

THE SOURCE

Nov. 1, 2007

MADISON AND KILLINGWORTH, CONNECTICUT

Volume XII, Issue 14

Fatal Crash Leads to Local Arrest

By Marianne Sullivan
Source Senior Staff Writer

In the early morning hours of Aug. 4, a Pontiac LeMans traveling along Nod Road in Clinton careened out of control, rolled over several times and finally came to rest on its roof. The accident fatally injured one of the four passengers, Kirsten Meyer, 19, of 106 Beechwoods Drive, Madison.

Four days later Clinton police arrested the driver of the car, Dennis Edward Knapp of Clinton, charging him with manslaughter in the second degree with a motor

See **FATAL CRASH** page 26

GHOSTS, GHOULS, AND GIRL SCOUTS



Alicia and Rachael Liu, Sing Hei, Choi Wing Yeung, Olivia and Morgan Nace, GeGe Catalano, Morgan and Kelsea Delahunt, Meghan Hjerpe, and Ritey Spencer of Madison's Junior Girl Scout Troup #2735 were the crew painting the front window of Belles & Beaus with colorful Halloween scenes last week. The Madison Chamber of Commerce and Madison Beach & Recreation co-sponsored the window painting and a Guess the Weight of the Giant Pumpkin competition. *Photo by Nancy Dionne*

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Election Day Is Nov. 6

New Polling Place for District 1

The District 1 polling place has changed. The District 1 polling place is now the Surf Club building at 87 Surf Club Road. Voting will no longer be at the Town Campus.

District 1 includes all registered voters who live south of Green Hill Road and who live at properties on the even-numbered side of Green Hill Road.

The District 2 polling place remains the same, the Robert H. Brown Middle School on Durham Road. District 2 includes all registered voters who live north of Green Hill Road and who live at properties on the odd-numbered side of Green Hill Road.

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Heiden Claims Innocence Before Commission

By Jen Matteis
Source Staff

Last Thursday during the second meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners, Police Sgt. Timothy Heiden defended himself against Police Chief Paul Jakubson's claims that he interfered with the state police investigation of expolice officer Joseph Gambardella.

Defending attorney Michael Brady called Heiden, a 17-year veteran of the Madison department, as his only witness.

"I am fighting for my job here," said Heiden, referring to the fact that Jakubson has recommended termination. "I don't believe I have done anything wrong."

Jakubson contends Heiden told Gambardella, who was under investigation by the State Police Criminal Investigation Unit, not to cooperate with the state officers. Heiden contends that in his role as president of the police union he suggested to Gambardella that he seek advice from an attorney.

Under oath, Heiden denied that he told Gambardella to stop speaking to the state police who were conducting the investigation. He reiterated that he was acting as union president when he gave Gambardella advice. Heiden also added that he had prefaced his statement with the fact that it had come from Joseph Pastorella, then-director of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO).

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Vote Tuesday!

Polls open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 6

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Person of the Week



Chris Nichols stresses the importance of gaining a broad worldview2



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Chris Nichols: Expanding Horizons

PERSON OF THE WEEK

By Jen Matteis
Source Staff

A native of Ohio who moved to Connecticut 15 years ago, Chris Nichols became the new pastor at the First Congregational Church of Madison in August.

Moving from Ohio wasn't that much of a change considering that the founders of his hometown originated from the town he moved to, Goshen.

"That part of Ohio is known as the Connecticut Western Reserve," he says. "We moved from Connecticut to Connecticut."

Though Chris is clearly passionate about his vocation, he didn't always have the goal of becoming a pastor.

"I started out life as an art teacher," Chris says. "What I liked about it was working with the kids and that was what led me into going into the ministry."

Chris' faith evolved along the way through a combination of doctrine and personal belief.

"Learning what the Bible has to say is important because I feel that's where you learn to identify where your religion comes from, but everybody has their own story, their own path," he says.

"Anchored to the rock but changing with the times," quotes Chris. "That speaks to me."

Chris married his wife, Kathy, 32 years ago.

"She's been a church musician for the last 10 years or so," he says. "She's been part of the music wherever it is I happen to be working."

Chris met Kathy at Baldwin-Wallace, the Ohio college where he studied art and education. Their two sons attended the same college.

