

RIVEREAST

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A pair of fox kits play on the deck and cover of Bill Mogensen's pool. Finding little help elsewhere, the Marlborough resident finally took down his deck to encourage the foxes to find another home.

Resident Triumphs in Battle Between Foxes & Man

by Sarah McCoy

A Marlborough resident rid himself of some unwelcome guests last week, but he had to go to extremes to do it.

Cheney Road resident Bill Mogensen noticed a few weeks ago that a family of foxes had moved into his yard. The mom and her four pups burrowed under Mogensen's pool deck and made themselves right at home.

Mogensen thought the animals were cute, but they also presented a problem—not the least of which were concerns about the safety of people and pets that might come into contact with the foxes.

"I most likely would have opened my pool by now," he said. "But I worry about people swimming right next to their den and a protective mother."

Looking for help, Mogensen first called Marlborough Animal Control Officer Don Favry. Unfortunately, there wasn't much Favry could do. By law, Animal Control Officers are not permitted to touch foxes unless they have come in contact with a pet or human. This precaution exists mainly because of the threat of rabies.

"He was sympathetic but his hands were

tied," Mogensen said.

Even if a fox does come in contact with a pet or human, the Animal Control Officer is only permitted to "trap and destroy" the animal, according to Favry.

As suggested by Favry, Mogensen called a local Nuisance Control Operator. These individuals are trained specifically to handle wild creatures, especially those that pose a risk for rabies.

As it turns out, even with their additional training and certification, a Nuisance Control Officer has very limited options when it comes to a problem like Mogensen's. They can trap and euthanize the foxes or trap and release them on the same property.

Releasing the animals in a different part of the yard clearly wasn't going to be much help. Mogensen also balked at euthanizing the animals.

"I don't want them killed," he explained. "They are good for the environment. They hunt mice, rodents, squirrels, moles, all the things I don't want digging in my yard. I [just] didn't expect it to be so hard to get them out of here and into a forest."

Mogensen also contacted the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), but got pretty much the same answer—intervention would almost certainly require euthanizing the animals. And, even if relocation were permitted by law, there was no guarantee the young foxes would survive the move, he was told.

"It doesn't work," said DEP Wildlife Nuisance Biologist Chris Vann as to relocating a family of foxes. "People think that you can just trap them and move them to a forest, but [a fox's] instinct kicks in. The mom will work to save itself and the pups will likely die."

DEP prefers to promote co-existence amongst foxes and humans.

"There is very little risk from foxes," Vann explained. "And most move on after a period of a couple weeks."

Wildlife experts told Mogensen that because of the constant threat of coyotes (foxes and coyotes do not get along), it is typical for a fox family to move between three to four dens in an effort to avoid confrontation with their larger cousins. As it

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Fox kits clearly don't understand what all the fuss is about. They're perfectly happy in their new home next to Bill Mogensen's pool.

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is, a single den may only last a month before the family moves on.

But Mogensen decided he had waited long enough. Late last month, after weeks of contemplation and research, he made his move. In a somewhat drastic solution to the problem, he began disassembling the pool deck in his backyard.

"It didn't really serve a useful purpose anyways," he rationalized.

With their refuge in turmoil, the foxes finally abandoned their home under the deck in favor of a more stable environment.

Final score? Mogensen: 1. Foxes: 0.

"Hopefully [humans and foxes] can find a way to coexist peacefully," Mogensen said. "They are very pretty and helpful. I just require that they wear a bathing suit if they're going to use the pool."

Military Vehicles Show & Flea Market This Week

The Connecticut Military Collectors Club will host their 30th annual Military Vehicle Show and Flea Market at the Hebron Fairgrounds on June 16-17.

Show hours will be Saturday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The fairgrounds are located on Route 85 in Hebron.

This is one of the oldest military vehicle shows in the country and usually features about 100 military jeeps, trucks, armored vehicles and other militaria from early times to the present.

There are more than "old trucks" to look at. There will be a fantastic drill team demonstration by the U.S. Navy Drill Team from the Groton Submarine Base at 11 a.m. on Saturday morning. The Seabees, the Marine Corps reserve and Connecticut National Guard will all have displays at the show.

There will also be helicopter rides (for a fee), displays of military equipment from various periods and military re-enactors from several different eras in the nation's history.

