

THE HAMPTON Gazette



VOLUME XLI, No. 1 FEBRUARY 2018

FAREWELL TO OUR CHAIRMAN: JIMMY HALLORAN



As our Chairman, Jimmy was an eloquent spokesperson, representing us at public forums and in the newspaper. He always encouraged us to tackle the tough subjects that a newspaper must – even in a small town. That was the thing about Jimmy – he wasn't afraid. As a citizen, he invariably exercised his first amendment rights at town meetings, where he asked important questions and raised relevant points. He spoke his mind; we always knew where Jimmy stood. He never avoided a subject because it could be controversial, or refrained from stating an opinion because it might be unpopular. He wasn't afraid to address issues that needed discussing; more than once it was Jimmy who unveiled the elephant in the room.

Jimmy was committed to local causes he believed in, and was a frequent agent of political action committees. Apparently people listened, because every single referendum vote echoed the view of the mailings with his name on them. Yet, however strong his opinions, they never prevented him from looking at all facets of an issue, which is in part why he was so very persuasive. The equanimity with which he approached matters made him a perfect candidate to moderate elections and referenda, a role he served successfully for several years.

Winters are hard in New England. Our recent weather and the pages of this issue attest to that. Too frequently we suffer the losses of loved ones, too many of whom we commemorate this month, including our Chairman, Jimmy Halloran.

Jimmy served as a member of our editorial board from February, 2015 to the present, first as Secretary and then as our Chairman. He wrote many articles, assuming responsibility for several of the controversial topics we covered by reporting on meetings and penning editorials to reflect our collective view. He contributed to our series, "Coming to Hampton", telling us the story of why he and Mary Ellen settled here, and to our series "Those who Serve" by interviewing veterans. Prior to joining our board, he submitted letters to the editor on local issues and articles advocating for local businesses and products.

Jimmy's crowning achievement was the memoir he published last year, *It Ain't Over Until the Fat Lady Sings*, an intimate narrative of a colorful life distinguished by determination, resilience, and courage. Born on February 5, 1941, "Jimmy Irish" was raised in the ethnic neighborhoods and on the iconic streets of Brooklyn, New York, where he learned to survive, and where he was introduced to gambling, gangs, and the drugs that led to an addiction that brought him to the brink of suicide, and to the steps of redemption. His successful recovery motivated Jimmy to continue on as a Drug Rehabilitation Counselor at Daytop Village, as well as the Director of its residential treatment facility, earning a B.A. in Community Development from Rutgers University and a M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Lone Mountain College in San Francisco after he relocated to California. There he served as a counselor at a VA Hospital before embarking on a variety of careers – as a massage therapist, a chimney sweep, and, acquiring the skills of carpentry, bricklaying, masonry and plumbing, a remodeling contractor, a property manager, and a real estate broker. Jimmy owned three chimney sweep businesses, and served as President of the California Chimney Sweep Guild. He also co-founded the Hepatitis C Global Foundation to educate patients about the potential benefits of macrobiotics on their disease. Most importantly, California is where he met his wife, Mary Ellen, whose love, he wrote, "makes life worth living".

Jimmy's memoir serves as an inspiration for anyone facing the challenge of reinventing their lives, and is an extraordinary gift to those seeking rehabilitation. He inscribed our copy with the empowering words: "We are who we choose to be". It is this brave legacy that he leaves us.

Jimmy remained brave all the way to the final chapter of his life, facing cancer with

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The Hampton Gazette



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JIMMY HALLORAN CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the same courage with which he faced everything else. At the memorial service commemorating his life, family and friends remembered him for his courage, his humor, the many hats he wore, literally and figuratively, his 'Jimmyisms' – "so what are we doing?" at the start of every meeting and "see you in church" at the end. Mostly, they shared their admiration. The last song that played at the service was "My Way" – a fitting tune for someone who lived his life so fully and fearlessly. His way.

The Hampton Gazette

Please consider donating in Jimmy's name to Samaritan Daytop Foundation, 138-02 Queens Blvd., Briarwood, NY 11435, Attention: Development Department.

Dear Readers,

The Hampton Gazette will honor the Citizen of the Year in our March issue, as we reserved this month's front page for a tribute to our Chairman, Jimmy Halloran.

The Gazette regretfully accepts the resignation of our staff photographer, Pete Vertefeulle, who has served our newspaper in this capacity for the last decade. As such, Pete has been responsible for preparing all the photographs we receive for publication, providing photographs to accompany articles, and photographing events that take place in town. He has also written articles on photography – technical aspects, artistic techniques, and capturing nature. It's a tremendous responsibility, and Pete has fulfilled it with professionalism and artistry. Fortunately, he has agreed to continue to prepare photographs we receive, and provide us with the masterpieces from his own photograph file. Thank you, Pete.

With Pete's resignation and Jimmy's passing, we are left with two vacancies on our editorial board, one member and one alternate. Please contact any member of our board or staff if you are interested in serving with us. Everyone is welcome – we can use a variety of skills. The only real requirement is an interest in our town.

Lastly, we are starting a new series this year depicting our old barns, while they're still standing, and our one room schoolhouses, while the students who attended them are still here. Every one of them – the barns and the students -- have a story to tell, and we look forward to providing a place to preserve them in our town newspaper.

The Gazette

MEETINGS EVENTS Calendar

Library Board, Fletcher Memorial
Thursday, February 1, 4:00PM

Board of Selectmen, Town Hall Community Room
Monday, February 5, 7:00PM

Board of Finance, Town Hall Community Room
Tuesday, February 13, 7:00PM

PFLAG Monthly Support Group, LL Community Center
Tuesday, February 20, 6:30PM

PHHS Board of Education, PHHS Library
Tuesday, February 20, 7:00PM

Planning & Zoning, Town Hall Community Room
Monday, February 26, 7:00PM

Conservation Commission,
Town Hall Community Room
Tuesday, February 27, 7:00PM

HES Board of Education, HES Library
Wednesday, February 28, 7:00PM

For more information on Hampton Happenings, please visit our Town online at www.hamptonct.org



THUMBS UP to the Annual Super Bowl Grinder Sale, and the Republican Town Committee for "putting politics aside" to sponsor this fundraiser that continues to benefit residents – for several years, the town's emergency fuel fund, and this year, a Hampton family. It is our hope that Hampton's spirit of generosity continues in, and throughout the New Year.

THUMBS DOWN to the rules, regulations, or statutes that facilitate limited efforts to solicit citizen input: in recent cases, deprivation of the opportunity to vote on the question of district dissolution despite residents' interest in the subject; and the inadequacy of public notice for a hearing to amend the town's zoning regulations. When it comes to obtaining public input, "the letter of the law" is often insufficient.

AUNTIE MAC Dear



My husband has recently retired, and his method of relaxation has turned into an obsession: with reality T.V. The Bachelor, Bachelorette, Total Divas, Ru Paul, WAGS, Keeping up with the Kardashians, Marriage at First Sight, Say Yes to the Dress, Supernanny, Chopped, Botched, and the Real Housewives of every city under the sun. He not only watches all the time, whenever he tears himself away from the screen, he only wants to discuss reality stars, their antics, and "who wore it best"! I understand that his career was mentally challenging, and that some "candy for the mind" is necessary, but smaller doses are in order.

Please help,
A Reality-Based Spouse

My Dear Neighbor:

Your Auntie Mac must confess, she was rather humbled by your question, having never seen any of these programs – other than of course the fabulous RuPaul—and she assumes you are not inventing these tasteless forays into mindlessness just to “have one over on me,” as the young ones put it. Not that I don’t believe you, dear—through the ages we have found numerous—and ignoble—ways of alleviating boredom, from watching the odd Christian being devoured by lions to the Victorian sport of pteridomania—obsessively hunting for ferns in places that nine times out of ten resulted in less-than-graceful tumbles from thousand-foot cliffs. It does not take much jostling out of the comfortable bed of active routine and onto the hard, cold linoleum of *ennui* before we have developed, whether we know it or not, a private and sometimes unique addiction. Some of us go on whirlwind shopping sprees to Journelle and Le Bon Marché, buying far too much gray silk lingerie. Others begin to feel deprived if we do not make a daily stop at the éclair counter. I have quizzed Lars extensively on this phenomenon, it being winter and he feeling that his duties as my assistant do not extend beyond chainsaw and rototiller. I often find him, in the evening hours, sprawled on my couch watching something called “Dancing With The Stars,” and although he wouldn’t know a *pas de deux* if it kicked him in the shins, all my most vehement threats cannot pull that man away from learning if Rumer Willis will win the season’s trophy, or if the billionaire investor is investing rather more than he should in his partner/instructor. As you so aptly point out, however, your husband’s over-indulgence in “reality” shows is much akin to the éclair addiction: at some point, one simply cannot look at another one without getting nauseous, and finds oneself searching for a nice arugula salad and a seltzer. And as Lars says grumpily, when I berate him for his overindulgence, “It’s been a long winter. I’ll snap out of it when I can feel my damn toes again.” I suspect your husband will be bidding *adieu* to bachelorettes, wedding dresses, caramelized onions, and upscale catfights in a matter of weeks. In the meantime, be kind to him, and view the entire affair as an anthropologic phase. But write again quickly if you find your house suddenly full of ferns.

