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Kyle Leach of Hebron lines up his next shot in the championship pool tournament held at the Marlborough Senior Center on Wednesday night. The pool program partners teens with local volunteers. Kyle took home first place.

Program Unites Community Behind the Eight Ball

by Sarah McCoy

What do Resident State Troopers, a first selectman, a slew of senior citizens and teenagers have in common?

It may seem like an unlikely crew, but those were among the participants in the pool championship hosted by AHM Youth Services last Wednesday. After a regular season and playoffs, three middle school students and community volunteers gathered at the Marlborough Senior Center to determine a champion.

Afterwards, all the year's participants gathered for food before the trophy presentation.

The pool program is the brainchild of Marlborough Resident State Trooper Manny Acosta. Looking to bring community members together, Acosta applied for a competitive grant from the State Department of Office Policy and Management. Much to his surprise, Marlborough was one of the ten towns chosen to each receive \$10,000 in program funding.

It was the first time a small-town had received the grant.

Acosta could have chosen anything for his program but he wanted to focus on an activity that would interest those kids who don't play a major sport. "I thought about more traditional sports, like basketball," he explained. "But, by the end everyone is winded. With pool, the time becomes more about people communicating and playing

together."

Acosta approached AHM Director Joel Rosenberg and Teen Center Coordinator Charlie Olbrias who helped get the program off the ground.

For two days a month since September, police and other volunteers have been meeting students at either AHM or the Marlborough Senior Center to shoot pool. Some of these volunteers are community leaders like Marlborough First Selectman Bill Black and RHAM Middle School Asst. Principal Anne Starr. Other volunteers are seniors from surrounding towns looking to play the game.

The intended purpose of the pool program was to bring teens and law enforcement officials together. The program has done that and so much more.

Robert Fowler, of Columbia, is the pool coordinator for Columbia seniors. When he was approached about partnering with local teens he jumped at the chance. "I really enjoyed this time," he said. "The kids are great kids who just need a little direction on rules and strategies."

With many seniors having played the game for most of their lives, the partnership made sense.

"It has been fun to see the relationship grow," Rosenberg said. "At first both sides seemed apprehensive about one another. Now they see each other as a team."

After months of friendly matches and practicing, in February the First Annual AHM Pool Tournament began. At the start 24 students and volunteer partners competed to determine a champion.

On Wednesday the three finalists competed for 1st place. Kyle Leach, an 8th grade student from Hebron, took home the top prize. To do so he beat Corey Mosdale and Nate Pilver, both 7th grade students from Marlborough.

Corey went on to finish in second place and Nate in third.

For many of the students, this program offered an introduction to the nuances of game. This was no casual stripes and solids game. This pool is about highs and lows, calling your shot, and careful ball placement.

Kyle began shooting pool just over a year ago. Now he attends the Teen Center every day to practice on AHM's pool table.

"The kid's got potential," Walter, a volunteer, noted after the 13-year-old sank a tough shot into the corner pocket.

Acosta is now finishing the grant reapplication process for next year. He said he'd like to continue the program but, as was the case this year, only ten towns will receive funding. "Hopefully it's something we can continue because all sides have seen a real value in the program," he observed.

Portland Bugged by Unresolved Boat Launch Project

by Michael McCoy

After nearly a decade of trying to build a boat launch in town, Portland recently found plans thwarted yet again—this time by an endangered beetle.

However, a new site has been identified that may allow the project to go forward, First Selectman Susan Bransfield said this week.

Serious efforts to build a local boat launch began in the late 1990s when former First Selectman Ed Kalinowski sought out potential sites. One potential location was near Airline Avenue, about a mile south of the Arrigoni Bridge, along the north shore of the Connecticut River.

That site ultimately proved unsuitable—killed by complications, such as the need for the building of an expensive 3,500 ft. access road, as well as wetlands issues.

However, the idea did not go away.

In 2003, the town and the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) began looking at an area at Wangunk Meadows near the Exchange Club Fairgrounds on Route 17A. Together they conducted a number of meetings addressing funding, environmental, and operational issues.

“It was generally thought to be something the town could do,” remembers Bransfield.

Then, in December of 2005, the town received notice that the DEP was concerned about a bug. And, not just any bug, as it turns out. The insect is the puritan tiger beetle.

The puritan tiger beetle is an endangered species, found in only two regions of the entire world. The bulk of their population lives in the Chesapeake Bay area in Maryland. The rest live along the Connecticut River. When a significant population of the beetles was discovered on Gildersleeve Island off shore of the proposed boat launch, the DEP decided to explore the site further.