"The younger one is the 16th person in the family," he says, explaining that no one was forced into the decision. "It was more because of the legacy."

In his spare time, Chris continues his passion for printmaking and photography. On a trip to Africa last January, Chris rented a car and drove around a game reserve by himself.

"These reserves are vast—bigger than some states here," he describes. "You'd just be driving around and then be surrounded by a herd of elephants."

His trip to China in March gave him a



Chris Nichols, the new pastor of the First Congregational Church of Madison, enjoys helping youth groups expand their view of the world.

glimpse of a poor country undergoing vast economic change.

"A lot of Western companies have huge plants there," says Chris. "It's mind-boggling the quantity of stuff that's being produced there."

Traveling isn't just a pastime. The importance of gaining a broad worldview motivates Chris' mission trips, including a Madison youth group trip to the Dominican Republic that he will lead next June.

"I think that people of faith need to have some awareness of the other people that we share the planet with and how they live," he explains.

Awareness of the world is not just for the young.

"The affluent lifestyle carries some responsibility to be aware of the people who don't have access to clean water, medicine, proper shelter," Chris adds.

Chris' other interests include antique car restoration and bicycling. He enjoys taking youth groups on bike trips, some as long as a week.

"I guess the spiritual connection with

that would be suffering," he jokes.

These trips all fit into Chris' philosophy of faith as a group activity.

"Christianity is done best when done with friends," he explains. "There really can be no such thing as a solitary Christian."

Being the new pastor means that he has the challenge of getting to know a new community.

"Your best work happens when you know people and you have a relationship with them," says Chris. "That takes time."

He adds that church should be enjoyable.

"One of the things I told people when I came here—it's important that their involvement with the church isn't just fulfilling—that it's fun," he says.

The First Congregational Church of Madison celebrates its 300th anniversary in November. Chris feels involved with the experience since his ancestors were from this area.

"I feel part of it all in some way like that," he explains. "We had a nice 150-year visit in Ohio and now we're back."

Shoreline League of Democratic Women Hosts Health Insurance Forum on Nov. 7

The Shoreline League of Democratic Women (SLDW) will host a free-to-the-public forum entitled "Health Insurance: Expanding Affordable Coverage and Your Rights under State Law" on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Room of Clinton Town Hall. Featured speakers are State Comptroller Nancy Wyman and State of Connecticut Healthcare Advocate Kevin Lembo.

Attendees will learn about Connecticut's efforts to expand affordable coverage under programs that are overseen by the comptroller's office. This program also provides information and guidance to families whose insurance claims are refused due to "not an approved treatment" or "pre-existing condition," or when they are retroactively denied coverage. For more info on the Shoreline League of Democratic Women, email sldworg@gmail.com, contact Laurie Santos at 860-669-8395, or visit www.sldw.org.

Fatal Crash Leads to Local Arrest

Continued from page 1

vehicle while intoxicated, and driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

This Saturday Madison police arrested Neal Gobrogge, 24, 77 Mill Road, charging him with delivery of alcohol to a minor, permitting a minor to possess alcohol in a dwelling, and reckless endangerment in the second degree. Gobrogge, Madison police said, hosted a party at his home on Aug. 3 where minors consumed alcohol. Knapp was among the minors at the party.

Gobrogge was arrested on an outstanding warrant following an investigation conducted by Madison Officer Matt Sterling with assistance from two members of the Clinton Police Department, Sgt. Joseph Flynn and Officer Natasha Pucillo.

Lt. Michael O'Connor said the

Madison department's investigation began almost immediately after the Clinton police arrested Knapp.

"It is typical of an investigation like this, for instance a fatal accident, to track back over a person's last 24 hours. That was done here. Our investigation and Clinton's investigation dovetailed. The information developed led to the arrest warrant," he said.

According to information police received "from citizens interested in assisting law enforcement," there were at least a half dozen minors at Gobrogge's Mill Road home on the evening of Aug. 3 and there was a keg of beer as well as other alcoholic drinks, and minors were drinking.

Gobrogge was released in lieu of \$1,000 surety bond pending a Nov. 6 appearance in New Haven Superior Court.