Your Auntie Mac

CONTRIBUTORS:

Deb Andstrom, Cindy Bezanson, Gloria Burell, Allan Cahill, Becky Burelle Gagne, Sarah Heminway, Michelle Mlyniec, Kelli Postemski, Linda Sanchini, Jasper Sha, Janice Trecker, Pete Vertefeuille.

Dear Readers,

This is way overdue and I really don't have enough words, but New Year's Day seems like the right time to say: To my family, friends, old and new, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances, businesses owners and strangers, THANK YOU! I couldn't make it without you. I am so touched and overwhelmed by the love and support that I have received.

Judy Noel

“I’ve learned a lot this year...I learned that things don’t always turn out the way you planned, or the way you think they should. And I’ve learned that there are things that go wrong that don’t always get fixed or get put back together the way they were before. I’ve learned that some broken things stay broken, and I’ve learned that you can get through bad times and keep looking for better ones, as long as you have people who love you.”

JENNIFER WEINER



Editor:

Many of us are aware of the benefits that come with having a small community school in our district. Quite a few of us moved here to this quiet corner of Connecticut just for these benefits. But sometimes we forget or are so accustomed to it that we wouldn't realize what they were until they were gone. So here are some things we might take for granted, but what make our towns so special.

Parish Hill is our community nucleus. It's where citizens of all ages and from all three towns come together for a variety of activities and get to know one another. This was most evident this fall when tragedy hit a Hampton family. Scotland, Hampton, and Chaplin residents came together in strong support under the roof of the middle/high school. On a Friday evening over 400 people gathered to enjoy a spaghetti dinner cooked by Parish Hill's kitchen staff and students and watch a lively basketball game played by staff and alumni. The community spirit, warmth and solidarity were palpable throughout the evening. This kind of emotional and financial support is quintessential of small community camaraderie.

LETTERS CONTINUED PAGE 5



Hampton Happenings VILLAGE VIEW

FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN

Happy New Year!

Town Hall improvements continue as new energy efficient windows have been installed on the first floor. The \$21,000 upgrade was in part funded by a \$5,000 Bright Ideas Grant from Eversource, the rest from our Capital and Energy accounts. The solar panels that used to be on the Fire House have been added to the array behind the Town Hall. And the Department of Public Works has built an Ice Skating Rink on the baseball field. After Mother Nature freezes it, we can skate!

Thanks to the Patel Family's investment in Hampton, their new Package Store, Gas Station, and Convenience Store should open soon. Hope to see you there!

Allan Cahill

ANNUAL SUPER BOWL GRINDER SALE TO BENEFIT FAMILY

The Republican Town Committee is once again sponsoring the Annual Super Bowl Grinder Sale on February 4 at the Community Center. For the last several years, this fundraiser has benefitted families by providing the town's emergency fuel fund with its proceeds. This endeavor has been so successful, along with two relatively mild winters, that a substantial amount remains in the fuel fund for residents this winter.

Therefore, they've decided to donate the proceeds this year to the Charpentier family, who lost their father, Dennis, last fall in a tragic accident. Understandably, the family is in need of good neighbors. That would be our Community. It is our hope that Hampton will demonstrate the kindness that has been so very evident these last few months in our community's responsiveness.

GRINDER SALE FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

If dietary restrictions, or other Super Bowl plans, prohibit you from purchasing grinders, please consider making a donation directly to the family through an account established at the Savings Institute. Make checks payable to: Patty Charpentier, and specify "for deposit only #9860005008389" on the back of the check. Checks can be mailed directly to the Savings Institute, 803 Main St., Willimantic, CT, 06226, or delivered to the Community Center on February 4 and included with the proceeds. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Republican Town Committee

SEEC DISMISSES COMPLAINT

The State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) has ruled that Regional District #11 Superintendent Ken Henrici did not violate finance rules when he authorized the production and payment of signs that used the school district's colors, logo, and motto to publicize a hearing prior to an RD11 referendum.

The signs were posted on October 17, the day before the first of two public hearings held to discuss the recommendation of the Addition and Withdrawal of Grades Committee to expand the regional district by disbanding the elementary schools' boards of education and assigning control of PK – 6 grade students in Hampton, Chaplin and Scotland to the RD11 school board. Along with the dates, times, and location of the meetings, the green signs with white lettering were bordered with the slogan "Go Pirates!" captioning the school's iconic mascot. Complainant Diane Gagnon alleged use of public funds by a public official to advocate a position on a referendum, citing Connecticut General Statute 9-369b which prohibits the "expenditure of state and municipal funds to influence votes" in "local questions and proposals" and includes "preparation, printing and dissemination of explanatory texts and other materials".

In his response to the complaint, Henrici countered that "the mere inclusion of a logo featuring the Region 11 pirate mascot and green and white colors is insufficient to infer referendum advocacy on the part of Region 11".

While the SEEC found that the referendum date to determine whether or not the district should expand had been set, and that the signs cost \$250 in taxpayer dollars – two of the criteria required in order for the complainant to prevail – the commission did not find that the use of the symbols were meant to influence the vote.

In forming their decision, the commission cited previous cases: one in which a pamphlet distributed prior to a referendum on a proposed building project included architectural pictures and floor plans; and a local case filed by resident Linda Fasake, who alleged a violation of CGS9-369b against Hampton's Registrars of Voters at a June referendum, claiming they were attempting to influence the vote when they posted a notice in the polls urging voters to seek an explanation on the meaning of the question prior to entering the polling place. These two complaints were ultimately dismissed by the commission.

"The response I received from the SEEC indicates that the superintendent was the only person interviewed to determine whether or not the signs attempted to influence the vote," said Gagnon, adding that she did not find the cited examples comparable to this one. "I can see how floor plans for a building project and notices directing voters to obtain clarification on a confusing question would be viewed as informative, but I don't see how the school's mascot captioned with the slogan "Go Pirates" could be considered a necessary piece of information."

Juan Arriola



CLARK'S CORNER: JONATHAN WOULD BE PROUD

In the mid-19th century the place to stop and fill up (for you and your horse) was at Jonathan Clark's Inn.

One hundred and sixty years later, the West end of Town is humming with new activity and the opening of the Patel's convenience store and Hampton Wine & Spirits.

Mickey and Manisha Patel came to Northeastern Connecticut, first to Willimantic, in the mid-nineties, investing in and ultimately purchasing convenience stores in both Chaplin and Thompson. After working hard to improve these businesses to grow and thrive, they were ready to make a jump to "a new adventure", says Manisha. The former "Lock, Stock, and Barrel" building, originally built and run by early computer innovator Larry McNaughton, eventually became offices of the Kinzer Family's Storage Solutions, with storage facilities behind. With the Kinzer's ready to transition to Virginia, the building was ready to have new life, and the Patel's the vision to make it happen.

With support from neighbors and friends, they navigated the many permit approvals, bureaucratic pathways, public hearings, and a little criticism for developing a gas station, convenience store, wine and spirits shop in such a short distance of others in the next town.

During an October meeting, the community was invited to discuss development of the commercial zone, a number of residents and business concerns, including Hampton Hill Garage, NECHEAR, and EASTCONN from Clark's Corner attended, mainly concerned with the increased traffic flow on an already fast road with a growing number of traffic accidents in recent years. Another concern was blight, as the stretch between North Brook and West Fisk Road had seen businesses move out and vacant houses decay.

According to Mickey, "It has all been positive. The support we have received from many in the Town and many that we have met only recently, feels like family." With many helpers, including family and friends, and new liquor store manager, Lori Danna, they opened a week earlier than expected with many residents turning out to greet and welcome the new business.

While the liquor store is fully stocked, the convenient store is catching up quickly to make sure shoppers will find many of their favorites, including Mountain Dairy, Hosmer Soda, and hot coffee to go. Besides the basics, there is also an ATM machine and the Lottery games will arrive soon. They are also working on completing a sandwich station for lunch and breakfast. One can also find information online with Facebook to see weekly specials at both stores. One such promotion: Mickey's salute to Hampton on Saturday, February 3, before the Super Bowl, with gas priced at \$2.47 a gallon in honor of our zip code.

Clark's Corner has come a long way from the dirt roads leading to "New Boston", Hartford, and beyond, but it continues to remain an always friendly and vital part of our larger Hampton Community.

Mary Oliver

Photo Chuck Straub, CT Railroads



LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Parish Hill holds events throughout the year that not only help those in need, but bring together students and their neighbors who they wouldn't otherwise get the opportunity to know. At a recent Veterans Luncheon at Parish Hill my son, who is a junior, sat in awe listening to a resident talk about his time in the war as well as martial arts, school, and careers. This experience is valuable beyond anything money can buy. Similar experiences are had by students who volunteer in the community shoveling snow, doing farm work, singing at tree lightings, visiting the elderly, marching in local parades, volunteering at the elementary schools, working the blood drives and breakfasts with Santa, and participating in the Empty Bowls Project -- to name a few.

As a school that promotes community service, Parish Hill shows support to local families in need. They give food, money and gift donations to families at Thanksgiving and Christmas and are there to give money, supplies, and support to families in dire straits throughout the year. The school opens its doors to the local Boy Scout Troops, knitting group, and summer basketball clinics for kids of all ages as well as offering yoga classes almost every Monday that are free to residents who are 55 or older. They value those who do not have children in the school and work hard to be inclusive and give back.