The puritan tiger beetle lives only on sandy shores. Its lifespan is two years, 23 months of which are spent in the larvae state. During this time, the beetle lives underground, where it will cover the entrance to its tunnel with its broad head, snatching up smaller insects as they unsuspectingly wander past. It has been said that the beetle is one of the fastest creatures on the planet relative to its size.

The DEP expressed concerns that the wash from the extra boat traffic would push the shore-

line back, hindering the beetle’s survival chances. They also predicted that the presence of more people on the island—presumably a natural outcome of the nearby boat launch—would lead to disruption of the beetle population.

The DEP and the town discussed a number of ways that the beetle could be preserved. These included a “no wake” zone near the island, as well as volunteer boat patrols, which would be aided by the Cromwell Police Department.

“We felt that we had a decent plan and that we would be able to mitigate the impact on the beetle,” said Bransfield.

DEP did not agree. On March 13 Bransfield spoke to the DEP representatives, who told her the site would not work.

Bransfield says she is determined to follow this project through to the end. Residents want a boat launch, she said “When I was campaigning, that was one of the frequent requests that I heard,” said the First Selectwoman.

And, while the Wangunk site may not be feasible, the boat launch idea is far from dead.

Wednesday, Bransfield and Public Works Director Rick Kelsey met with DEP bureau chiefs Ed Parker, and Rick Morrissey and DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy. This time they were exploring a site on the southernmost part of the town’s riverfront property, along Brownstone Avenue near the quarries.

Bransfield said she was optimistic about the site’s potential and that the DEP representatives appeared to be as well. “Hopefully, it will be a good spot,” said Bransfield, who also noted that McCarthy apologized to her for the frustrations that have been caused by the unfinished project.

“I’m very encouraged that they’re continuing to scour for a potential site,” said Bransfield.

Despite past frustrations, Bransfield reminded residents that this has always been a partnership between the state and the town. In fact, the entire project would be funded by state and federal money, along with some in-kind services from town staff. Upkeep of the launch would be Portland’s responsibility.

Sometime in the near future, Jacobson Engineering, an outfit from Chester who serves as the town’s engineer, will consult with engineers from the state concerning the newest prospective site.

residential to commercial.

An engineer hired by Spiros said the seven-acre area abuts Stop and Shop, which is in a commercial zone. Spiros wants to develop five of the seven acres to build an addition onto the Stop and Shop or build a stand-alone building.

The end opposite Stop and Shop, however, abuts residential properties, historic buildings and properties with historic homes converted into small shops that line South Main Street.

The hearing, which took place March 21, drew concerned homeowners and shop owners, including a significant number of residents of the Breed’s Tavern Co-op, which also abuts the property in question.

The property being proposed for the zoning change shares the same zone as the old Bacon Academy, the library, the Congregational Church and the old firehouse. A number of other historic structures, from the 17th-century Dr. Foote house to 18th, 19th and early 20th-century homes are along South Main Street, and a number of them are on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Lots of Noise Raised Over Noise Ordinance in Hebron

by Sarah McCoy

Hebron residents made plenty of noise Thursday night about a proposed town ordinance.

Over 50 people crammed into the meeting room at the Town Office Building, mostly to voice their displeasure of the noise ordinance currently on the Board of Selectmen’s table.

Many of the disgruntled residents are recreational vehicle and ATV users who feel the current proposal is directed at them.

“Everybody makes noise, barking dogs, kids in the pool,” Scott Dolan said. “It feels like [the town] is targeting recreational vehicles, 10,000 pound trucks, and honking horns.”

One of the most controversial lines of the ordinance calls for recreational vehicle riders to stay 100 feet from property lines. “My God, my lot’s only 150 feet,” said Richard Verizzi in response.

Section 7 of the proposed ordinance singles out horn honking, truck idling, exhaust discharge, and recreational vehicle noise but the selectmen insisted the ordinance is for everyone. “Our call is to craft something that meets the needs of the most amount of people,” stated BOS member Mark Stuart.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Karen Strid stated several times that the ordinance is a work in progress and that comments made at the public hearing will be used when the board decides to act on the proposal.

Town Manager Jared Clark stated that the reasons for the noise ordinance stemmed from complaints about unruly ATV users. He said about a dozen communities in the state have noise ordinances in place and that Hebron looked to those municipalities for guidelines.

If passed, the noise ordinance would give police an enforcement tool. Currently there is

no recourse for noise on private property.

The ordinance would require a town or local law enforcement official to meter the disturbance, primarily after neighbor complaints. In residential areas the limit for noise emission currently stands at 55 dBA.

ATV riders stated throughout the night that no recreational vehicle is that quiet. One resident noted that the average refrigerator operates at 60 dBA.

