

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam, Portland, Colchester and Salem

Volume 32, Number 23

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

August 17, 2007



Officials sift through the aftermath of Monday morning's apartment fire in Portland. From left are Portland Police Fire Investigator David Bond, Portland Police Sgt. Scott Cunningham, Portland Assistant Fire Marshal Pete Willse and Roger Baxter, a state police detective with the State Fire Marshal's Office.

## Portland Fire Forces Out Eight

by Michael McCoy

For the second time in just over a week, fire ravaged a Portland building – and this time the blaze forced eight residents to seek shelter elsewhere.

The fire struck Monday morning at 174 Marlborough St., a two-story apartment building that housed three units – apartments A and B, two one-story units on the building's left side, and Apartment C, a two-story unit on its right side.

According to Assistant Fire Marshal Pete Willse, a 13-year-old boy residing in Apartment C, noticed a mattress located in an enclosed front porch had caught on fire. The boy ran next door to Canine Classics, Willse said, and the store's owner, Linda Garneau, called in the fire at 8:18 a.m.

Deputy Fire Chief Jim Lynch estimated around 35 fire personnel, along with at least five police officers. Firefighters came not just from Portland but from Middletown as well, as, Lynch said, Middletown automatically sends over an engine once a structure fire has been confirmed.

"When we got there, the flames were coming out the front windows," said Lynch. "We had it under control in an hour."

No one was injured in the fire, but Lynch said one firefighter "wasn't feeling well" was admitted to Middlesex Hospital, treated and promptly released. Lynch said it was probably heat exhaustion.

The fire started on the first floor of Apartment C, but made its way to the second floor, basically destroying the in-

terior of the entire unit. Though apartments A and B suffered smoke and water damage, the flames did not reach them.

In addition to cutting a hole in Apartment C's roof and descending on the fire, Lynch said firefighters "made an interior attack, and it was hot."

According to Willse, the three units house a total of eight people, although only five were home at the time of the fire.

"By the time the fire department got here, everyone was out," said Sgt. Scott Cunningham of the Portland Police Department.

As for the building, Willse said, "Structurally, it appears to be safe, but we don't know what's going on internally." He said some electrical boxes had gotten wet, so both the water and the electricity had been shut off.

Fire officials remained on the scene until 2 p.m. Monday, cleaning up the area and conducting site investigations. As for the cause, Willse said Wednesday, "It looks like we can't refute what the 13-year-old said."

Willse said a mattress with a sheet over it had been propped up against a wall near a light. The light had been mounted in the enclosed room and was, as Willse described, "one of those porch lights."

Willse said the mattress was sat on to watch television, and would be propped up when not in use. When asked if a simple household bulb is really that much of a threat, Willse said, "Yeah, if it's a foam mattress leaned against a 75 or 100 watt

light bulb."

In this case, though, the size and wattage of the light bulb, as well as the material of the mattress, could not be determined, since they were both destroyed in the fire.

Before the apartment building can be inhabited again, Willse said it would have to be brought up to code. In Apartment C, Willse said, this would entail "new wallboards, new insulation, new wiring...the whole nine yards." In the other two units, where damage was minimal, cleanup would include smoke clean up and extensive vacuuming, he said. Willse also figured that the electrical and plumbing systems would need to be looked into as well.

According to Sgt. Cunningham, the American Red Cross provided temporary shelter and supplies for residents of the building.

This is the second structure fire in Portland within an eight-day period. On Sunday, Aug. 5, an afternoon fire leveled a storage barn in the backyard of 189 Isinglass Hill Rd.

As of last week, Deputy Fire Marshal Ray Sajak said the cause of the fire was still under investigation and, Willse said Tuesday, "It's going to wind up being undetermined. There are so many different ignition sources going on." Willse listed lawnmowers, a chainsaw, a furnace, and a hot water heater are all possible culprits.

"The barn was so far gone by the time there that we won't be able to come up with an exact cause," he added.

### Inside This Issue:

#### Regional:

Obituaries  
 Page 12

#### Marlborough:

Mountain Climb  
 Completed  
 Page 10

#### Hebron:

Peters House  
 Saga Continues  
 Page 24

Park Project  
 Heading for Vote  
 Page 22

#### East Hampton:

Residents Complain  
 About Noise  
 Page 33

Little League  
 News  
 Page 31

#### Colchester:

School Budget  
 Cuts Discussed  
 Page 18

#### Hey Kids!

Ready for school? The *Rivereast* is! Next week is our Back-to-School issue, featuring the latest information about the upcoming school year, a comprehensive list of bus routes and much more.