Parish Hill validates that we are a community that values and invests in education. The aim is to have students, parents, community members, teachers, administrators, local officials and local businesses collaborate to create and maintain a vibrant community where people want to live and raise their families. So, take advantage of what Parish Hill has to offer! Contact us for more information: phactpta@gmail.com

Lisa LaBelle
PHACT PTA President

To the Editor:

I want to commend the State for recognition of all the senior citizens who are and will continue be in need of caregiving at home and in facilities through providing My Place CT. I hope, along with the Department of Education, this program will be expanded to high schools (family/consumer studies departments would be a good place to offer this) developing a major course of study

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PZC APPROVES EVENT CENTER



The Planning and Zoning Commission at its January 22 meeting voted unanimously, with one abstention, to approve a special permit for an event center, Stonehurst at Hampton Valley, at the corner of Providence Turnpike and Drain Street. The decision came after public hearings on December 18 and January 22, a January 13 site walk, a December 5 review of the plan by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency, and an October 23 hearing to amend the Zoning Regulations to include “event facilities” as a permitted use along the Route 6 corridor. The amendment includes stipulations as to noise, lighting, landscaping, hours of operation, waste collection, storm water treatment, parking lot requirements, a traffic and circulation plan, and approval by the district health department.

Engineers Greg Glaude and Normand Thibeault, representing owner Craig Gates, presented plans for the event center at the public hearings and fielded questions raised by commission members and residents who numbered approximately two dozen. Residents who favored the proposal described it as a “perfect use” for the property that was initially built as an alpaca farm and a bed and breakfast. The new owner intends to expand the facility for gatherings such as weddings and banquets. Two weeks prior to the hearing, the facility hosted a fundraising event for a resident. One neighbor spoke of the benefit of an events facility in making Hampton a destination. The town’s many artists and artisans could profit, the speaker opined, as well as local restaurants. Several letters of support were also submitted.

Opponents, mostly residents of Drain Street, raised numerous concerns, among them noise, light pollution, depletion of the water supply, hazardous traffic conditions, road maintenance due to increased use, and potential impact on the Little River which runs along the property. Loss of the town’s rural character was also a concern. One audience member cautioned that “Burger King” would be next. Aside from this particular apprehension, the concerns raised were addressed

by the commission’s response to the proposal with conditions set forth in the regulations and in the specifics of the plan. In spite of these precautionary measures, members and residents remained skeptical with respect to the parking area, traffic, and the vagueness of the term “event”.

As to the possibility of paving, changes to the parking lot, which is currently a grassy area, are subject to approval by the IWWA, and the applicant, per the terms of the permit, must return to the Commission for a review of the parking area’s condition next year.

Residents of Drain Street questioned the traffic report that was submitted and whether emergency vehicles could navigate the road easily when vehicles exited at the end of an event. The Department of Transportation’s analysis and approval was submitted as well as a letter from the Fire Marshal stating that the proposed plan provides for adequate access for emergency services. Additionally, the plan stipulates that the proprietor alert the First Selectman prior to events that are expected to reach 85% capacity. Speakers expressed a preference for an entrance and exit to the facility on Route 6, but the engineers claimed that wetlands were a prohibitive factor.

Residents were also concerned that the term “event” was too vague to describe the facility’s activities. Town Planner John Guskowski explained that it must be broadly defined to allow for a multitude of events, and that it was doubtful, given the limitations imposed, that the facility would host objectionable events, adding that businesses must adhere to the “good neighbor” standards that private home owners don’t have to abide by.

Dayna McDermott

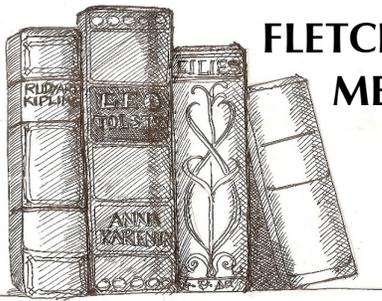
DISSOLUTION DECISION ENDS WITH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

After a year of assessing the advisability of dissolving Regional District #11, the committee of tri-town representatives charged with studying the issue voted 3 – 5 against recommending district dissolution, and consequently, the taxpayers’ right to vote on the matter.

The December 18 meeting was packed with mostly parents, students and staff who spoke in support of the school, noting recent improvements, accomplishments, and the school’s small size which affords individual attention and allows all interested students to participate in sports and other extra-curricular activities. Their remarks were accompanied by a petition signed by over 200 residents.

But small size and the consequent per pupil costs were chief among the reasons listed for proponents of dissolution. Scotland officials spoke of their town’s dire financial straits, which have received much local press, with threats of bankruptcy looming. Residents from Hampton also voiced concern over the declining population, which has plummeted more than predicted. Hampton currently has 35 high school students enrolled at Parish Hill, a figure expected to drop by 30% over the next decade.

Residents also advocated for the people’s opportunity to vote on the matter. The statute dictates that if a committee does not recommend dissolution, a referendum vote is not necessary, but some speakers urged their representatives to recommend dissolution and stipulate their rationale – to allow a vote – as well as their stance against dissolution, in the report submitted to the State. This request was supported with a petition signed by over 100 residents; only one resident from Scotland spoke against a referendum, stating that the decision should be left to committee members because “people don’t educate themselves on the issues”. Students also signed a petition requesting that the committee not allow taxpayers to vote on the matter.



FLETCHER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

HOURS Wednesday 12-8PM,
Thursday & Friday 9AM-12PM,
& Saturday 9AM-3PM

NEW BOOKS

Not too many volumes are issued immediately after the holidays, but we have some new works by popular authors like Wilbur Smith, Danielle Steel, Debbie Macomber and Andy Weir, plus new juveniles, DVD's and audio books.

ADULT FICTION

Marie Benedict	Carnegie's Maid
Elizabeth Berg	The Story of Arthur Truluv
Robert Crais	The Wanted
John Crowley	Ka:Dar Oakley in the Ruin of Ymr
Richard Paul Evans	The Noel Diary
Tom Hanks	Uncommon Type (short stories)
Debbie Macomber	Merry and Bright
Wilbur Smith	The Tiger's Prey
Danielle Steel	Fairytale
Andy Weir	Artemis

ADULT NON-FICTION

John Toland	Adolf Hitler, Vol 2.
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JUVENILE AND YOUNG ADULT

Katherine Applegate	Wishtree
John Green	Turtles All the Way Down
Alice Schertle	Little Blue Truck's Christmas (board book)

DVDs

Wind River, Hitman's Bodyguard, Dean (family), Gifted (family), Spider-Man, Dark Tower, The Beguiled, The Ticket, Rules Don't Apply, Queen of the Desert, The Edge of Seventeen, Victoria & Abdul, Cars 3, Leap

AUDIO BOOKS

Jonathan Safran Foer	Here I Am
Scott Kelly	Endurance: A Year in Space, A Lifetime of Discovery
Alice McDermott	The Ninth Hour

EVENTS

February 3 Take Your Child to the Library Day 9AM – 3PM Check out your local library! Fletcher Memorial invites families to visit for stories, a craft, and refreshments.

February 7 FML Book Discussion Group 6:30PM
We will be discussing *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie. New members are always welcome!

February 10 Valentine's Day Card Making 9 – 3PM
Come to the library to make a Valentine's Day card. All ages are welcome!

March 3 Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party featuring The Cat in the Hat! 10 – 11AM
Dr. Seuss stories, a craft, birthday cupcakes, and a visit from The Cat in the Hat in person. He will be available for pictures, and an autograph.

Friday Mornings Story Time, Song & Play 10 – 11AM
For children (ages 0-5) and their caregivers, an interactive program using a variety of musical instruments, rhymes, songs, finger plays, puppets, as well as a story or two.

Wednesdays Knitting Group NOON – 3PM
Drop in and have a cup of tea or coffee and work on a needlework project, or just come in to socialize. All are welcome!

Drop-In Adult Coloring: Experience the stress-reducing and meditative benefits of coloring. Materials are provided, but feel free to bring your own.

For more information on all listed programs, please call the library at 860-455-1086.

LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

for graduating high school students who will be employable upon graduation as State technical students are in their respective fields. There is presently a demand which will only increase with the coming needs of the "baby boom" generation. Students with this preparation will be employable not only locally, but nationwide.

Diane Meade

To the Editor:

At the Dissolution Committee meetings, members heard from staff, students and parents as to the reasons for keeping Parish Hill open. Chief among them were that teachers at Parish Hill care more for their students than teachers in other area schools, such as Norwich Free Academy, E. O. Smith, Windham High School and Woodstock Academy. Listening to the comments, one would assume that Parish Hill has a monopoly on caring.

The notion that caring teachers do not exist elsewhere is disrespectful and absurd. Locally, throughout the state and nation, and globally, teachers care. Many at this moment are caring for children who face homelessness, abuse, domestic violence, natural disasters, the threat of deportation, and omnipresent poverty. I've no doubt that the teachers at Parish Hill are caring, because we all are.

Juan Arriola



OPEN STUDIO FOR EMPTY BOWLS

This year's Empty Bowls Open Studio Hours will be held 10:00AM -1:00PM at Parish Hill on Saturdays through March 23rd. Come on by and help to create bowls for this important cause.