Jean Glode, one of the original complainants, doesn’t have a problem with ATV riding, per se. “My concern is the quality of life in Hebron,” she said Thursday night. “I’m not opposed to people riding ATVs. I’m concerned about people not being able to hear in their own backyard.”

That’s the rub for the selectmen.

“How do we get to the inconsiderate neighbor that just wants to annoy the heck out of their next-door-neighbor?” Strid questioned.

Stuart added that ideally he would like to see residents monitor themselves and be considerate to those around. “When that doesn’t happen, and people aren’t considerate, it forces us to look to legislation in the absence of common sense,” he said.

After almost an hour of discussion on the subject, the selectmen opted to continue the public hearing to April 26 at 7:30 tentatively scheduled to take place at Douglas Library. That night will be dedicated to hearing residents’ comments and concerns about the noise ordinance.

A copy of the proposal is available at the Town Office Building or from the town’s website www.hebronct.com under “Local News Updates.”

East Hampton Council Votes to Establish Redevelopment Agency

The East Hampton Town Council Tuesday adopted an ordinance to establish a new Redevelopment Agency for the Town of East Hampton, but not without some dissent.

The agency would help revitalize underused properties in town, particularly in the Town’s Historic Village Center. Members would be appointed.

Chatham Party backers of the agency say it is a natural extension of the work begun by the Economic Development Commission and Village Center Brownfields Steering Committee.

Criticized by some in the audience as yet “another layer of government,” the proposal passed 4-3 with all Chatham Party members except Bob Berlin voting in favor. The two Republican members of the Council also voted against the new agency.

Several members of the public in attendance also expressed concerns about cost, the possibility of eminent domain being exercised and the continuing water system problems in the Village Center.

Council backers dismissed those concerns. They said specific work of the Redevelopment will include: Identifying potential sites in need of redevelopment; developing plans and ultimately cleaning up properties by working with state and federal agencies; and transforming Brownfield and underutilized sites into productive and sustainable reuse for housing, business, retail and community purposes by acquiring property and working with the private sector

and third-party investors

Chatham Party members of Town Council brought forward the concept, saying it encourages smart growth development, creates jobs and generates tax revenues in declining developed areas by fostering partnerships between local governments and private entities.

“Through redevelopment, a project area will receive focused attention and financial investment to reverse deteriorating trends, create jobs, revitalize the business climate, rehabilitate and create housing opportunities, and gain active participation and investment by citizens which would not otherwise occur,” said Councilman Kyle Dostaler in a press release following the vote. “Business development that occurs within the context of and accentuates East Hampton’s history and character is critical to the town’s economic vitality.”

In the same press release, Councilwoman Alison Walck said, “The redevelopment of our Village Center is one of the most effective ways to breathe new life into our town and make it once again a focal point of our community.”

She said, “The Chatham Party is proud to have brought forward this initiative as a tool to allow East Hampton to better plan and prepare for its future.”

Councilman Scott Minnick said, “By reusing and cleaning up existing properties, we can make better use of the land to allow us to preserve more of our open spaces.”

Colchester Village Center Proposal Hearing Rescheduled

by Jim Salemi

A hearing for a zone change request by a local developer scheduled for last Thursday was postponed, according to an announcement posted at the town hall the evening of the meeting.

The hearing has been rescheduled for Wednesday, May 2, at 7 p.m. at the town hall.

According to Town Planner Adam Turner, the postponement was requested by the developer and applicant for the zone change, Andy Spiros, in a letter to the Zoning and Planning Commission.

According to the letter, a traffic engineer hired to study traffic patterns in the vicinity of the parcel had surgery recently, and was not able to complete his report.

Spiros applied for a zone change so he could develop property he owns at 160 South Main Street, which lies within the Village Center District, currently zoned residential.

The overlay zone provides special protections to areas with historic landmarks, buildings or places of historical interest. His application requests that the parcel be changed from

Colchester First Selectman Juggling Jobs with Help of Staff

by Jim Salemi

Next week will mark freshman First Selectman Stan Soby's first 100 days as the town's chief administrator, and he's happy to report that things are going as smoothly as can be expected, save for the occasional "bump" here and there.

The Board of Selectmen appointed Soby last January after former First Selectman Jenny Contois resigned to accept a job as U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney's district manager.

Soby accepted the appointment after making it clear to the board that he has a full-time career and had no intention of leaving that career to run the town. He agreed to serve until the next local election, and has no intention of serving another term.

He has largely been working at his career for the Institute for the Blind during the morning hours, and working on first selectman issues afternoons, evenings and the occasional Saturday if business commands it.

As Soby said, that arrangement is working well so far, though he added that things are going smoothly largely because of his dedicated support team at town hall.

