

MARKET CELEBRATES 40 YEARS Convenience store is a family affair

BY JACK MOTZ

One Stop Market on Springs-Fireplace Road is now 40 years old. Since 1985, the family-owned convenience store has straddled the border between Springs and East Hampton, selling breakfast, coffee, groceries, beverages and butcher meats to those headed into or out of one of the two areas.

Around 10 years ago, Lauren Harrington and Erin Field took over the business from their father, Bill Hall, who launched the store.

Field said the two began working for the store full time right out of high school. Eventually, after both working there into adulthood, the sisters purchased it from their father.

The store is “very blessed” with its customers, Field said. “We’ve had the same customers — a lot of the same customers — for many, many years.”

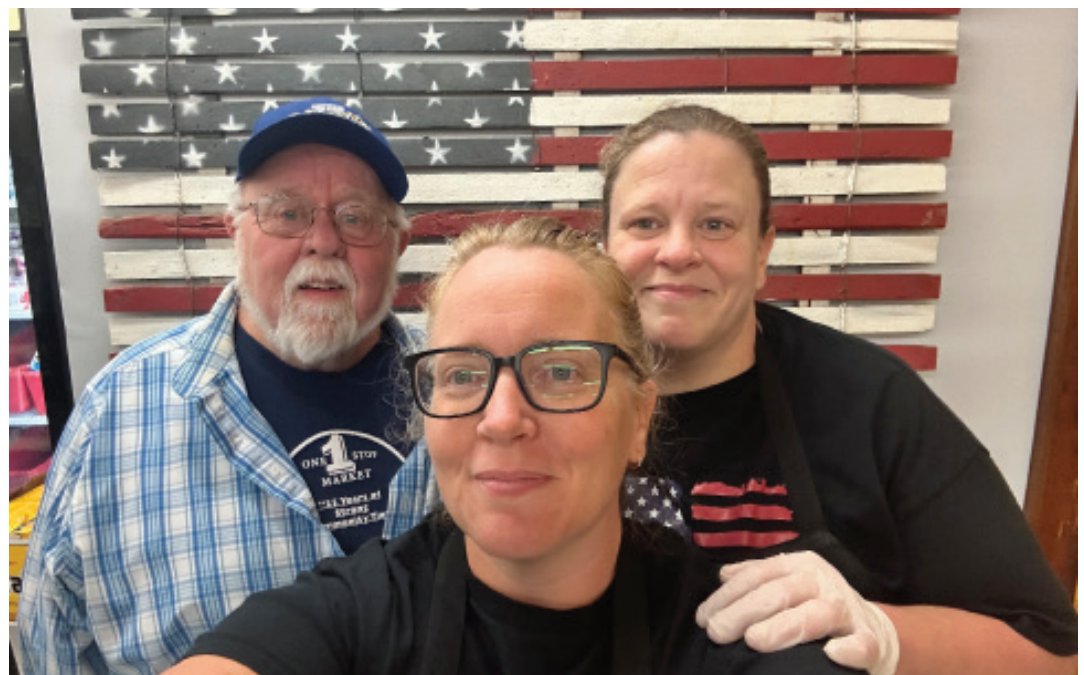
While the store does get “transients,” for the most part, the customer base is local, “which is lovely, which we love,” Field said.

While the sisters now run the operation, Field said there is a team of many “really awesome managers” who keep it going on the day to day. “They’re great,” she said.

Field credited the community with putting the business in a place to celebrate its 40-year anniversary. “The community has been very good to us — to my family, to the store, to everything — and they’ve contributed to everything that we have,”



One Stop Market is now 40 years old, and in that time, the convenience store has stayed in the family. Erin Field and Lauren Harrington took over operations from their father, Bill Hall, about ten years ago. JACK MOTZ



From left: Bill Hall, Erin Field, Lauren Harrington.

she said.

Some of the “amazing employees” have been at the store for 10 or 20 years, Field continued, and they have made it the “success that it is.”

However, the COVID-19 pandemic sparked a bit of a turbulent time in the store’s 40-year history. During that time, the store itself shut down, only offering curbside pickup. Alongside that, though, the store started

doing deliveries, which quickly “skyrocketed” because no one wanted to leave the house, Field said.

In all, it was an “uncertain time,” it was “extremely intense,” and the owners “weren’t sure of what to do,” she went on. Nonetheless, the main goal was to keep the employees safe, she said.

Through the pandemic, the store kept 95 percent of its staff

working, which was “really incredible,” Field continued. Despite that, the ordeal was “really hard.”

Overall, Field said she’s very thankful for the community and the store’s employees.

“When you’re in it every day, you’re just like, ‘Oh, okay, we’re just working,’” Field said. “But when you think about 40 years, that’s a lot, especially for out here right now.”