The Connecticut State Police helicopter will

also be on display. They plan to arrive at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

The Veterans Outreach Center sponsored by the Veterans Administration in West Haven will also have people available to provide veterans from any conflict with information on assistance they may need with emotional difficulties.

"Most of all, this is a great opportunity for everyone to learn a little history, see some great restorations of military vehicles, meet, talk to and thank some Army national Guard, Marine Corps Reservists and active duty sailors from the U.S. Navy," said organizers. "And just have a good time."

Admission is \$5 for adults, kids under 12 free. In the past, COMVEC has been able to make donations to the Connecticut Veterans Home in Rocky Hill and the Connecticut National Guard Family Fund to help in the preservation of the nation's military heritage.

There will be food vendors on site.

For more information, go to the website www.comvec.org

Colchester Students Selected for Boys/Girls State Program

by **Jim Salemi**

The American Legion's Boys State Committee has announced the names of four Bacon Academy students chosen to attend this summer's Boys State/Girls State program, to be held at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Two boys and two girls from Bacon—Lauryn McNair, Jenny Sheehan, Michael Guarino and Josh Hodgson—all in their junior year, have the honor of being selected to attend the prestigious program this year.

Students are selected by an informal vote, first by fellow students at the school, then by teachers make recommendations. The American Legion committee then selects the finalists.

According to Walt Tallman, chairman of the Boys State committee for the Colchester American Legion, the four Bacon students will join students from around the state selected to attend the program.

Model governments will be set up, and the students will hold elections to fill political offices from the local to state levels, as well as make appointments for appointed government positions. The student who is ultimately elected Governor will go to Washington, D.C. to compete in Boys Nation/ Girls Nation, which is a national-level model. The top office in the finals is, of course, the Presidency.

"It affords the kids a chance to learn about politics and public policy—how to run a state or government," Tallman said.

When the students arrive, they are assigned a party, usually 'Nationalists' and 'Federalist' parties. They hold caucuses, primaries, party platform development and government organization. There is also classroom instruction on government and politics, Tallman said.

After attending the program, the students will each write a report on their experiences.

Hebron's Own Tony Grano to Box at Expo Center

2005 United States amateur heavyweight boxing champion, Tony "TNT" Grano will make his professional headlining debut Saturday, June 29 at the Connecticut Expo Center in Hartford.

Grano (9-0-1, 8 KOs) will take on Baltimore, MD veteran Jed Phipps (17-6, 10 KOs) in the 8-round main event.

"This is going to be a good test for Tony," said his father/manager, Bill Grano. "Phipps will be the most experienced guy Tony's been in with, thus far, and given that he will be fighting in the main event, in front of his hometown following, it will be a good means of seeing how much he's grown as a fighter."

The 26-year-old Grano was born in Hartford and grew up in Hebron. He was a standout wrestler at RHAM High School, going undefeated his senior year.

Though Grano didn't begin boxing until age 19, his athleticism and work ethic saw him quickly become one of the country's most watched amateur prospects. After suffering a disappointing loss in the Eastern

Region of the Olympic Trials, Grano opted to maintain his amateur status, and captured the heavyweight divisions national amateur title the very next year (2005).

Grano began his professional career with a bang, earning a second-round knockout over Rubin Bracero on Nov. 23, 2005. After earning three more knockout victories in the next six months, Grano fought to an action-packed draw with Rodney Ray on May 24, 2006 at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City.

Since his four-round draw with Ray, Grano has won four more bouts via knockout, being forced the 6-round distance once, on Feb. 23, 2007 against his former amateur foe Tyrone Smith. Though Grano did manage to drop Smith with a body-shot in the fifth, the full-time Boston police officer weathered the storm and made it to the final bell.

Grano currently resides and trains in Brooklyn, NY, where he is under the tutelage of his former amateur coach, Andre Rozier.

Burglary Thwarted by Police Officer on Patrol in East Hampton

An East Hampton police officer on routine patrol last Friday night, June 8, apparently interrupted a burglary in progress, with unhappy results for two out-of-town suspects.

Police said Officer Jason Wishart was on routine patrol on Route 66 at 10:25 p.m. when he observed a white van exiting a darkened construction site. The van passed him, heading in the opposite direction.