"Most days go well. There's always the bump from time to time where my schedule prevents me from being there on time. People have been kind [at town hall and at the Institute for the Blind] when that happens," he said.

Soby's schedule makes for long days and short weekends, but despite the sacrifices, he said the experience has been both interesting and challenging.

"The experience has been a good one because of the people I work with. I would truly be lost if it wasn't for the support team of professionals I work with. They're good people to work with," he said.

And despite sacrificing his leisure time

to manage two careers, he said it is his family who are making the real sacrifices.

"The people I work with, and the forbearance of my family," he said.

As far as town business is concerned, Soby said the biggest issue he's been dealing with in his relatively short tenure is the budget.

"In February, I worked with department budgets, receiving them and making adjustments to them. Last month we went through workshop sessions and worked with the Board of Finance to finalize the town budget," he said.

Two new committees—the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Energy and Fuel Conservation Committee have had their first meetings.

Soby said the biggest surprise encountered on his watch is the number of complaints he receives about roaming dogs.

"There seems to be a lot of concern about roaming dogs. I've referred the complaints to the animal control officer, but there is a limited amount of things he can do. He can issue citations and try and catch the dogs and keep them until the owner is notified, but we're doing what we can," he said.

Soby also welcomed the hiring of Town Planner Adam Turner.

"It'll be good to have a set of fresh eyes looking over the land use regulations and making recommendations. Now is a good time for the department to look over the regs—the work load there is a little lighter right now so it would be a good time to do it," he said.

"The important thing is that I have good people, professional people working with me throughout the process. That is a big help to me being new. I can really rely on them," he said.

Relief Fund Started for Portland Fire Victims

by Michael McCoy

A Portland family has been temporarily displaced after a fire left their home, located at 2 Spruce Terrace, just off of Main Street, considerably damaged. The fire occurred Wednesday afternoon, April 4.

The fire was called in to dispatchers at 5 p.m. by 16-year-old Jesse Taylor, who lives at the house with his 11-year-old brother Nicholas and their mother, Christy.

Authorities instructed him to immediately flee the building. He and Nicholas both got safely out of the ranch-style house, as did their family dog.

About 20 members of the Portland Fire Department promptly arrived on the scene, along with four Middletown firefighters, part of a cooperative effort between the two departments. According to Portland Fire Chief Robert Shea, fire was shooting out from the lower doors and ascending up the side of the home, by the time they arrived.

The fire, which apparently started in the basement, was rapidly brought under control, but the house suffered extensive smoke and water damage. Two family cats died in the fire.

"We knocked it down pretty quickly," said Shea. "It was a very intense heat fire."

Commending his team, Shea noted, "It was a really good stop by fire personnel."

Firefighters were able to leave by about 7 p.m., but Chief Shea, Fire Marshal Greg Ouellette and Deputy Fire Marshal Ray Sajdak stayed until 9:30 p.m. to investigate possible causes of the fire. As of press time,

the fire remains under investigation.

The home is owned by Christy Taylor's mother, Sonja DeKorte and aunt Rhonda Pease. It had previously belonged to their mother Sophie Safflicki and has been in the family for 25 years.

According to Pease, Taylor and her sons will be staying with a friend for the time being, though the family hopes to repair the house as soon as they can. However, the house will have to be completely gutted first.

"They're taking it day by day," said Pease. "Emotionally, they're pretty strong. We're a pretty close family."

Pease said that although the homeowner's insurance provides for fires, Taylor's renter's insurance would only cover a part of what they lost. Everything that had been in the basement at the time of the fire was destroyed. Unfortunately, everything upstairs is either covered with soot, or damaged by water or smoke. Pease estimated that only the most precious items would be worth salvaging.

Pease and her sister have set up the Taylor Family Fire Fund at Liberty Bank to help the family recoup. Anyone interested in donating to this effort may do so at any Liberty branch. Proceeds from any fundraising efforts undertaken by any town organization may also be deposited into the fund.

The first of these fundraisers was a Spirit Day at Brownstone Intermediate School on Wednesday, one week after the fire happened. During this day, students were allowed to chew gum, provided they donate a dollar to the fund.

RHAM Budget Discussion Focuses on Lacrosse

by Sarah McCoy

The RHAM Board of Education (BOE) budget is set at a 5.1% increase and will go to referendum next month.

Monday the BOE held a public hearing on the \$22.2 million budget, but heard little comment on the number. Of the 20 or so residents present at the hearing, approximately 18 spoke on one issue: lacrosse.

Last month a group of students and parents brought forth a proposal to the BOE to include budget funding for boys and girls lacrosse teams. The associated costs would be \$12,000 for the first year and \$22,000 the second.