Town Contact Information

Town Hall: 860.455.9132 (main number provides extensions for Offices of: First Selectman, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Assessors, Building Inspector, Registrars of Voters, and Housing Rehabilitation)

Animal Control: 860.774.1253

Town Garage: 860.455.9715

Transfer Station: 860.455.0682

Hampton Elementary School:
860.455.9409

Parish Hill Middle/High School:
860.455.9584

In case of emergency, dial 911; for all other purposes call:

Ambulance Corps: 860.455.9660

Fire Department: 860.455.9132, x 18

Police – Troop D: 860.779.4900



GREEN THUMBS: Meadows

Instead of a large lawn you might want to have an ornamental meadow. Wildlife and dragon flies, butterflies and bees will like it. A subtle blend of textures and colors are very beautiful. Many grasses are great in meadows, such as local schizachyrium scoparium (little blue stem grass) which glows orange after a rain and turns deep red in the winter, and calamagrostis brachytricha (feather reed grass). Some flowers to try are: amsonia hubrichtii (blue star) which turns a brilliant gold in the fall, several different asters to bring blue or pink to the meadow, eupatorium (Joe Pye Weed) with magenta pink domes of flowers, daucus carota (wild carrot, or Queen Anne's lace), and pycnanthemum loomisii (mountain mint). These grasses and flowers like full sun. A path through the meadow is a great addition. Meadows can be enjoyed through all the seasons.

DISSOLUTION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The decision was the final step in a process that started in June, 2016 when tri-town citizens voted 591-526 to study dissolution, forcing the RD11 Board of Education to establish a committee to address the issue. A tri-town exit poll conducted in conjunction with the November, 2015 Municipal Election also resulted in residents favoring district dissolution in a 563-257-250 vote, as opposed to district expansion or the status quo – elementary schools in each member town with one regional school for middle and high school students. However, the poll was non-binding, and school officials instead established the Addition or Withdrawal of Grades Committee, which recommended expanding the district by eliminating the local school boards and relegating control of elementary school students to the regional district board, a proposal that failed 443-507 in a November 16, 2017 tri-town referendum. The boards of education also developed and distributed a survey, which garnered the strongest support among tri-town participants for dissolving the district, educating 7th and 8th graders in the towns' elementary schools, and tuitioning students in grades 9 – 12 to area high schools as their preferred course of action.

However, the majority of committee members, appointed by the school and finance boards on which they serve, decided differently: Chaplin's representatives, Cesar Beltran, Stephanie Harrington, and William Hooper, voted as Chaplin residents traditionally have – against dissolution; Scotland's representatives, Claire D'Appollonio, Steve Kurcinik, and Jen Nelson favored dissolution, as Scotland residents traditionally have; but Hampton's representatives, Rose Bisson and Nick Brown, both voted against dissolution – and the people's right to vote on the subject -- contrary to the town's voting history on the issue. This is the second time the district has studied dissolution. A 2009 study ended in a referendum with the majority of voters, and towns -- Scotland and Hampton -- voting in favor of district dissolution, while Chaplin voters opposed the measure.

Though neither Bisson nor Brown remarked on the reason for their vote during the meeting, in an earlier straw poll, Bisson explained that she did not believe there were sufficient savings in dissolving the district. As a member of the Addition or Withdrawal of Grades Committee, Bisson supported district expansion, a measure with anticipated savings for Hampton of approximately \$100,000 a year. Bisson serves as Chairman of both the RD#11 and Hampton Elementary School Boards of Education. Though Brown declined to participate in the straw poll as he had yet to take the Oath of Office, he announced to the Board of Finance his intention to vote in favor of district dissolution, an opinion he also penned for publication in the Gazette, in order to clarify his stance prior to the November Election. After his re-election to the finance board, he announced that he changed his mind, citing limited savings and his belief that it was doubtful students could receive a better education at any of the neighboring schools, among them Woodstock Academy, E. O. Smith, and Norwich Free Academy.

Both Bisson and Brown confirmed the statement, approved at a January 3 meeting, explaining the committee's decision in their report to the State: that there is insufficient evidence of cost savings presented, initially and in the long term, coupled with academic improvements, to justify the disruption to students that would result from dissolution. The statement also acknowledged that declining enrollment remains a concern.

Though there will be no referendum, there will be public hearings conducted in all three towns to present the data that informed the committee's recommendation.

Dayna McDermott

GROWING AND LEARNING

TOP SHELF GALLERY: ELEANOR LINKKILA "IMAGES OF THE QUIET CORNER"

Fletcher Memorial Library's Top Shelf Gallery's February- March show will be "Images of the Quiet Corner", photographs by Eleanor Linkkila, who specializes in nature photography. "Living in rural Hampton, we have many creatures visiting our



yard," she says. Many of the birds that visit their feeders show up in her charming photographs along with a variety of wild mammals. Cloud formations are another favorite subject that Linkkila is well placed to shoot. She is a weather observer for the Cooperative Program of the National Weather Service with a NOAA station on their property.

Linkkila always tries to have a camera available. "Light is the most important aspect of photography," she says. "The most compelling object may not result in an interesting photo without the proper light." She got interested in photography when the digital camera became popular, and at the urging of her grandson, then a *Chronicle* photographer, she purchased her first digital single reflex lens ((DSLR) camera. The camera led to courses via the online Bryan Peterson School of Photography. Linkkila has also studied graphic design via the state college system. She currently uses an array of DSLR cameras as well as a super-zoom camera and uses both Photoshop Lightroom and Photoshop for editing photos

WRITING FROM THE HAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PILGRIM'S HARVEST FEAST *Noah Heon*

In my opinion, Thanksgiving is the sweet smell of turkey. This is not true for the pilgrim's first Harvest Feast. Did you know that they really ate eel, duck, and deer, which is also known as venison? Their sweet smell was fresh and a bit salty because some of these animals live in the salt water and the Pilgrim's main seasoning was salt. Venison smells like its seasoning that gets put on it. In my opinion, the pilgrim's harvest was as delicious to them as my Thanksgiving feast is to me.

THANKSGIVING OR HARVEST FEAST *Eric DeSantos-Wilson*

Did you know the pilgrims called Thanksgiving a Harvest Feast? A day of pilgrims giving of thanks would have been in church. The Pilgrims would pray in church most of the day and not eat much, but drink some water. They did have a celebration that lasted during their harvest. Harvest time is when they picked all of their crops. They cooked a lot of it and had a feast. The Wampanoag came uninvited. The pilgrims did not expect them, but the Wampanoags hunted and roasted deer for everyone. In my opinion, the first Harvest Feast was a really good one for the pilgrims.

SCIENCE WITH SCOTIA: EMPEROR PENGUINS *Scotia Thomen-O'Brien*

Do you know what an Emperor penguin cannot do? Emperor Penguins cannot fly. They cannot fly because they have wings that are more like flippers. Flippers help them steer underwater to catch their prey. Emperor penguins live in Antarctica and eat squid and fish. They can fit 20 fish in their mouth. Emperor penguins are shaped like bowling pins. They can even slide on their belly and they have a funny waddle. Waddle means to walk like a march only jiggle. One connection I have with Emperor penguins is I am four feet tall and so are Emperor Penguins! Emperor penguins weigh 90 pounds, but I don't.

TOM MERASCO EARNS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Tom Merasco, a senior at Parish Hill High School, was recently recognized with a Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Student-Leader Award. The annual accolade is given to a student who demonstrates leadership in the school and volunteerism in the community. "As a student leader and for community work," says Superintendent Ken Henrici, "Tom is unsurpassed." Teachers nominate the students considered for the award, which was bestowed at a November meeting of the Board of Education. Tom will again be recognized by the University Region Superintendents Association at a ceremony on February 28, along with award recipients from 25 other schools in the region.



"Tom is one of the nicest and likable kids I've ever met in education," says Henrici. "Everyone likes him, staff and students." Mr. Henrici noted that Tom is always willing to help, pointing to an example of voluntarily assembling the school library's furniture. Tom was instrumental in building the bench his good friend Coty designed that was completed by the wood construction class to hold a place of honor at the school's entrance. He serves the critical role of peer mentor for middle school students as they transition from the elementary schools. He is a four-year starter on the school's baseball team, leading the team in all fundraising receipts, and is the team captain this year. As such, he is highly respected by the coach and all the players.

Congratulations to his mother, Helen Merasco, grandparents, Ruth and Dave Halbach, great-grandmother, Harriet Kemp, and great-grandfather, Eddie Halbach, and especially to Tom – thank you for making Hampton proud.

GROWING AND LEARNING



Boy Scouts, contact: John Tillinghast, 455.9387 or jwaltill@mindspring.com
 Cub Scouts contact: Michelle Mlyniec, 455.1278 or MMmlyniec@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the following students for earning distinction on the Dean's List at their respective schools.

Pomfret Preparatory School:

Abigail Castle and Nathaniel Rice

University of Hartford: Alexandra Dash

Eastern Connecticut State University:

Courtney Beaulieu, Josh Jones, Priscilla Leon and Kelsey Wolfe.