The police statement reads, "A car load of youths left this party and crashed a short time later. It was determined that the driver of the car was intoxicated...A passenger in the car lost her life...This tragic loss points out the danger to the community posed by those who allow minors to consume alcoholic beverages in their homes."

Meyer, who just weeks prior at graduated from Daniel Hand High School, was a passenger in Knapp's car when it failed to negotiate a curve while speeding along Nod Road in Clinton at about 3 a.m. The car hit a utility pole, rolled over several times and landed on its roof. Police arriving at the scene found Meyer unconscious inside the vehicle. She was transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital where she later died of her injuries.

Heiden Claims Innocence Before Commission

Continued from page 1

The town's attorney, William Clendenen, claimed the reasons behind the statement were irrelevant. The question was whether the statement constituted interference with the state police investigation.

When his attorney, Michael Brady, asked him if he felt he had done anything wrong in his conversation with Gambardella, Heiden replied, "No. It seemed common sense."

Heiden said he did not expect repercussions because, in his view, he had done nothing wrong. If anything, he felt a duty to pass along the advice he had received from the IBPO.

"I felt I had an obligation," said Heiden.

When he learned that he was under investigation, Heiden said he was shocked.

"It was nothing that I expected," he said.

During his cross examination of Heiden, Clendenen seemed to imply that Heiden, as his supervisor, was

responsible for Gambardella's actions and that he had knowledge of a string of unsolved crimes in Madison. Heiden was not on duty the night Gambardella allegedly stole more than \$1,000 worth of seafood from a local restaurant, and he denied involvement in Gambardella's alleged crimes or any others.

The bulk of Clendenen's cross-examination consisted of asking Heiden whether he took his oaths of office seriously. The public expressed discontent throughout the proceedings, especially during Clendenen's insinuations. At one point, Heiden protested, "I feel as though you're badgering me." The statement was met with strong applause.

Chairman Emile Geisenheimer was not amused.

"One more outburst like that and I'll clear the room," he said.

He also cautioned the two attorneys to tone down the debate, which became heated at times.

"These inflammatory arguments between the two of you are not productive," he said.

Clendenen also asked Heiden if he liked his job.

"It's a difficult question to answer. Not particularly," he replied. "Sometimes it's hard to come to work with a smile on your face due to the internal strife."

Heiden clarified that he was proud of his position.

"I am glad to be a Madison police officer and proud to be a sergeant," he said. "The working environment is sometimes difficult."

At the conclusion of Heiden's testimony, the two attorneys asked for time to prepare briefs containing relevant information. Clendenen asked for 30 days, a prospect that did not please the chairman, who, while acknowledging the need for both attorneys to have the opportunities they needed to present their cases, asked that the briefs be submitted by "as early a date as conceivable."

Following the hearing, the police commission reconvened for a moment and voted to continue Heiden's suspension with pay.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Permit Application, Town of Madison, CT: Notice is hereby given that The Shoreline Greenway Trail Inc. (the "applicant") of P.O. Box 474, Guilford, CT 06437 has submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection an application under Section(s) 22a-32 for a permit to conduct regulated activities in tidal wetlands. Specifically, the applicant proposes to construct a recreational trail for walking and non-motorized vehicles (bikes, strollers, wheelchairs.) The proposed activity will take place at Hammonasset Beach State Park and adjacent Dept. of Transportation right-of-way close to Route One in Madison, CT. The proposed activity will potentially affect wetlands and marsh near Route One. Interested persons may obtain copies of the application from The Shoreline Greenway Trail, P.O. Box 474, Guilford, CT 06437. The application is available for inspection at the Office of the Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Long Island Sound Programs, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127 telephone 860-424-3034 from 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday.

MADISON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Madison, CT

Notice is hereby given that the Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, 7:30 P.M., Meeting Room A, Town Campus, 8 Campus Drive, Madison, CT, to consider the following:

7914+CSP: 92 LIBERTY STREET. Map 29, Lot 60. R-2 Zone. Owners/Applicants: Andrew C. and Pamela Molenaar. Request to vary Secs. 3.6(d&f) of the Madison Zoning Regulations to allow 13.9% area coverage and side yard variances of 6 ft. on the west side and 4.8 ft. on the east side to permit existing dwelling and detached garage to be demolished and replaced with a 2-1/2 story dwelling with attached garage. Coastal Site Plan Review required.