At the time the board opted not to fund the new program without further study. "Rather than willy-nilly adding sports, we need to sit back and look at athletics as a whole," said BOE Chairman Al Covino.

On Monday a group of supporters urged the BOE to reconsider.

In the end, the two sides compromised. Lacrosse will be added as a club sport for boys the next fiscal year. The RHAM team will compete against other JV teams. As a club sport, the lacrosse team will be funded by participants.

At the time of publication Covino did not have an estimate on the costs, but believed it would be much less than the \$12,000 needed to make the sport an official JV team.

"We will spend the next six or so months looking at athletics," Covino reported. "The Board [of Education] will form a subcommittee to look at where we are and where we are going."

At that time the board will revisit the lacrosse plan.

Hearing no other complaints, the BOE voted to send the 5.1% increase to the district meeting on May 7 that will be continued to the tri-town referendum on May 8.

The driving forces for next year's budget come from enrollment increases, contractual salary increases, health insurance costs, and rising fuel costs. Salaries and health insurance alone represent \$955,643 of the total \$1,092,676 increase.

The middle school population is expected to jump by 33 students and the high school by 35. This includes a spike in students needing special education services. Special Education Director Brian Morin reported that 12% of the incoming 7th grade class requires additional support, a record high for the district.

The \$22.2 million budget cost will be split proportionately between the three towns. Andover's levy is \$3,835,249; Marlborough's is \$6,620,079; and Hebron's is \$11,752,215.



Work is underway at Town Hall to make the building ADA compliant. The structure was once an elementary school prior to construction of the current Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall School.

Upgrade Making Town Hall ADA Compliant

by Sarah McCoy

The Town of Marlborough is ramping up efforts to become more compliant with ADA regulations.

This week construction began on Town Hall to move the handicap entrance and parking to the south side of the building where most visitors enter. Prior to this initiative, the entrance had been located on the north end.

"The problem was that the entrance was the furthest from the traditional parking lot," explained First Selectman Bill Black. "The ADA compliant ramp and door were not easily identifiable."

In two weeks, when construction is expected to wrap up, the ramp and automated door will be viewable from the main parking lot.

That parking lot, too, will see some upgrades. It will be regraded to accommodate persons using ADA vehicles and the sidewalks will be

lowered and widened. "No more steps," Black noted. "And railings will be installed."

The most important thing, in Black's mind, is that the renovations will allow for disabled and able bodied persons to enter through the same door. "These repairs bring consistency for all our residents," he said.

Following completion of the renovation, the Marlborough Town Hall will have met all of the ADA requirements for accessibility.

Between the engineering design, ramps, locks, relocation of the automated doors, electrical wiring and paving work, this project is projected to cost around \$50,000. That money will come out of the current fiscal year's budget.

Faraci Concrete Contractor out of Portland is completing the Town Hall overhaul.

Hebron Finance Board Deadlocks on Budget Cuts

by Sarah McCoy

A month and a half ago, Selectman Victoria Avelis predicted “a lot of 3-3 votes on the Board of Finance.”

That prophesy began to come true Monday night when the Board of Finance (BOF) failed to agree on a budget, deadlocking 3-3 in two separate votes.

Avelis made her prediction following the Board of Selectmen’s appointment of Donna Ferree, an independent, to fill a BOF vacancy. Ferree got the nod over Republican candidate Clara O’Brien. The vacancy on the BOF had been created by the departure of Republican board member Matt Daly.

Despite Monday’s deadlock, the BOF will carry the Board of Selectmen’s recommended budget—which calls for an overall increase of 6.84%—to public hearing on April 23.

The total represents a 6.16% increase in the local Board of Education (which the BOF commended) and a 5.1% increase in the RHAM budget (which the Hebron BOF has no control over).

There are also slight increases to Open Space and Capital Projects totaling \$31,700. The BOF agreed on these numbers last Thursday but suggested the town consider increases to these two items in the future.

The finance board spent almost two hours Monday night discussing one part of the \$31.1 million proposed budget: General Government.

As it stands, the General Government portion of the budget represents an 8.3% increase. This is almost double of the traditional increase of 3.5-4%.

Hebron Town Manager Jared Clark defended the number, calling it “the cost of business.”

He also said it was long overdue. “Hebron has a history of under-funding town government,” he said. “I have tried to present a budget that completes the ramp-ups for areas we are behind in.”

A large part of the increase is due to an additional Resident State Trooper; a 4% salary increase for non-contractual employees; and turning the two part-time Fire Department secretary positions into one full-time job.

Clark estimated that, except for six positions compensated at market value, the balance of town employees are paid 12-17% below market averages.

