43 years, Louis Bonfoey, as well as her two sons, Brian Bonfoey, of Ellington, and Jeffery Bonfoey and wife Isabel, of Centerville M.D., and their two children, Aedan and Gabriella.

Janet had a successful career with US Food Service in Norwich spanning 28 years, and was looking forward to retirement. She loved to garden, crochet, and entertain at her home, but she was happiest surrounded by friends and family on the family's boat, especially over long weekends at Block Island or Nantucket.

Janet will be remembered most fondly by her family as a devoted and loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She will also be missed by her brothers, Christopher Cuff, of Colchester, and George Cuff, of New Britain, as well as numerous extended family and friends.

Donations in Janet's memory may be made to East Haddam Land Trust.

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).



## Marlborough

### Bruce Kinghorn

Bruce Kinghorn, 68, of North Ft Myers, Fla., formerly of Marlborough, passed away Thursday, March 14. Bruce was born in Middletown on July 31, 1950. He was the son of the late Henry and Mabel (Fuller) Kinghorn.

Bruce was a graduate of RHAM High School, a U.S. Navy veteran and a past commander of American Legion Post 197. He worked as a Chevrolet Master Service Technician for many years before working and retiring from PepsiCo as a Fleet Services Supervisor. He was a former member of the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department.

Bruce loved the outdoors, fishing, dogs, and riding motorcycles. Bruce is survived by his son Jim (Jocelyn) Kinghorn, his sister Bonnie (Paul) Anderson, his Aunt Edie (Fuller) McMaster, and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Glenn.

Services will be held at the discretion of the family. In lieu of gifts, please donate in Bruce's name to the AMVETS National Service Foundation, P.O. Box 96175, Washington, DC 20090-6175 or [amvetsnsf.org](http://amvetsnsf.org).

## East Hampton

### Ina Mary Strawn

Ina Mary Strawn, 72, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Wayne Strawn, died peacefully on Monday, March 18 at Hartford Hospital. Born Aug. 22, 1946 in Philadelphia, Pa., she was the daughter of the late Frank and Mary (Hoeflich) Slavin.

Ina was a retired kindergarten teacher for the Pleasantville, N.J. school system. She will be remembered for her compassion and kindness, especially for children and animals, and for her sense of humor and embrace of life.

She is survived by Wayne, her son Morgan Strawn of New York, her daughter Sabrina Strawn of Rhode Island, and her brother and sister-in-law Barry and Carol Slavin of California.

A funeral service will be held at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton on Saturday, March 23 at 11 a.m. Friends may call at the funeral home from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial will be held at a later date in Vermont.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary c/o Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation P.O. Box 3571 Newtown, CT 06470.

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