When Wishart turned around to stop the vehicle for investigation, the van pulled into a parking lot. Two occupants exited the vehicle and fled on foot. Inside the vehicle, in plain view, were numerous articles of construction equipment, said police.

Additional officers arrived to assist Wishart and one of the suspects, identified as Michael Bouchard, 52, of 208 Farmington Ave., Hartford, was apprehended by Officer Kevin Wilcox.

The second suspect was not located, despite a search including a State Police K-9 unit.

However, at 2:49 a.m., Portland police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the Mobil Mart on Route 66. The vehicle was registered to an East Hampton address. The driver, who was from Hartford, could not explain why he was in possession of the vehicle.

Officer Wishart responded to the scene and identified the operator as the second suspect

who had fled the scene hours earlier in East Hampton. It was later determined the vehicle had been stolen from Classic Auto in East Hampton, which is only a short distance from the parking lot the suspects had fled when pulled over.

The second suspect, identified as Daniel Fonseca, 57, of 159 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, was taken into custody.

Both Bouchard and Fonseca were charged with two counts of burglary 3rd degree, larceny 1st degree, possession of burglary tools, criminal mischief 3rd degree, conspiracy to commit burglary 3rd degree, conspiracy to commit larceny 1st degree, conspiracy to commit criminal mischief and two counts of criminal attempt to commit burglary.

Fonseca was additionally charged with larceny 3rd degree for the larceny of the vehicle from Classic Auto.

Both suspects were held at the Middletown Police Department in lieu of \$100,000 bond and were arraigned June 11 at Middletown Superior Court.

The owner of the construction company identified the recovered property as stolen from his site. The items were valued in excess of \$10,000.

Hebron Lions Town Picnic & Fireworks June 30

The Hebron Lions will host the 2007 Hebron Lions Town Picnic & Fireworks on Saturday, June 30 (with a rain date of Sunday, July 1). The gates will open at 4 p.m. with the fireworks starting at 9:30 p.m.

This year's event will continue to feature food vendors on site (expanded selection this year!), Inflatable Attractions (also expanded this year to cover kids of all ages, including teens), hayrides, a Cow Chip Raffle sponsored by the RHAM Sports Boosters, live music from The Blast, games run by the RHAM Leos Club and more.

Families are encouraged to bring blankets, chairs and even their picnic baskets for this all evening event. A new pricing structure will be introduced this year as well. The price will be \$10 per vehicle, but each vehicle will receive \$5 worth of tickets to spend with food vendors and other attractions on site.

Following the success of the VIP Priority Exit Parking area last year, the Lions are expanding this VIP Parking Lot in 2007. The \$25 parking pass allows entrance into the VIP Priority Exit parking area which has its own private exit onto Route 85. The pass also comes with \$5 worth of tickets to use with the vendors and attractions on site.

Last year those who parked in the VIP area were the first ones off the grounds, bypassing the main parking lot traffic. There is only a limited number of passes available, so they may sell out quickly. You can purchase the tickets online.

For all the latest information about the event, including VIP Priority Exit Parking Passes, and learning on how to become a sponsor of the event, please visit our website, www.HebronHarvestFair.org.

Proposal to Discontinue “Dirt” Road Maintenance in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

The East Hampton Town Council is exploring the possibility of ending maintenance of various unimproved or “dirt” roads in town.

Preliminary discussion began Tuesday night after a brief explanation by Councilman Scott Minnick who spearheaded the proposal. Just under 15 miles of town roads would be affected.

“I’m very excited about this project,” said Minnick. “I’ve spent an extended amount of time on this.”

According to Minnick, “This is something that has the potential to save the Town of East Hampton millions and millions of dollars.”

Minnick distributed a document to Council members and Planning & Zoning Commission members listing the roads and/or sections of roads that would be considered for discontinuance.

Minnick identified those sections—23 all together—as “not required for the common convenience and necessity.” They are “used only by a few who adjoin them,” he said.

Of the 14.97 miles of road that Minnick and Public Works Superintendent Bob Drewry deemed potential candidates for formal discontinuance, only 4.13 are actually currently maintained by the town.

Minnick and Drewry estimated that grading and plowing those 4.13 miles of roadway costs \$8,216 per mile per year. Factoring in a 3% allowance each year for inflation, they estimate the town would save \$911,779 over the next 20 years should those 4.13 miles be discontinued.