In response, BOF Chairman Brendan Shea firmly stated that he would not recommend a budget with more than a 6% increase on the general government side. “We are called to come out and do our job,” he said. “That job is to fund the necessary items in the budget. I don’t feel comfortable with this number in the least bit.”

Shea’s fellow Republicans, Michael Hazel

and Philip LoBianco, agreed.

“I am concerned because it looks like we are trying to pull a fast one on our residents,” LoBianco said. “People are trying to figure out what the reval[uation] means to their tax bill and it might not be the right time for an increase like this.”

Revaluation sent the grand list soaring 40.63%. The mill rate for the town will drop but the final number won’t be set until after the budget is adopted, or by the June 15 deadline.

Ferree disagreed with the BOF Republicans. Though she drew some criticism in February for seeking appointment to the BOF while her husband continues to work for the town, she was the most vocal supporter of the general government budget Monday night. “It looks like a lot but [this increase] barely moves Hebron forward,” she said.

Ferree currently works as an accountant for the Town of Coventry. Monday night she reported that even though two towns have the same square mileage and same road distances, Coventry’s town operations budget is \$2 million higher.

“Hebron has had the same staff for 15 years,” she said. “They are doing an increase in work. To not pay those people isn’t right.”

Shea recommended a \$120,000 cut to the general government side. He suggested \$48,500 could come from cutting the proposed Resident State Trooper; \$25,800 from the Fire department secretary position; and the balance from payroll, overtime, road repair, and medical insurance savings.

The Board of Finance does not have line item control of the budget. They can set a final number but it is up to the Board of Selectmen or Board of Education where the cuts are specifically made.

Many of the BOF members worried out loud that if the budget were to be voted down as it stands it would force the board to make sweeping reductions to all areas, including education. “I don’t want to see the 8.3% number to threaten the BOE budget,” LoBianco said.

Democrats Laurine Bow and Mal Leichter took positions somewhere between those of Ferree and the Republicans. Bow suggested a \$70,000 cut as a compromise but Shea quickly retorted that he didn’t feel that was enough.

Leichter wanted to get input from the residents at the public hearing before reductions. “I’m not waffling,” he said. “I’m saying, ‘I think this is solid. What do you think?’”

The public hearing will be held on April 23 at 7 p.m. in the RHAM auditorium. The BOF will meet the following night to set the final budget number before the town-wide referendum on May 8.

East Hampton Police News

3/25 — Carol Ann Tankersley, 50, of 41 East High St., East Hampton, was arrested for larceny 6th degree.

3/27 — A 14-year-old male juvenile was referred to Juvenile Court for possession of marijuana less than four ounces.

3/27 — John Forbes IV, 20, of 29 Main St., East Hampton, and Jamie Gibbs, 27, of 204 Main St., Portland, were issued tickets for illegal highway use of ATVs.

3/29 — A 17-year-old female juvenile was referred to Youth in Crisis.

3/31 — Elevi Orea-Garcia, 28, of 19 Hinman St., Meriden, was arrested for operating an un-

registered vehicle, operating without a license, operating without insurance and misuse of plates.

3/31 — William Marchinkowski, 37, of 30 Mott Hill Rd., East Hampton, was arrested for disorderly conduct.

4/1 — Mark Kneeland, 23, of 82 Main St., East Hampton, was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

4/3 — Brian M. Hanna, 19, of 3 Butler La., Portland, and William J. Hanna, 26, same address, were issued tickets for operating an ATV on a public highway and operating an ATV without registration.

East Hampton Accident Investigated

East Hampton police are investigating a two-car accident that occurred Monday, April 9 at about 6:50 a.m. at the intersection of Route 196 and Lena Lane.

Drivers of the two vehicles were identified as Melissa Harris, 19, and Christine Bernard, 51, both of East Hampton. Both were injured and were transported to area emergency departments for care. There were no passengers in either vehicle, said police.

No charges have been filed.

Marlborough Police News

4/5—Police are investigating a burglary into a home on Flood Road. A laptop computer, assorted watches, cash, four firearms and several pellet guns were reported stolen, according to reports. Anyone with any information is asked to call Officer Ransom at 537-7555 ext. 4095.

Hebron Police News

4/7—Richard Hackett, 49, of Meriden, was arrested for DWI, according to police.

Portland Police News

4/3 – Travis Vanblaricom, 23, of 157 Great Hill Rd., Portland, was charged with DUI and failure to travel in the proper lane, said Portland police.

4/5 – Keith Loftus, 25, of 36 Bridge St., Deep River, was charged with criminal mischief 1st degree, criminal trespass 3rd degree and larceny 6th degree, said police.