7924: 27 WINDING ROAD. Map 115, Lot 35. RU-1 Zone. Owners/Applicants: Frank & Alice DeGrasse. Request to vary Sec. 5.5(f) of the Madison Zoning Regulations to allow 14 ft. side yard variance to permit one-story addition on west side of dwelling.

7925+CSP: 956 BOSTON POST ROAD. Map 28, Lot 145. R-2 Zone. Owners/Applicants: Nancy Weinstein & Bob Stiehler. Request to vary Secs. 3.6(f) and 12.6 of the Madison Zoning Regulations to allow 21 ft. front yard variance to permit replacement of existing wing with larger addition on non-conforming dwelling. Coastal Site Plan Review required.

7926: 103 EAST WHARF ROAD. Map 17, Lot 34. R-2 Zone. Owners/Applicants: Edwin and Donna Moore. Request to vary Secs. 3.6(d&f) and 12.6 of the Madison Zoning Regulations to permit an increase in coverage from 29.5% to 29.6%, north side yard variance of 11 ft. to air conditioning unit and south side variance of 10.4 ft. to rear yard deck to permit addition of air conditioning unit and raised deck to non-conforming dwelling.

7927: 12 WILLARD AVENUE. Map 28, Lot 105. R-2 Zone. Owners/Applicants: Jacqueline Ward & Barry Waters. Request to vary Secs. 3.6(d) and 12.6 of the Madison Zoning Regulations to allow .2% increase in coverage to permit installation of two air conditioning units adjacent to non-conforming dwelling.

7928: 26 WATERBURY AVENUE. Map 29, Lot 79. R-2 Zone. Owners/Applicants: Gordon & Susan Gregoretti. Request to vary Secs. 3.6(f) and 12.6 of the Madison Zoning Regulations to permit front yard variances of 22.3 ft. to front addition and 10 ft. to side addition, and side yard variances of 15.5 ft. to north front addition and 4.5 ft. to south side addition to permit second floor expansion of non-conforming dwelling.

7929: 22 DURHAM ROAD. Map 38, Lot 85. D District. Owner/Applicant: Atlantic Holdings LLC. Request to vary Sec. 6.4.4.2 of the Madison Zoning Regulations to permit side yard variance of 2.7 ft. to permit installation of air conditioning units.

7930: 1 SECOND STREET. Map 31, Lot 48. R-2 Zone. Owner: Youngs Village LLC; Applicants: Ronald & Kathleen Pacacha. Request to vary Secs. 3.6(d&f) and 12.6 of the Madison Zoning Regulations to allow 15.5%± coverage and 9.9 ft. side yard variance to permit existing dwelling unit to be demolished and replaced, and detached shed to be relocated.

7931: 20 BARBERRY LANE. Map 29, Lot 39. R-2 Zone. Owner: John W. Hogan, Jr., Trustee; Applicant: Michael Simmons. Request to vary Secs. 3.6(d) and 12.6 of the Madison Zoning Regulations to allow increase in coverage from 13.5% to 15.6% to permit one-story addition to non-conforming dwelling and relocation of front entry.

At this hearing written communications will be received and interested parties will be heard. Information on the above applications is available in the Land Use Office, Madison Town Campus.

Steve Blunden, Chairman

Jonathan Waterman Presents 'Arctic Warming' at North Cove Outfitters

North Cove Outfitters presents author, adventurer, and photographer Jonathan Waterman on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Old Saybrook Middle School. The presentation will be "Arctic Warming: A Visual Story-Presentation." Tickets are available at North Cove Outfitters for \$7 or at the door for \$10. For more info, call Karen Lipeika at 860-388-6585.

Luncheon with Local Authors at the Country Club

The Shoreline Branch of the American Association of University Women hold a book/author luncheon featuring local authors Mary-Ann Tirone Smith of East Haven, Jacqueline Miconi of North Branford, and Leslie Connor of Madison on Saturday, Nov. 3 at the Clinton Country Club. Tickets are \$35. For more info, call 860-669-0115.