The 14.97 miles of overall roadway listed includes 10 bridges which would have to be dealt with in any possible upgrade.

Drewry estimates that each bridge would cost approximately \$600,000 to rebuild, while paving of roads would run the town \$800,000 per linear mile.

Assuming that Public Works would need to rebuild these bridges over the next 20 years, as well as pave these sections to bring the roads up to town standards—and assuming a 5% interest rate to pay for such efforts—Minnick and Drewry figure the proposal to discontinue the roadways would save the town an additional \$27,450,000 over the same 20-year period.

According to Minnick, East Hampton has not discontinued a road since about 1870.

The proposal drew plenty of criticism from the two Republican Council members as well as from residents who would be affected by the discontinuances.

Councilman Melissa Engel chastised Minnick for not figuring into the equation the federal money that the town receives for upkeep of such roads. She also charged, “You’ve failed to speak with the people who would be affected by this.”

“It’s a hidden tax is what it is,” remarked Councilman Bill Devine.

According to Minnick, some of the roads in question actually affect no houses.

In that case, Engel suggested, “You could take the roads where there is nobody living on them.”

Addressing issues such as access for emergency vehicles like fire trucks and ambulances, Engel demanded, “Tell me how it’s not a health and safety issue to discontinue a dirt road.”

Board of Finance Chairman Ted Hintz challenged Minnick directly: “Has your house been added to this list, if it saves the town so much money?” Continuing the sarcasm, he added, “Why don’t we just abandon all town roads?”

A couple residents of Quiet Woods Road,

one of the roads in question, spoke out against the idea. “My land would become valueless,” worried Rich Michaud. It’s gonna be locked.”

Mike Filanda said it’s the town’s fault the roads have deteriorated in the first place. “Road maintenance has turned into grading a road and digging a trench. What costs you money is poor planning,” he said.

Alluding to the same issue, Jeff Korwin said, “I’ve never seen Drewry go around, check the guys, and see how they’re doing...you’re cutting your own throat really.”

Anticipating some amount of dissent, Minnick remarked, “The reason is economical; it will not make everyone happy.”

The Town Council unanimously voted to table the issue until their next meeting, which is slated for June 26. Should the Council vote to send a version of this proposal forth, it would next appear before the Planning and Zoning Commission. Any changes made by PZC could be overridden only by a two-thirds vote by the Town Council—in this case 5 out of 7. Finally, the proposal would be sent to a town meeting.

Gilead Congregation Celebrates Expansion Kickoff

by Jim Salemi

Members of the Gilead Church Congregation were joined by state and local dignitaries Sunday as they ceremoniously broke ground to make way for a major expansion of “the little church on the hill.”

In an effort to address the growing church and town populations, Gilead is building an addition onto its fellowship hall and will renovate its social hall, along with upcoming improvements to landscaping and the parking lot.

Members of the project’s Campaign Committee estimate that the project will cost as much as \$1.2 million. Committee members have already raised \$500,000 in the 15-month capital campaign. That puts them just over two years ahead of where they had hoped to be when the church first kicked off the campaign.

What can’t be raised through the campaign, the church will borrow and use its endowment funds to finance the remainder of the project.

“It’s an exciting day for us in taking the next step toward our dream, vision and commitment to ‘Build to Serve’—not just for the faith but for the community,” said church pastor, the Rev. Denise Esslinger.

Over the last nine years, the congregation has ballooned from 180 members in 1998 to about 320 today. That was one driving force behind the plan to expand. The other was the growth of the town overall.

The church, Esslinger said, has historically served the community at large. The new halls will be available to groups that currently use the church hall, as well as future organizations. These already include groups such as scouts organizations, musical programs and Alcoholic Anonymous meetings. Hence, the project’s slogan, ‘Building to Serve.’

The slogan is borrowed from former Pastor

Rev. George Milne, who wrote in a program for the May 4, 1952 Sunday service dedicating the new Sunday School Room: “What we have built, we have built so that Gilead may continue to give, and give more. This room is not just for our pride and pleasure but for the service of the community and the glory of God.”