Congratulations also to Robert Totten who performed guitar in ECSU's Jazz Concert, and to Harry Gagne who worked with the set construction crew for the ECSU productions of "Little Women" and "Thread City".

SCOUTING NEWS

Save the Date: All Cub, Boy, and Girl Scouts are welcome to the Scout Sunday worship service at the Hampton Congregational Church on February 4 at 10 a.m. This is a great way to honor all Scouts for their dedication and service to the community. It will be a very special service this year to honor the 70th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 93 in Hampton.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 93:

The Troop has been busy during their Tuesday meetings working on merit badges including Backpacking and Personal Management, as well as the planning that took place to make their own snow shoes for the annual Klondike outdoor winter camping weekend in January. On December 19th, the Troop held its Court of Honor Awards banquet. A great meal was shared by all and was followed by the awards ceremony. Advancing in rank to Scout were Mark Early-Schmidt, Travis Hill, and Alec Guarneri. Receiving the rank of Star Scout were Micah Mlyniec, Sam Nunn, and Matthew Gailey. We extend congratulations to these boys for their hard work.

The Boy Scout Troop is for boys in grades 6-12 and meets Tuesday evenings at the Hampton Congregational Church from 7-8:30 PM.

CUB SCOUT PACK 93:

The Cub Scouts were busy in December spreading holiday cheer. They participated in the caroling to Hampton elders and also sang to the residents at Douglas Manor. The Pack meeting in December recognized the boys for advancement in a variety of areas including nature observation, nutrition, hiking, knife skills, and outdoor survival skills. The theme was "Kindness", and several activities explored how Scouts can promote goodwill in their families, schools, and neighborhoods. All siblings – from the teenagers to the toddlers – joined in the night's games and merriment.

The Cub Scout Pack is for boys in grades K-5 and the next Pack meeting is Saturday, February 10th at the Hampton Congregational Church from 2-4:30 PM for our annual Blue and Gold Banquet to celebrate the birthday of Scouting.

Michelle Mlyniec

SOUP 'n SILENTS SHOW AT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Congregational Church announces this year's gala Silent Film event scheduled for February 24 -- a comedy featuring Harold Lloyd in one of his funniest features: *The Freshman*. Made in 1925 near the peak of his career, the film includes all the usual Lloyd conniving touches to keep audiences of all ages laughing. Accompanying the film is again Hollywood's own Clark Wilson, considered by many to be the best silent film accompanist in America. He'll use the church's special-designed digital organ that's custom fitted with all the needed musical flavors for silent comedies.



Once again this year's event will hold a "Silent Auction" during dinner, featuring a limited number of custom-made items and baskets.

As in past years, a pre-show dinner of homemade soups and breads begins at 5PM and continues to 6:45. Showtime is at 7. Auction winners will be announced before the show begins.

This is a show for everyone, from school kids to grandparents, something really refreshing to help break the deep winter blahs. Meal and movie are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Children 5 and under are free. Bring the entire family for \$30. Call: 860 455-9677 or hcc06247@gmail.com for questions and pre-show ticket purchases.



The barn was very large.

It was very old. It smelled of hay and it smelled of manure.

It smelled of the perspiration of tired horses and the wonderful sweet breath of patient cows....

It often had a sort of peaceful smell as though nothing bad could happen ever again in the world...

E. B. White, Charlotte's Web

BURELL'S BARN

The barn, built in the 1800's, has been for generations in the Burell family, many of whose members live in Hampton and environs, including Gloria, the only surviving sibling of Hector and Kathryn -- whose parents migrated to Hampton from Pennsylvania. Gloria's father, who everyone called "Mike", built the farmhouse in 1938, two weeks before the infamous hurricane. Gloria attributes its condition to her father, whose philosophy was "If ten nails are necessary, 20 are better". As the farm expanded, Mike built additions onto the barn, in the 1940's to accommodate more than 50 cows milked daily, and in the 1950's, another for calves and heifers. The Burells also raised cattle, a bull, goats, and chickens in the coops in back of the barn. The whole family worked on the farm -- John, Francis, Florence, Kathryn and Gloria -- and later the grandchildren who also grew up on the farm. Mike was a "renaissance man", repairing equipment and buildings and passing his knowledge to his children and grandchildren.

The cows were milked before breakfast and before school. Summers, everyone pitched in to help with haying. Hay was loose, picked up with a fork; years later it was baled, stacked on the truck and brought to the loft of the barn by the conveyor. Gloria drove the tractor only once -- it got away from her and after that, Florence did all the driving. Corn was harvested in the fall -- cut in the field, loaded onto the truck and put into an open grain auger where it was blown into the silo. After chores such as these, her mother would prepare picnics for all who helped, served on a large table under the pine tree that still sprawls there.

There wasn't much time for farming after Gloria started her teaching career, her siblings married, John and Francis started an excavation business and a saw mill, and the dairy farm closed, though Gloria's mother still farmed enough to provide milk, butter and eggs for the family. She recalls her brothers scolding her mother for splitting wood for the stove she cooked on, yet she continued anyway, the rural version of "Rosie the Riveter".

Gloria is one of only a few people left in Hampton who still lives in the house where she was born, literally, in the bedroom she sleeps in now. The barn is a cornerstone of what she describes as a "wonderful childhood. I would never change my life, growing up on the farm, early mornings

Our Rural Heritage: Historic Barns **FOREST&FIELD**

milking, summers haying. Generations worked together and learned from each other, skills, and an incredible work ethic."

DOWN THE FARM

I grew up nearly in the shadow of the big red barn. I remember from an early age the sounds and sights and smells of that old barn with its two, then one, then no standing silos. It was a great comfort to go outside and see the cows going into the barn to be milked. To hear Nanny calling to them, "Come Boss! Come Boss! Come Bossie!" They'd come running. They knew it was time to eat the sweet grain and be milked. In the afternoon some of us kids -- there were eight of us so we didn't all go in a crowd -- would head down to the barn to get our pail of milk and carry it home. It was cold and rich and sweet, fresh from the cows, many of whom we'd named and treated like pets. There was Charlie -- she was a sweet and gentle cow. Georgie the bull -- you didn't want to go in the field with him -- he didn't like people.

HISTORIC BARNs CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





HISTORIC BARNs CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The barn was full of adventure and fun for my siblings and me. A perfect place to play cops and robbers, hide and seek. And of course, the hay mow was wonderful for tunneling in the hay, swinging from a rope from the big wooden beam to the sweet hay below. Nanny didn't like us playing up there as we'd scatter the hay about. We'd be quiet as the barn mice but she always knew when we were up there. She'd holler "You kids, get out of that hay loft!" But didn't care if we continued to stay and play. During the summer months, we'd be down the farm more than at home. We'd play in the barn, pet the animals, look for new kittens. The barn was home to many animals, including some infamous mousers, who went by the names of Hunter, Zorba, Starsky and Hutch.

In later years, the dairy cows were all sold. There were still a few beef cows, goats, chickens, and of course the barn cats. Then they all too were gone from the barn. But the echoes remained. Of the sounds of the cows moving their noses about in their grain bins, the banging of the stanchions as they moved about when the flies were bothering them. The smell lingered in the wooden beams and walls of Timothy hay, milk and manure. I can still picture Nanny's sweet, tired smile as she finished up her barn chores and headed for the house to fix supper.

Becky Burelle Gagne

The earliest recorded deed for the property at 545 Pudding Hill is 1831 to Harvey Smith. The farm remained in the Harvey family till 1899, when it was purchased by Robert Kent, the barn referenced for the first time though the date of its construction is unknown. A year later it was sold to Annette and Israel Brown, whose purchase included all the farm implements. In 1911, Mariano Margiano and Giorgio Luizza purchased the property, selling it in 1919 to John Gyursco, upon whose death it was transferred to his wife Josephine, then to son Joseph, whose daughter, Kathryn, inherited the farm in 1937.

GOODWIN CONTINUED

February 16 Come Walk among the Stars 7 – 9PM

Join us for a night devoted to the stars and constellations of the winter sky with astrologist and ECSU professor emeritus Ralph Yulo.

February 17 Gardener's Roundtable 10 – 11:30AM

For gardeners of all experience levels, sharing best practices for gardening in our region. Come with your questions and your expertise.

February 17 Tips and Tools for Organic Management of Vegetable Insect Pests 1 – 2PM

Dr. Ana Legrand will cover methods and tools for organic management of vegetable insect pests, including the role of beneficial insects, cultural practices, physical controls, biological and botanical pesticides.

February 18 The Apiary Series: Continuing your Hive 1 – 2:30PM

This year-long series continues with Dave Gilbert's instruction on supplies and how to continue upkeep on your hive during the winter.

February 20 Goodwin Book Club 2 – 3PM

This month's book will be *Listening to Nature* by Joseph Cornell. All are welcome.

February 21 Snowshoe Hike at Goodwin Forest 1 – 2PM

RSVP required for this guided snowshoe hike with Goodwin naturalist Jasper Sha. Some snowshoes will be provided, but equipment is limited, so bring your own if you are able.

February 23 The Art of the Sit Spot 4 – 5:30PM

Join Program Director Beth Bernard in a unique journey to discover this observation tool that increases awareness, calms the body and mind, and opens up a world of awesome nature sightings!