Third Annual Forgotten Felines Silent Auction

Forgotten Felines holds its third annual silent auction fundraising event on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Clinton Country Club. The auctioned items include original art, collectibles, vacation packages, and gift certificates. \$30 includes dinner. For tickets, visit Pet's Choice in Deep River or Shoreline Animal Hospital in Clinton, or send a check to Forgotten Felines, P.O. Box 734, Clinton, CT 06413. For more info, call 860-669-1347.



BRANFORD \$ 659,900 - Contemporary with soaring ceilings, 2 fireplaces, neighborhood close to store and exit 56. Master bedroom with study and private suite. LL has a full apartment for the kids or in laws. Large entertainment house open and spacious. Level yard.
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GULFORD \$874,900 - Magnificent custom col on a cul-de-sac 1.5 miles to town impressive LR w/columns to FRM w/open flr plan beautiful arches to state of the art kitchen w/cherry cabinets & granite counters & ctr island dr w/9' ceilings sep staircase to bonus room w/fpl. Sue Clifford and Patty Gallagher 203-245-4700, VM206 or VM210.



NEW HAVEN \$1,200/MO - Beautiful 5BR 2nd floor apartment in Morris Cove area. Heat & Hot Water included. Short walk to beach. No Pets or Smoking. References & Security required.
Patty Bonci (203) 481-4571 x307



NORTHFORD \$519,000 - Ideally set on .77 acres. This 3 BR, 1.5 BA ranch offers formal dining room, central air, master bedroom with bath. Full basement. HW flrs and garage. Discover it's charm.
Janie Ouellette-239-2555 x139.



NORTH HAVEN \$419,900 - You will delight in this deluxe 4BR/2-BA Colonial positioned on 1.03 acres. MBR with full bath, first flr family room, form DR, hardwood flrs, full basement with rec. room. Central air, 2 car garage.
Kim Fetera 239-2555, X110

Preview All
Connecticut Listings at:

www.coldwellbankermoves.com



Thursday, Nov. 1, 2007

Historic Waterfront Gem Enters the Market



55 North Cove Road, Old Saybrook

Year Built: 1700
Style: Cape
Square Feet: 3,122
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 3.5
Acres: 0.91
Price: \$2,800,000

The rear terrace provides a peaceful retreat with spectacular views of the surrounding tranquil waters of North Cove.

By Jen Matteis Home Showcase Correspondent

Situated away from its neighbors out on a private point on North Cove, the Robert Bull House is a unique find with respect to its history, location, and meticulous recent renovations. Built circa 1700, the home underwent complete and meticulous renovations in 2001 with superb quality visible throughout every room. Luxuries including three fireplaces, wide-board floors, gunstock beams, and a custom kitchen make this house truly exceptional.

The open bright layout, given to this home by its French doors, large windows, and open floor plan is an improvement upon the traditional dark colonial of the same era. The 14 x 19 gorgeous custom kitchen comes with ample bar-style seating, its own fireplace, and a bay window.

In this expansive cape, the 13 x 31 formal living room lies open to the 10 x 13 dining room, providing access to a large living area perfect for entertaining.

A cozy 8 x 11 family room on the first floor allows space for private retreat from the rest of the house.

The 14 x 17 first floor master suite comes complete with its own full bathroom. Another large upper floor bedroom measures 12 x 20. Finally, a 17 x 18 guest suite on the upper floor contains its own fireplace and full bathroom.

Along with the two full bathrooms on the second floor, this home contains one full bathroom and a half bathroom on the first floor, ensuring privacy for family, friends, and guests.

In the landscaped backyard, a beautiful brick



Isolated from its neighbors by its position out on a point, this exceptional historic home rests on roughly an acre of manicured land in the North Cove Historic District.

terrace provides an excellent place to take in the superb waterfront view. The two large patios include a 21 x 40 deck that encourages easy entertaining. A garden and a traditional stone wall add to the historic charm.

A boathouse, a dock, and 490 feet of direct waterfront seal the deal, making this home a truly exceptional find.

Interior features include a ceiling fan, crown moldings, and granite. Other features include a full, unfinished basement, a detached two-car

garage, and a pull-down attic. A laundry room is located on the first floor.

This home is being offered by Coldwell Banker, Old Lyme for \$2,800,000. For information and a showing, call Susan Malton at 860-300-1100 ext. 1 or email susan.malton@cbmoves.com.