“There’s not a lot of space to hold functions in town,” observed Esslinger. “It’s a way for us to reach out, the Daisy’s, the Brownies, Alcoholics Anonymous, all meet here. There’s no room to sit,” she remarked.

“We’re trying to reach out, to provide a facility to reach out,” explained Capital Campaign Committee member John D’Amico. “It’s non-denominational and not limited to any one group. It’s intended for everyone’s benefit. The building is to serve our own needs and those of the community.”

Project Building Committee Co-chairman Brian Byrne said the current project is the fourth since the church was founded.

The first was in 1837, when the congregation razed the original meeting house built in 1749 and built a new one. The total cost for that project was \$2,500.

A parsonage was added in 1861 after John B. Hutchinson donated the land for one in 1860. Construction of the parsonage in 1860 cost about \$3,000.

The church remained unchanged for nearly a century, until the congregation built the present social hall in 1952. In 1952, the addition served as a Sunday school room, and was built to accommodate a surge at the time of Sunday school students.

A task force was appointed in May of 2000 to study the needs of the church, given its significant growth. The task force recommended



The Rev. Denise Esslinger, pastor of Gilead Congregational Church with an oversized rendering depicting the planned expansion of the church.

an expansion of the buildings and the formation of a building committee to study building needs.

In 2004, the committee sponsored a presentation to present its findings and recommendations, and a fundraising campaign committee was soon formed.

Byrne said the expansion will result in about 6,000 square feet of additional space for the church and the community. That space will in-

clude a music room, a meeting room, a nursery, new bathrooms and kitchen and a lobby area. Partitions will be built in so the space could be divided further for additional meeting areas, he said.

Byrne said an expansion of the sanctuary will be undertaken in the future, since that is near capacity. Modular characteristics have been designed into the new building plans to facilitate future expansions.

East Hampton Police News

5/26 — Clifford Wolters, 28, of 455 Moodus Rd., East Hampton, was arrested pursuant to a warrant for assault 3rd degree and disorderly conduct.

5/31 — Erica Udoff, 53, of 15 Whitfield St., Guilford, and Michael Sadlier, 28, of 3 Coach Light Dr., Clinton, were involved in a two-car accident on Route 66 at Middletown Avenue. Udoff was issued a ticket for following too closely.

5/31 — Christopher Cherry, 20, of 82 Main St., East Hampton, was arrested pursuant to a warrant for breach of peace.

6/1 — Mark Slaper, 50, of 17 Christopher Rd., East Hampton, was arrested pursuant to a warrant for larceny 3rd degree, forgery 3rd degree and identity theft 3rd degree.

6/1 — Kenneth Barber, 19, of 8 Midwood Farm Rd., East Hampton, was arrested for disorderly conduct.

6/5 — Albert Corey, 19, of 29 Main St., East Hampton, was arrested for breach of peace 2nd

degree, reckless endangerment 2nd degree and criminal mischief 2nd degree.

6/5 — Rebecca Durr, 29, of 149 Main St., East Hampton, and Karrlo Smith, 22, of 210 South Main St., Marlborough, were involved in a two-car accident on Route 66 near Lakeview Street. Smith was arrested for operating an unregistered vehicle, operating a motor vehicle without insurance, failure to yield and misuse of plate. Durr was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered vehicle.

6/6 — Christine Prue, 23, of 420 Tate Hill Rd., East Haddam, was arrested pursuant to a warrant for disorderly conduct.

6/6 — Jeffrey Hyde, 48, of 21 Hilltop Rd., East Hampton, was arrested pursuant to a warrant for assault 3rd degree, burglary 2nd degree and interfering with an emergency call.

6/6 — A 16-year-old male juvenile was involved in a one-car accident on Young Street. The juvenile was issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions.

Colchester Police News

6/1—Police are investigating the theft of electronics from an Alexander Drive home following a party.

6/4—Hollie K. Robichaud, 24, of 15 Hillside La., was arrested for possession of narcotics, possession of paraphernalia and driving with a suspended license, according to reports.

6/5—Mark Martin, 44, of 67 Forsyth Rd., Salem, was arrested for breach of peace following an altercation at the NAPA on Linwood Avenue, according to reports.

6/7—Police are investigating a burglary into the Subway sandwich shop on Halls Hill Road. The theft of cash was reported, according to police.