February 24 A Season at the Grand Canyon 10AM – NOON

Author George Jacobi will read essays and stories from "Inspiration Point", the blog he wrote for the National Park Service last year.

February 24 Black Bears in Connecticut: When, Where, and How Many? 1 – 2PM

Dr. Tracy Rittenhouse will discuss the four-year research project on the expanding black bear population.

Proper clothing for winter programs is essential -- warm coats, extra layers, gloves, hats, and most importantly -- wool socks.

CONNECTICUT AUDUBON

Grassland Bird Conservation Center

218 Day Road, Pomfret

February 3 & 17 Winter Tracking Hikes
9AM – 3PM

February 7 – 28 Wednesday NOON Walks

February 10 Cold Weather Survival:
Fire Building 101 10AM - NOON

February 11 Winter Nature Writing
Workshop 2PM

February 17 Owl Walk 7PM

February 22 Monthly Bird Walk 1PM

February 24 Nature Sketchbook Journaling
1 – 4PM

February 25 *Trail Wood Reflections*: Writer
& Artist In-Residence Exhibit 2-4PM

February 26 Film Series: *Generation
Zapped* 6:30PM

For more information on all listed programs,
call (860)928-4948 or visit
www.ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

Trailwood

93 Kenyon Road, Hampton

REMINDER: Trailwood is closed for logging
and facility restoration until April. This will
make the sanctuary safer for hikers and
improving the forest for birds and wildlife.

GOODWIN CONSERVATION
CENTER

February 4 & 11 Long Distance Guided Hike
NOON – 3PM

Enjoy the company of fellow hikers on these
5-7 mile hikes with Goodwin Guides
Kat Gayson and Elaine Koza. All are
welcome, including friendly dogs.

February 10 Vegetable Gardening with John
Lorusso 1 – 3PM

UConn Master Gardener Coordinator John
Lorusso provides practical advice for experi-
enced and novice vegetable gardeners alike.

February 14 & 15 Senior Walk 10AM –
12:30PM These easy to moderate walks
on forest trails are very popular, and not just
for seniors! Hiking sticks are available to
borrow.

IN THE Garden

with Dayna McDermott



STYLE

The gardens we develop are dependent upon their use and on the environment -- their purpose, such as herbs or repose, and their proximity to permanent features, such as the woodland, the stream, and especially the house. Failure to consider their function, or the way they relate to the landscape as a whole, results in mistakes that are readily noticeable. Placing a garden meant for peaceful contemplation next to the swimming pool negates its use, and even the untrained eye recognizes aesthetic conflict, because it causes discomfort -- the antithesis of the effect gardeners seek.

The first consideration in creating a garden is use -- a kitchen garden where herbs are easily accessed and lettuce and tomatoes, readily harvested for the dinner salad; a place of repose, sheltered from the noise and the traffic of the house and the street; a habitat of berrying shrubs for birds. Once the primary purpose of these particular spaces is established, their specific spatial and horticultural requirements render them relatively inflexible, the ingredients, more or less, mandated. For example, kitchen and herb gardens, necessarily filled with edibles, need to be accessible, possibly fenced, and definitely sunny, where places that invite privacy or wildlife require sheltering trees and distance. The design of gardens near the house depends on its architecture, while gardens independent of the house need to blend with the landscape.

If the purpose of a garden is solely aesthetic, the first contemplation is whether it is formal, or informal.

Formal gardens are usually sought for small, urban lots where they become extensions of the living space. They involve walkways constructed with paving materials like granite or bricks, enclosures, such as fencing, walls, or cropped shrubbery, seating and ornamentation -- almost like a room. Plants are carefully selected to maximize longevity given the limitations of space. Formal homes also advocate for formal gardens, at least near the entrance, mirroring the symmetry of classic architecture, repeating geometric patterns, framing focal points, and incorporating manicured plants. Rural or simpler homes may integrate a formal garden as long as it is near the house, where nature forgives the symmetrical features that formality requires.

All sorts of gardens may employ the principles of formality: walled vegetable potagers; rectangular water gardens; courtyards partitioned with clipped plants and paving; and the colonial herb gardens which served a practical purpose while resembling the orderly gardens of Europe. The renowned gardens of certain cultures, such as the English or the Japanese, are structurally formal, though their intent is the opposite. Stringent rules are followed in order to realize the desired results, with billowing plants softening the rose arbors, boxwood borders and brick walks of an English design, and the careful placement of its elements -- water, rock, tree -- accomplishing a naturalness which invites the serenity that is the Japanese garden's purpose.

Informal gardens are far more flexible, employing irregular shapes, rounded angles and gentle curves, edges loosely defined as flowers spill onto the lawn. Asymmetrical features are the rule, and plantings are dense, yet not chaotic, with comfort accomplished through the familiarity of old-fashioned favorites,

and drifts, or the repetition of flowers, creating a predictable rhythm. Make no mistake -- the casual flow is the result of careful planning. Cottage gardens are quintessentially informal, combining the practical and the aesthetic -- mixed plantings of ornamentals and edibles, fruit trees, grape vines, and berrying shrubs. Ornamentation might include a sundial, a bee skep, a trellis for peas, a seat upon which to shell them; and paths meander and use simple materials -- stepping stones and wooden planks. The cottage garden's blooms are floriferous and billowing and, above all, abundant.

Sometimes the landscape suggests the style -- a rock garden where there is an outcropping of stones, a shade garden on the edge of a woodland, a bog garden in the quagmire, wildflower meadows in sunny, open expanses of lawn, alpines on a sloped scree. Where water is not a natural occurrence on the property, an informal garden must appear as though it is. A basin nestled along a boulder, a circular pool at the end of a dry stream, a rain garden of native shrubs and sedges -- these reservoirs look as if they flow naturally from the environment. Conversely, a formal water garden -- through its shape, plants, and materials -- intentionally looks imposed upon the landscape.

Sometimes the mood we wish to impart dictates the garden's style, particularly in those places where visitors are greeted, or congregate. Gardens, like our homes, are reflections of ourselves. The entrance to the house sets a tone, with components such as topiary and statue, or a welcoming bench and a basket of flowers. Similarly, a deck intended for formal dining incorporates the materials of its construction, while relaxation is evoked with plenty of greenery; and a patio can parallel the crisp lines of a terraced space with manicured plantings, or soften where plants spill over the rim of the rocks.

Formal gardens and informal gardens can co-exist on the same lawn, though not in close proximity. Frequently formal gardens adorn the entrances to a home, and casual settings are cultivated on the property's perimeters. These distinct styles are united with common components, recurring materials like rocks, the repetition of trees or shrubs or colors, the focal points which guide the eye from place to place, and the paths that link them. Because after considerations of practical use, the architecture of the house, and the natural landscape, the specifics of what we want might not be the first consideration, or even the second, but they're always the most important.



JUST THE OTHER DAY WHILE I WAS CHICKEN SITTING....

"Hi girlies!" I hadn't seen these guys in a while and I was excited to get reacquainted. All the hens ran to the door of their coop.

"It's that lady," one seemed to say.

"Who? Let me see," the rest clucked as they scooted each other out of the way to get a better look.

"Oh, yahoo!" Louise chirped. "It's the lady who gives us tons of treats and takes us for adventures around the yard!"

"Look at how beautiful you all are!" I couldn't get over how unique each one was and how their feathers had changed since I'd last seen them. "How are you lovely songbirds?"

"Why did she call us songbirds?" Annie asked.

"Because we are named after famous singers," Joni reminded.

"Yes, that's right" they cluckity-clucked.

It was a beautiful day. All the chores at my house were done and I was happy to have this peaceful time to spend here. "Ok ladies, ready for a walk?" I said as I opened the door. Six chickens enthusiastically ran out of the run, singing as they went. "Hmmm, aren't there seven of you? Where is your sister?" I had a pretty good idea of where to look. I lifted the cover of the coop and, sure enough, there was Emmy Lou, comfy and cozy, sitting on her nest box. "Well, hello. Don't you want to come with us?" I encouraged as I gave her a little nudge.

Photo courtesy of Beverly Davis

"Most of me does, but the rest of me just wants to stay here," she fretted. I knew all too well what she was going through. Seems our girl, Brownie, is constantly in and out of broodiness.

"C'mon little one," I reached in and scooped Emmy Lou up and carried her out.

As I set her down on the ground, her sisters called to her, "Over here! We found some juicy worms!" Emmy Lou's preoccupation with hatching a chick went right out the window as she sprinted across the yard. While the ladies were feasting on the delicacies in the grass, I tended to the chores, although there really wasn't much to do. These ladies are very tidy. Satisfied that all was in order, I returned to the seven chickens happily running this way and that, chasing the flying insects who optimistically thought they could outrun a hungry chicken.

"Ok you girls. Stay together!" I was a little leery of what hungry something may be lurking, in hopes of attaining an easy meal. Emmy Lou, Tammy, Joni, Louise, Betty, Veronica and Annie were darting all over the place and in different directions. Since I could see all seven, I figured I'd let them play for a bit. I decided to call my Mom. My husband and I had a trip coming up and my mother was going to be watching over our flock. We have four hens and one rooster named Jack. His curiosity can sometimes be mistaken for interrogation. "Just be sure to take the shepherd stick into the yard with you when you go to tend to our chickens," I told my Mom.