4/5 – Clarence Braun, 21, of 87 Sillimanville Rd., East Haddam, was charged with criminal mischief 1st degree, criminal trespass 3rd degree and larceny 6th degree, said police.

4/9 – A 17-year-old male was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, said police.

Obituaries

Colchester

Floyd Barrett

Floyd "Barry" Barrett, 76, of Clearwater, FL, died April 3, at Mease Countryside Hospital. He was born in Lowell, MA and moved to Florida in 1995 from Colchester.

He was a surgical technician. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran. Floyd belonged to Espiritu Santo Catholic Church.

Floyd leaves his companion Alfred A. Dudley of Clearwater, FL; brother, Kenneth Barrett of Wallingford; sisters, Thelma Bergstrom of Tampa, FL and Arlene Petras of Bristol; and several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. Curlew Hills Funeral Home, Palm Harbor, FL is handling arrangements.

East Hampton

Robert H. Colburn

Robert H. "Mr. Bob" Colburn, 64, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Joane (Rutty) Colburn, died Thursday, April 5, at Middlesex Hospital.

Born Nov. 2, 1942 in Lebanon NH, son of the late Custer and Margaret (Guy) Colburn, he had lived in East Hampton since 1978. He was employed by the East Hampton Board of Education as the Head Custodian at Memorial School for 28 years. He was a U.S. Army veteran having served his country in Germany for three years as an artillery mechanic.

Besides his wife Joane, to whom he was married for 24 years, he is survived by three daughters, Kelly Boutin of Vermont, Amber Goulet of East Hampton, and Shannon Goulet of Norwich; two brothers, Clyde Colburn of California and Raymond Colburn of Florida; a sister, Shirley Fielder of Massachusetts; four grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two young children, Kris and Jeff, and a brother, Harold Colburn.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 10 in the Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St. East Hampton with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial with full military honors was in Lakeview Cemetery. Calling hours were Monday evening at the Spencer Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to East Hampton Volunteer Fire Dept. 5 Barton Hill Rd. East Hampton, CT 06424 or Weiss Hospice Unit c/o The Development Office 55 Crescent St. Middletown, CT 06457.

Portland

Lucy M. Basiel

Lucy McGrath Basiel, 95, of Edwards Rd., Portland, died Saturday, March 31, in the Middlesex Health Care Center in Middletown. She was the wife of the late Paul Basiel.

Born in Bozrah, Oct. 16, 1911, a daughter of the late John and Ellen Quinlan McGrath, she had been a Portland resident for many years. She had been employed as an executive secretary to the Vice President of the Travelers Insurance Company in Hartford and was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary.

Mrs. Basiel is survived by her sister Ann Demme of Cheshire; her brother William McGrath of West Hartford, formerly of Glastonbury, and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday morning, in the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Interment was in St. Mary Cemetery. There were no calling hours. Arrangements were under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

Marlborough

Ben Horowitz

Ben Horowitz of Marlborough, CT and Jamison, PA, passed away this year in February. He was 96 years old.

In his youth, while attending, and after graduating from, the University of Connecticut, he helped to run the family farm in Marlborough. He was the first agriculturalist in the area to order and grow new varieties of blueberries developed by Elizabeth White in New Jersey. The many different hybrid berries, as well as a variety of fruits and vegetables, were much sought after by local residents, either as "pick your own" or sold at the roadside stand.

After he married, Ben moved to Pennsylvania where he became the supervising horticulturalist for the garden layouts that were featured monthly in Better Homes and Gardens. In later years he worked with the State of Pennsylvania, Department of Public Works. He was also a Fire Policeman and a founding member of the Warwick Fire Company. Ben is remembered fondly by those whose lives he touched.

Ben Horowitz was predeceased by his parents, Rose and Henry; his brother, Allen; and his wife, Belle.

Colchester

Dorothy Mae Fellows

Dorothy Mae Fellows, "Dottie," 77, of Griswold, formerly of Colchester, widow of the late Burton L. Fellows, passed away Friday, April 6, at the Wm. W. Backus Hospital in Norwich with her loving family by her side.

Born Sept. 8, 1929 in Willimantic, she was a daughter of the late Walter and Ruth (Pitcher) Timmins.

Dottie retired several years ago after having worked in the housekeeping department at the former Colchester Convalescent Home and also at Peggy's Vintage Diner.

She is survived by nine children, Burton, Jr. of Colbrooke, NH; Leann Fontaine of Bozrah, Michael of Lebanon, Gary of Colchester, Diane Miller of Georgia, Donna Palmer of New Hampshire, Scott of Hebron, Jamie of Colchester and Jody of Griswold; 22 grandchildren; a sister, Jean McCauley of Texas; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Calling hours were Tuesday morning at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, followed by a Chapel Service. Interment was in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

Portland

Barbara M. DeCrescenzo

Barbara M. DeCrescenzo, 77, of Portland, passed away, Monday, April 2, at Hartford Hospital.