6/11—A juvenile was arrested for assault and disorderly conduct following a domestic dispute, according to police.

Andover Police News

6/9—Brandon Sharpe, 19, of 96 Clark Rd., Colchester, was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, according to police.

Hebron Police News

6/6—Anita Keefe, 49, of 273 Wall St., was arrested for DUI, driving with a suspended license and failure to stay in her lane, according to reports.

Marlborough Police News

6/1—Four juveniles were arrested for criminal mischief after allegedly marking portable toilets and playground equipment at Blish Park with a black magic marker, according to reports.

6/1 — William Hain, 47, of Franklin, was arrested for DUI, failure to carry a license, failure to use flashing lights while traveling at a slow speed and failure to wear a seatbelt, said police.

Portland Police News

6/1 — Wayne Boulier, 26, of 67 Roberts St., Plainville, CT, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle, failure to obey officer’s signal, stop sign violation and operating under suspension, said Portland police.

Reduced Budget Approved for Referendum in Colchester

by **Jim Salemi**

Residents overwhelmingly voted at Wednesday's town meeting to send a reduced budget to referendum—overriding pleas by other residents to wait until the finance board can obtain some hard numbers from the state before recommending another spending plan.

Over half of the \$1.2 million in reductions to the budget were made to anticipated increases in state revenue, such as education cost sharing (ECS) grants for the school district.

The 130 or so residents and town officials on hand for the meeting ultimately approved the finance board-recommended \$47.4 million spending package for referendum. The referendum will be held next Tuesday, June 19, at the town hall from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The first proposed budget of \$48.6 million was rejected last month by a 2-1 margin, which the finance board took as a signal that significant adjustments were in order. How those adjustments were made was cause for concern among some speaking at the meeting.

"Sometimes there is nothing wrong with doing nothing," said resident Steve Schuster. "I believe this is one of those times. Therefore, I am making a motion to adjourn this meeting to a date when our Board of Finance and Board of Education have actual figures in hand and then come back with their budget."

In addition to reductions to the education and town budgets amounting to \$590,218, the finance board increased its estimate of anticipated state ECS funds by \$500,000—from \$900,000 in the previous budget to \$1.4 million in the current proposal.

At a finance board meeting following the failed referendum last month, board members said that \$1.4 million was lowest anticipated figure for the Colchester school district from among the various ECS grant proposals being considered by the legislature.

While that figure was known when the board was putting together the first budget proposal, the board originally elected to put the figure at a "conservative" \$900,000, in the event the ECS grant was reduced further.

That figure has not changed in the weeks since the first budget proposal, so the board said it was comfortable with increasing the anticipated revenue for ECS by \$500,000.

The board also increased money to come from the fund balance by \$100,000 (for a total of \$680,000) and revised its investment earnings by \$75,000 (for a total of \$395,000).

Resident Greg Morgan also took exception to increases to anticipated revenue to reduce spending.

"I am also opposed to this budget," he said. "I agree with Mr. Schuster that the cuts proposed are nothing more than adjustments to

anticipated revenue...The finance board asked for [groupings of cuts in 2.5-mill decrements]. The Board of Education only went to the first [group]. Those were reductions in new spending. Send the budget back and come back with real figures."

Resident Monica Swyden-Bolles, who supported the revised budget and made a motion to vote to send it to referendum, said adjustments to the anticipated revenue were a prudent move on the part of the Board of Education.

"I agree that a large part—half—of the \$1.2 million in cuts made by the Board of Finance are adjustments to anticipated revenue," she observed. "The Board of Education cut \$370,000. We're fortunate the Board of Finance at its last meeting made the ECS adjustment. If it doesn't come, we have a backup plan. More money can be taken from the general fund."

Resident Linda Hodge, who also serves on the Board of Education, said the education board made \$130,000 in "real cuts."

"The education board worked hard to not decimate education," she said, adding that the board has already cut as deep as possible without jeopardizing programs or positions. Hodge said the education board did cut some items from the second tier of the list of probable cuts if the budget was defeated again.

"We cut \$59,000 off the second [group of cuts], though no existing programs or personnel were cut," she said. "Items such as new tables for the physics lab and teacher education workshops were cut," she said. "Once we get past the second page, current programs will be cut," she said.