"So, if Jack misbehaves, do I whack him with the stick?" she asked in a giggly voice. Now you need to know that my mother wouldn't hurt a fly and I knew she was just being a goofball. Nonetheless, I reminded her that we 'waggle' the stick at the rooster and there would be no 'whacking' of my handsome boy! We both chuckled. She is the sweetest person I've ever known.

We all have our own different ways of babysitting, house sitting, and yes, chicken sitting. One of my co-workers has his dogs watch over his hens. He told me that he's witnessed his dogs bolt, barking, into the yard and up onto his chickens' coop to scare away birds of prey! I was surprised to learn that his dogs didn't have any intention of eating his flock and that they are all best friends. His hens actually follow the dogs right into their house! "Doesn't that make a big mess?" I asked.

"Not at all," he said. "My wife and I love when our chickens come to visit." As entertaining as that sounds, I'll stick to keeping my flock outside. I have another friend who dotes on her chickens about as much as I spoil mine. Chickens have survived for hundreds of years without an ounce of doting. And I know that some of us go a little overboard: I know my chickens don't need warm oatmeal on a frosty morning, I know they don't need kisses blown to them at night when they get tucked in, and they certainly don't need the extra treats we give them...but it sure makes me feel better.

The afternoon was getting on and I was just about to gather the ladies when...the sound we all dread...a loud, distinct, hoarse sounding...screeetch! As if on cue and rehearsed, all the hens ran for cover. "Good girls! You hear that sound, you run for it! And hide right away! Oh, good, good girls!" I sighed with relief. I saw the hawk hovering. "You go away!" I hollered as it reluctantly flew off. Well that was enough excitement for one day. I retrieved a can of treats from the garage and enticed all seven girls back to the safety of their coop. Once inside, they all seemed to gaze longingly at the big house.

"We like having you here, but we miss Mom and Dad."

CHICKENS CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

The Intrepid Traveler

Humor with Angela Hawkins Fichter

RED-EYE FLIGHTS

When I was in college, my grandmother and I lived in Florida, while my college was in Ohio. This meant that during the school year, I only went home for Christmas, because flights were so expensive. I went to roommates' homes for Thanksgiving and spring break. To save money I bought tickets for the cheapest flights. They left in the middle of the night. Take-off was at 2AM from Columbus, Ohio, and arrival was at 4:30 AM in Tampa, Florida. My next flight did not leave till 6:30 AM. It was a small plane that carried about 20 people. It hop-scotched from Tampa to Sarasota and from Sarasota to Ft. Myers, my destination. The Ohio plane actually arrived in Tampa about 4AM. Due to my flying experience over the years, I have learned that sometimes pilots that have to fly in the middle of the night get to their destination ASAP, I suspect so that they do not fall asleep. But when you arrive at an airport for a connecting flight in the middle of the night, you face the problem of not falling asleep yourself, and thereby missing your next flight.

In my freshman year in college I had no experience about red-eye flights, so I arrived in Tampa and wondered how I would be able to stay awake until the 6:30 AM connecting flight left. When I went to the ladies room, I was thrilled to find that not only did it have a couch I could lie down on, but the announcements of boarding and departure times came loud and clear over the speakers in that room. What I didn't anticipate was that if you are very sleepy, you can sleep right through noise like announcements. After lying down on the couch, I awoke to an announcement of the departure of my connecting flight at gate 12. I got up and ran down to gate 12 only to see my plane beginning to taxi down the runway. I started to run out of the gate onto the airstrip while the gatekeeper ran after me. Stop, I screamed, while crying hard. After all, my grandmother was at the airport in Ft. Myers, waiting for me. She had been driven there by the boy who took me to the senior prom in high school. My luggage and Christmas presents were on the plane. There were no cell phones back then for me to call them to explain my delay. They would merely wait there, and I would mysteriously not arrive. What a worry to them that would be.

The gatekeeper tried to detain me, and said I would have to wait until the next day for the flight, because today's flight was already leaving. Well, he obviously wasn't born in New York like I was. In New York, if the bus starts to pull away from you when you want to board, you run after it yelling and screaming, because otherwise it would take at least half an hour for another bus to come, and I couldn't wait till the next day for a connecting flight. So I ran right onto the tarmac and chased the plane, with the gatekeeper running after me. The plane stopped and let the stairs down, and I boarded. We then went to Sarasota. After a short while we started to taxi down the runway to go to Ft. Myers. All of a sudden the plane stopped and let its stairs down. Everyone on the plane glared at me. Somehow this had to be my fault, they thought. An old woman boarded the plane, and they stopped staring at me. In all the flights I have taken since that day, I have never seen passengers flag down a plane and then board it. Somehow I doubt I would be brave enough to do that today because of the Transportation Security Administration and the possibility of arrest. On the other hand, I might still run faster than the gatekeeper.

HAMPTONWRITERS

FLOWER MOUND — A Memoir

"There was just so much blood, it took forever to clean it all up," ten-year old Louise whispered to her little brother.

Her sister Virginia, had spent most of the night washing the floor with her older sister and mother. She prided herself on being neat as a pin, and now stared straight ahead, watching the muddy clay ruts so she wouldn't get her new Salvation Army shoes scuffed up.

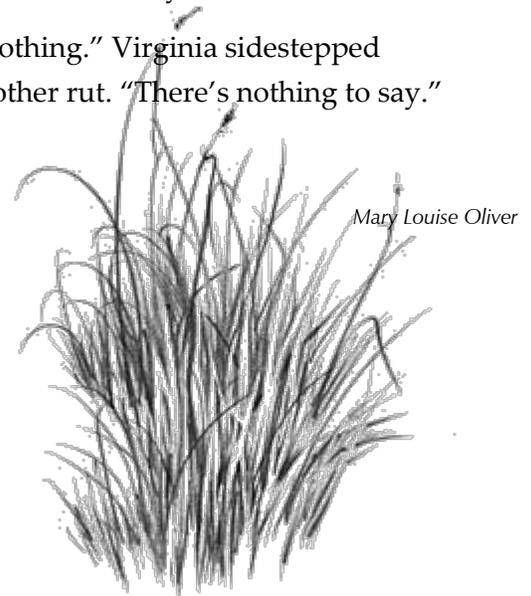
The three children were walking the four miles to school, the morning after their father had died in the kitchen after a knock-down drag out with their oldest brother.

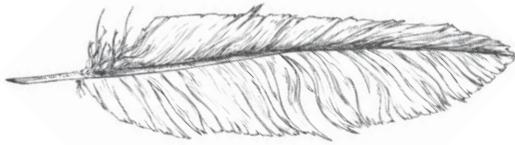
"Po-lice say Harley kilt him."

"Na-uh, Harold Lloyd!" Louise pushed the seven-year-old into the scrub grass. "He was just so sad, his heart gave out, that's what Mother says."

"What do we say to Teacher?"

"Nothing." Virginia sidestepped another rut. "There's nothing to say."





PASSAGES



Violet Marquis passed away November 20, 2017, in her 79th year, after living bravely and gracefully, with cancer for eight months. She was born May 30, 1938 to Robert and Alice (Chapel) Fitts. She was the beloved soul mate and best friend of husband Robert (Bob) Marquis. In their 62 years together, the only time spent apart was when

Bob was stationed in Germany while in the Army.

Violet or Vi, as she was often called, seemed to be everywhere. That wise and knowing smile was her trademark at town meetings, games, and community events. She was particularly committed to preserving the history of the town of Hampton for future generations, amassing volumes of old photos, postcards, newspapers, and other ephemera. Devoted to family connections, she was a genealogist, tracing her family and Bob's back through many generations, and when requested would also help others. As her grandson Mike shared at her memorial: "She loved life, she loved her life, and she did not want to leave."

An enthusiastic photographer, she was happy to share her photos. She was also the driving force in producing the *Hampton High Road*, a monthly newsletter comprising positive news for Hampton, "to unite the community, keep the history of, and present the aspects of the town she loved so dearly." Together, Violet and Bob ran The Fire Place, a business which sold antique fire equipment and memorabilia, amassing an extensive collection of their own.

In addition to her husband Bob, she is survived by her daughters, Trudy (Ben) Brockett and Joan (Jerry Figueroa) Marquis; her grandchildren Nicholas (Jessica) Brockett, Mike (Derek Iverson) Brockett, and Marina Figueroa; her great-grandchildren Kenzie and Jayce Brockett; and sister Barbara (Ian) Cairns. Her feline companion, Cutie Pie, was a huge comfort to Violet during her illness. *Donations may be made to the Hampton-Chaplin Ambulance Corps, P.O. Box 98, Hampton, CT 06247. Please do a random act of kindness so that Violet's kindness and generosity live on as her legacy.*

NOTE: We will pay tribute to those who have recently passed away in an upcoming issue: Donald Brown, Robert Rondeau, and Paul Tumel.