Born on Aug. 13, 1929, the youngest daughter to Irene and Belden Morgan of West Hartford. Barbara moved with her family to Glastonbury in 1946 and was graduated from Glastonbury High School in 1948. She married the late Richard F. DeCrescenzo in 1949 and together they raised five sons and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary before his passing in 2002.

During that time, Barbara held positions at the Royal Typewriter Company, the *Glastonbury Citizen* and the *East Hartford Gazette*. In recent years she had documented family lineage to the time of the American Revolutionary War, earning induction into the society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Eunice Cobb Stocking Chapter.

She leaves behind her devoted sons and daughters-in-law, Joseph, Gary and Connie, Robert and Lorraine, William and Carol, Richard Jr. and Nancy. She also leaves eight grandchildren, Joseph, William Jr, Rebecca, Haley, Mathew, Thomas, Richard, Sofia, and her sister Janice formerly of Glastonbury and Simsbury now of Sedona, AZ, her younger brother, Belden "Jack" Morgan of Auburn, CA, as well as her brothers and sisters-in-law, Vincent and Joyce Mancini, Matthew and Ida Mancini and John Cubeta; and many close friends and extended family. She was predeceased by her sister, Jacquelyn and sister-in-law, Philomena Cubeta.

Funeral services were held on Friday, April 6 at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Naubuc Ave. Glastonbury. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, 200 Whitman Ave, West Hartford. Calling hours were Thursday evening at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Protection of Animals, 144 Main St, East Hartford, CT 06118.

Hebron

Virginia C. Queen

Virginia C. (Benard) Queen, 88, of Westford, MA, formerly of Amston, widow of John D. Queen, entered eternal life on Sunday, April 8, in Westford.

Born in Springfield, MA, daughter of the late Arthur and Anna (Rising) Benard, she graduated Holyoke High School in 1936 where she was recognized as a star athlete. In 1938, she married John and became a wife, homemaker and mother.

She is survived by a son, John D. Queen, Jr. and his wife, Joyce of Hebron; a daughter, Bette A. Queen of Farmington and Mexico; nine grandchildren, Terry Dennehey and his wife, Kelly of Merrimack, NH, who were a great help during her later years, Ricky Dennehey of Worcester, MA, Stacey Whitney and her husband, John of Lebanon, Shelly Vendrillo and her husband, Jay of Hebron, Jay Queen and his wife, Sandra of Hebron, Christian Queen and his wife, Holly of Glastonbury, John Felenchak and his wife, Olivia of MD, Marya Felenchak and her husband, Tim Tanner of Seattle, WA, and Edward Felenchak and his wife, Maria of Vermont. She was predeceased by a daughter, Virginia J. Queen; a grandson, Jason Dennehey and her brother, Roland Benard.

Calling hours were Thursday morning at the Windsor Locks Funeral Home, 441 Spring St., Windsor Locks followed by a service at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial was in Grove Cemetery, Windsor Locks. Memorial donations are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association 279 New Britain Rd., Kensington, CT 06037

Colchester

William G. Weber

William George Weber, 91, of Dublin Village, Colchester, CT, formerly of Worcester, NY, beloved husband of Ethel (Warner) Weber, passed away peacefully Tuesday afternoon, April 10.

Born Dec. 2, 1915 in Solvay, NY, he was the son of the late George and Eva (Pierson) Weber. He was a 1937 graduate of Solvay Senior High School.

On Aug. 23, 1938, he and Ethel were married in Sharon Springs, NY.

In February of 1944, he enlisted in the US Marine Corps, serving in Radio and Radar operations in the Asiatic and Pacific theatres during World War II. He was honorably discharged at the rank of corporal in March of 1946.

Early on, Mr. Weber was a union carpenter and traveled extensively across the country, including Alaska, to work. Later, he became an insurance agent for Metropolitan Life for 20 years before his retirement in 1975.

Mr. Weber was a Charter Member of the American Legion Post 582 in Worcester and a 50+ year member and past Worshipful Master of the Schenevus Valley Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 592. He was also a member of the Worcester United Methodist Church. In his spare time, he was an avid fisherman.

In addition to his loving wife of 68 years, he is survived by three children and their spouses, W. Darryl and Patricia Weber of Worcester, Marcia and Robert Masci of East Haddam and Mark and Mardi Weber of Tecumseh, KS; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a sister, Irene Hamilton of Endwell, NY; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Graveside services will be observed at the Maple Grove Cemetery, Worcester, NY, at a later date.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