Resident Diana Norton Giles took a step back from the proceedings to observe that this year's struggle is only the latest in five years of budget dilemmas. The underlying problem, she said, is the town's lopsided tax base. Until that is addressed, budget problems will continue.

"We have had these budget battles since 2002, and they will continue over the next five years unless we do something about it...At this point, [homeowners] pay 89% of the taxes and commercial 11%," she said.

Giles urged residents to attend a joint meeting between the Economic Development Commission and the Zoning and Planning Commission on June 26th at the town hall, where the two agencies will discuss the kinds of business the town wants to attract.

She also urged residents to join and donate to the Colchester Land Trust, which buys open space that would otherwise be developed.

"We need to slow the rate of population growth. We have few other options," she said.

Colchester

Blanche M. Pugatch

Blanche M. Pugatch, 92, of Dublin Village, Colchester, widow of the late Emil Pugatch, passed away peacefully Tuesday, June 12, at the Liberty Specialty Care Center in Colchester.

Born April 11, 1915, she was a daughter of the late Harriet Morrill and Durward McGrath.

Mrs. Pugatch had worked as a waitress for many years before her retirement. She was a member of the Colchester Federated Church.

Survivors include two nephews, Terence Lyons of Veazie, ME and Eugene McGrath of Virginia Beach, VA.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester Housing Authority, 300 Lebanon Avenue, Colchester 06415 or to her church, 60 Main St., Colchester 06415.

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

Obituaries

Colchester

Isabelle J. Poynton

Isabelle Josephine (Heath) Poynton, 102, widow of T. Gilbert Poynton died Thursday, June 7, at her home in Wethersfield. She was born in Colchester.

She was a member of the First Church of Christ Congregational of Wethersfield.

She is survived by her son, G. Roger Poynton of Wethersfield.

Graveside funeral services were Tuesday, June 12 at the Rose Hill Memorial Park, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the First Church of Christ Congregational, Marsh St., Wethersfield, CT 06109.

Rose Hill Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Hebron

Frank V. Celio

Frank Vincent Celio, 84, passed from this life on Sunday, June 10. He was preceded in death in 1998 by his beloved wife of 52 years, Marian (White) Celio.

Frank was born in Hartford on July 25, 1922, the son of the late James V. Celio and Domenica (Gagliardi) Celio. Frank was a World War II U.S. Army veteran, proudly serving in the European Theatre of Operations with the 1253rd Combat Engineers.

Upon his return from service to his country, he met the great love of his life, Marian White. They were married on June 18, 1946 in Hartford. In one of those fortunate happenstances of life, while searching for a small town in which to raise their family and open their own little country grocery store, Frank and Marian found the town of Hebron. From 1958 to 1971, they worked side by side at Frank and Marian's Store in Hebron Center, just about the only store of any kind in town.

During that time, Frank and Marian got to know the people of Hebron and Hebron got to know Frank and Marian. From behind his butcher's counter, Frank's deep and abiding love for the town of Hebron and its people blossomed. Over the past 49 years, the people of Hebron have given true meaning to the word "Home" for Frank and his family.

Frank was very proud of his wife Marian, who went on to serve as Hebron's Town Clerk from 1973 to 1998. With the close of their store, Frank went to work for the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection until his retirement in 1989.

Frank joined the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department in 1959 and served as a Company #1 Captain for a number of years. Each year, the HVFD provided Frank an opportunity to visit with the entire community at the Hebron Harvest Fair.

An active man, Frank's leisure time life was dedicated to softball. In a remarkable feat of determination, he actively played into his early 70s. Starting in the 1970s and well into the 1990s, Frank served as a coach with Hebron Girls Softball. He followed many of "his girls" softball careers on to RHAM High School where he became known as FAN #1.

Frank's other community involvements included being a founder of Hebron Little League Baseball in 1959, the Jones-Keefe-Batson American Legion Post No. 95 and VFW Post #8776 Hebron. Frank was a kind and generous man, always ready with his smile and well wishes. His was a life well lived and he will be deeply missed.

Frank leaves behind his son Jim and his wife, Kristine of Hebron, grandson Peter Celio and his wife, Kelly and their children, Jack and James of Hebron, grandson Kyle Celio of San Francisco CA, grandson John Ford and his wife, Meghan and their son, Christopher of Hebron and granddaughter Shannon Ford of Glastonbury; as well as all the special people at the Russell Mercier Senior Center whom added so much quality of life to Frank's later years. The family wishes to thank all the people at Marlborough Health Care Center for their care and compassion during Frank's recent illness.