Philip L. Russell passed away November 25, 2017 after recently celebrating his 83rd birthday. Phil was the eldest son of the late Gordon & Rebecca (Ricker) Russell. He served during the Korean Conflict from 1954-56. Years later Phil met and married the love of his life Louise (Root) Russell and they celebrated



53 years together, most of them spent in Hampton. In 1971, they purchased land from Carl Jewett, where he built their home and planted their beautiful acreage. A proud and diligent Conservation Officer, Phil worked for the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection retiring after 20 years of service in 1986. Phil was a member of the Masons, Moriah Lodge #15 and Moosup Lodge #113. He was also an active member of the Rhode Island Shrine Motor Corp., and the American Legion. His work on the Memorial Day Committee will be remembered as well as his antics in the Shriner's cars. A thoughtful interpreter of readings, he will be remembered for his *In Flander's Fields* on Memorial Day, and for his liturgical participation as a member of the Hampton Congregational Church, where he served as Treasurer for many years, and also on the Board of Stewardship and Finance. He also served as a member of the Hampton Fire Department. Phil also took pleasure in sharing his many opinions, with a particularly wry sense of humor.

Phil is survived by his wife, Louise, children, John (Sylvia) Russell of Hampton, Vaughn (BJ – William) Russell; and Gayle (Carl) LaFlamme; grandchildren, Ryan Russell, Wilfred LaFlamme and Zoey LaFlamme. Phil is also survived by three sisters and a brother, Carolyn Zima;, Janis (George) Jones; Sharon (Dave) Pollard; and Gregory (Linda) Russell; as well as many nieces and nephews. *Donations may be made to Shrines Children's Hospital c/o Rhode Island Shrine Motor Corp Attn: John Adams, 1 Rhodes Place, Cranston, RI 02905 in Phil's name.*



John E. Trowbridge, passed away in his 70th year, on November 26, 2017 surrounded by his family at home. Born November 21, 1947, he was the son of the late John P. and Mary (Ryan) Trowbridge. John always considered Hampton his home, but was never shy of a far off adventure. During his summers in college, he fought forest fires in

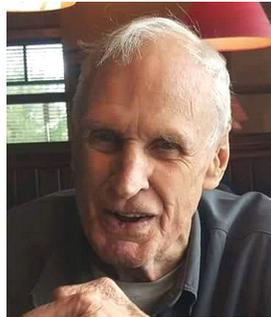
Alaska. Following graduation from UCONN with a degree in Civil Engineering, John followed his next journey with wife of 47 years, Marjorie Morse, the love of his life, back to Alaska with their infant son, David, to work for Alaska Architectural and Engineering in Fairbanks where they made their home in the old Eskimo Museum. Returning to Hampton in 1972, he started his

logging business and built the family home where he and his crews supplied the 50 thousand board feet of locally grown logs. Pike's Sawmill moved their sawmill up to the land and sawed the logs into lumber. One ton of nails later, lovingly hammered by friends and family, helped make the home complete.

John was the owner of Trowbridge Forest Products, working with his son David, and was an innovator for over 45 years, in industry equipment and markets. John was also proud to supply wood to Mystic Seaport for the historic ships "Morgan" and "Amistad" which were used for masts, spores and planking. John was caring: for the people who worked with him and for him, and for the landowners who trusted their forestland to him; his love for the outdoors was demonstrated in every aspect of his life.

He was a loving father, caring husband and proud grandfather. His memory will continue in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, David Trowbridge, his wife Julie and their daughter Rachel of Hampton, daughter Rebecca Trowbridge and her children Alex, Katie, and Ian; siblings Peg Cutler; Jim Trowbridge and his wife Cathy; Tom Trowbridge and his wife Phyllis; and Mary Lu Loving, her husband Jeff; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Joseph R. Hallett passed away on December 10, 2017 in the 87th year of his life. Born on October 4, 1930, Joe served in the Army and was a veteran of the Korean War. His career started at Western Mass Electric Company and he retired from Eversource as a Lineman, though he continued to breakfast every Wednesday with his CL&P family.



Joe was true to his friends and family, a quiet man who loved opera, nature, and reading. Coming to Hampton in 1980, Joe was a frequent patron of the General Store and the Fletcher Memorial Library and a generous contributor to town institutions. He helped neighbors without fanfare, one of whom described Joe as a "guardian angel" who financed their family's horses for many months when they fell on tough financial times. His only recompense: a wave as he drove by. Another neighbor writes: "Joe was a friendly Grinch who never dodged the truth. Whenever he stopped in our driveway we solved local and national issues in a matter of minutes. When I was hurt, he felled a tree threatening the house and the wood ended up chain sawed, toted, and stacked into a couple of cords of wood. He enjoyed his independence, a modern day cowboy without the booze and the horse". Joe lived his life on his own terms. He will be missed by more people than he knows. *Donations in Joseph Hallett's honor may be made to the Veteran's group of choice.*



Antonio Romano passed away on January 2nd in the 88th year of his life. He was born in Penns Grove, New Jersey, though his roots were in Italy, his parents' birthplace, and he and his wife Jean traveled there several times during their 64 year marriage.

Antonio's humility kept most of us from learning of his illustrious career.

Attending Rutgers University on a scholarship, he received a BSc and a PhD in microbial biochemistry, served in Public Health Service at the Robert A. Taft Sanitary Engineering Center in Ohio and was department head of Biological Science at the University of Cincinnati. During his career, he was a Visiting Fellow at the University of Leicester, conducting research at Cambridge University with Sir Hans Kornberg, spent a year as a Visiting Scholar at the University of San Diego, and another year in Washington, D.C. as Program Director of Cell Biology for the National Science Foundation. Antonio also became the U.S. Representative to NATO as a panel member on Collaborative Research Grants. His publications include chapters in books, monographs, scientific papers, and Journals.

Antonio joined the faculty at UCONN in 1971, first as Professor of Biology, then as Department head, and lastly, as Dean of CLAS. Retirement brought the Romanos to Hampton, where we reaped the benefits of Tony's wisdom and commitment. He was a vocal presence at town meetings, served as a Selectman, and wrote a number of articles for the Gazette. But his lasting legacy in Hampton probably lies in the wildflower meadow he sowed years ago across the front of his lawn, which has spread to other properties -- a patchwork quilt illustrating the generosity of nature and neighbors. Our condolences to Jean, their sons and grandchildren. *Donations may be made to the Antonio H. and Marjorie J. Romano Graduate Fellowship Fund at UCONN.*

*If I were to choose the sights, the sounds,
the fragrances I most would want to see and hear
and smell—among all the delights of the open world—
on a final day on earth, I think I would choose these:
the clear, ethereal song of a white-throated sparrow
singing at dawn; the smell of pine trees in the heat
of the noon; the lonely calling of Canada geese;
the sight of a dragon-fly glinting in the sunshine;
the voice of a hermit thrush far in a darkening woods
at evening; and--most spiritual and moving of
sights— the white cathedral of a cumulus cloud
floating serenely in the blue of the sky.*

Edwin Way Teale

"They'll be back before you know it," I consoled. I explained that Mom and Dad were on an adventure. "Just like you all today. We go on adventures, too. But our trips are further away so it takes us longer to get there and back." Their yearning seemed to subside slightly as I told them stories of different trips I'd taken and of the many adventures they still had ahead.

"Will you come back soon and take us around the yard again?"

"As a matter of fact, I get to come back tomorrow," I answered. "So rest up now and don't fret. And know that Mom and Dad are thinking of you." Before I left, I topped off the waterer, sprinkled a few more treats, and double checked that all coop doors and windows were locked. It had been a hot day, so I gave all of the potted plants a drink. A dragonfly -- one of the lucky ones that had escaped being eaten -- landed on my arm. So quiet and easy and peaceful here. I took a good look around to be sure that hawk had not returned. "See you tomorrow, beautiful ladies," I called to the hens who were now settling down for a nap on their perch.

The shadows grew longer, the sun began to dip, the girls nodded off to sleep. The summer smells, the warmth of the air, lazy songs of a cricket and some frogs. Seems like it was only yesterday...just the other day, while I was chicken sitting....

Cindy Bezanson

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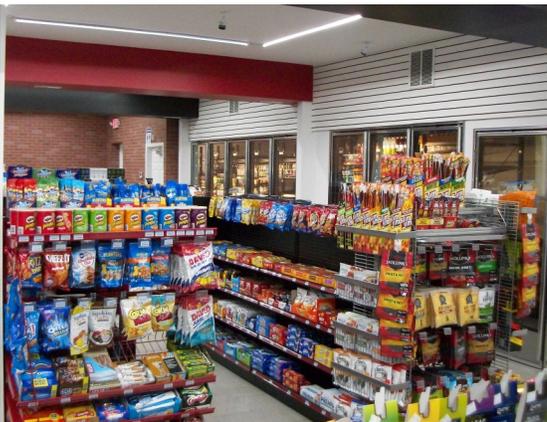
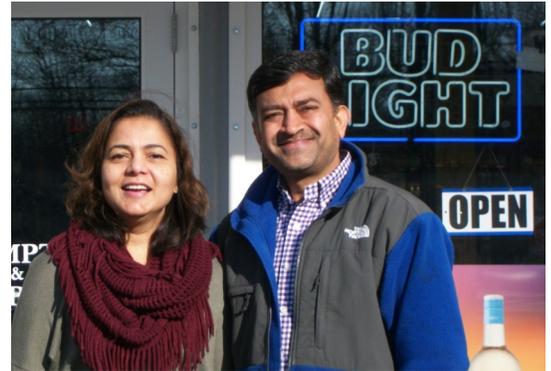
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