Calling hours were Wednesday evening at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. Funeral services were Thursday directly at St Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church Street (Rte. 85), Hebron, with Father Everett "Perry" Perine, officiating. Interment with full military honors was in the New Hebron Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the Celio family asks that donations be made to the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, 44 Main St., Hebron 06248.

East Hampton

Lawrence G. Weigel

Lawrence G. Weigel, Jr., 58, of Chestnut Hill Road, East Hampton, beloved husband of Martha (Klimaszewski) Weigel, died unexpectedly Monday, June 11, at his home.

Born Aug. 2, 1948 in Las Animas, CO, the son of the late Lawrence and Catherine (Fiek) Weigel, he had lived in East Hampton for the past 30 years. He was a retired computer engineer for Lockheed Martin, and had been an active volunteer for the Special Olympics.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two sons, Charles Miller of Canterbury and Steven Miller of East Hampton; two daughters, Mary Beth Weigel and Bonny Weigel, both of East Hampton; a brother, Dominick of Washington; and a sister, Anna Marie of Florida. He also leaves his beloved granddaughter, Adriana Plourde of East Hampton.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated today (Friday, June 15) at 11 a.m. in St. Bridget Kildare Church in Moodus. Burial will follow in Lakeview Cemetery, East Hampton. Friends may call at the funeral home on Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of arrangements.

Marlborough

Glenda Caffyn

Glenda (MacGowan) Caffyn, 70, widow of the late Lawrence "Larry" Caffyn, died Wednesday, June 6 at Hartford Hospital.

Born Jan. 17, 1937 in Hunts Point, Nova Scotia, Canada, the daughter of the late Arthur and Stella (Williams) MacGowan, she had lived in Marlborough for most of her life. She was a loving mother to her five daughters, Darlene and her husband Frank Martins of Greenwich, Lori and her husband Adam Guzewicz of Monument, CO, Deborah Ellison and her fiancée Phil Medeiros of Glastonbury, Betty-Ann and her husband Russell of Marlborough and Donna Caffyn of Marlborough. She also leaves a brother Stedman MacGowan of Nova Scotia, two sisters Roxina Shepard and Martha Inness both of Nova Scotia, and her six adoring grandchildren, David Ellison Jr., Candace Ellison, Bryan Ellison, Russell Roly IV, Jamie Roly, and Joshua Guzewicz.

Funeral services were held Monday, June 11 in the Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St. East Hampton with the Rev. Robert Faulhaber pastor of Marlborough Congregational Church officiating. Burial was to be private at the convenience of the family. Calling hours were Sunday evening, June 10.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Ave. PO Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450.

Colchester

Betty Jo Trehwella

Betty Jo Trehwella, 65, of Colchester, formerly of East Hartford, passed to eternal peace Sunday, June 10, after a brief battle with cancer. She was born in Jaeger, WV, the daughter of Ozy and Ida Collins. She had seven brothers and sisters.

Ms. Trehwella retired from Traveler's Insurance Company and went on to work for Tandy Services before retiring to care for her life partner, Stephen Phillips until his death last year. She was also predeceased by a son Mark Trehwella.

Ms. Trehwella found great joy in gardening and spending time at the beach and created a lifelong love of the beach for her children as well. She and her partner also enjoyed many years of riding their Harley Davidson Heritage Softail with their biking family.

She lived with her daughter and grandchildren for the last year in Colchester. She leaves her beloved grandchildren, Timothy, Jacqueline, Jessica and Jacob Joseph and her daughter, Heidi Joseph, all of Colchester, and son, Neil Trehwella of Durham.

Ms. Trehwella was cremated and there are no formal services. There will be a celebration of her life this Saturday, June 16 at the home of her daughter for friends and family. Donations may be made to the charity of individual choice.

A special thank you to Nella and Dr. Sporn at St. Francis Hospital Cancer Center and Muriel and Dr. Alison Lane-Reticker at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center for the loving care they provided. Thank you to VNA East, Jayne and Sandy for the wonderful care they provided also.