# East Hampton Residents Complain About Noise from Restaurant

by Michael McCoy

The fireworks during Tuesday's East Hampton Town Council meeting did not come from the council members themselves. Instead, they came from residents, who during public comment complained about their worsening bouts with noise pollution in town.

No less than nine residents spoke about the issue, with Susan Wielgosh leading the charge. Wielgosh presented council members with an extensive list of various disturbances that included boats with loud motors and radios on the lake, snowmobiles on the frozen lake, ATVs on North Main Street, loud music, screaming, idling cars in excess of 20 minutes, and motorcycles revving engines, also along North Main Street.

"If that is not enough," Wielgosh said in the letter to the Town Council, "East Hampton now has 'the truck with the train horn.'" She didn't explain what this was, but added that she saw such a vehicle on Aug. 6.

The complaints continued for another 20 minutes as various residents voiced their hope that a noise ordinance could alleviate their grief. Cindy Ruth of Viola Drive, for example, said some neighbors, in an attempt to beat the heat, were mowing their lawns at 6:30 in the morning.

But many of the speakers singled out Angelico's Lakehouse Restaurant as one of the most offensive violators. Michael Goral of Lake Boulevard said motorcycles and loud music could often emanate from Angelico's during the late hours.

Lori Weech of Cone Road suggested the problem with noisy motorcycles was erratic, saying, "It can happen anytime during the middle of the night.

"They must be going 70 miles per hour," she added, and said she has also witnessed motorcyclists driving on one wheel.

"Some people feel they have the right to do whatever they want," she lamented. "The noise will wake you from a sound sleep with your heart in your throat."

Trying to stay positive, Anne Garwood said, "I've really enjoyed living in East Hampton," and stressed, "There is no intention to shut Angelico's down."

But, she said, the noise could be bad one night and fine the next. Also, she added, "The town's reluctance to deal with this issue after one and half years of debate is troubling." Garwood noted that in spring 2006, Angelico's added a tiki bar to its establishment, and, she said, "It became a full-fledged night club without any permission from the town."

One of the more egregious episodes Garwood said she saw was something that happened one night after police asked a particular band to quiet down. She said that once police left Angelico's, the band made derogatory remarks about whatever residents may have complained and said, "Let's show everybody what loud is," commissioning the crowd to yell.

"Please don't turn a blind eye," Garwood pleaded to the council. "This is a full-fledged Harbor Park."

Frances Klein of Bellevue Street said, "I was here over a year ago when the Town Council considered a noise ordinance." The ordinance never advanced past the discussion stages, and Klein said the noise is still an issue today.

"I am unable to sit on my deck," she said, and added, "I do not live as close to Angelico's as some people do.

Joe Arsenault of Lake Boulevard voiced his frustration about motorcycles making a showy

exit from the restaurant. "There's like 30 bikes at one time" all pulling out of the parking lot, he said. Arsenault also mentioned that some trees were recently cut down at Angelico's, making way for parking lot lights that he said hampered his vision. "It's like looking at the sun," he said.

Richard D'Angelo of North Main Street said that guests of his have even noted the noise, and added, "Every year it gets worse and worse."

Phil Wielgosh asked a question that seemed to be on the minds of many present: "When did we lose control?"

When asked after the meeting if she had brought her problems to Paul Angelico, owner of the recently maligned establishment, Susan Wielgosh refused to comment. Richard D'Angelo, when asked the same question, responded, "You know we have." When asked if Angelico displayed any sympathy to the problem, D'Angelo said, "Oh no."

After the meeting one resident, who wished to remain anonymous, added that they had heard people "fornicating" in Angelico's parking lot. That same resident claimed that they approached Paul Angelico and asked him to observe what the noise sounded like from their property. The resident then remembers, "He got very angry and said, 'You want to see noise? I'll show you noise.'" Angelico allegedly added, "I can bring Harbor Park here."

Paul Angelico did not return calls for comment as of press time.

"I think past Town Councils have discussed it," Town Manager Alan Bergren said after the meeting, on the prospect of a local noise ordinance. He added that there have been more complaints of late than in prior years.

When asked how he handles noise issues now, Chief of Police Matthew Reimondo said, "It depends on the specific complaint." For instance, he said, should someone complain about construction at around 6 a.m., the construction company would be asked to continue the work later in the morning.

"If we get a call, we notify the people," he said. "If they don't cooperate, we will take action. Ninety-nine times out of 100, people comply."

Reimondo said that police field many more noise complaints from May through October. As far as motorcycles or ATVs are concerned, Reimondo said that by the time police arrive on the scene, the offenders have vacated the area, and even come back soon after, knowing that police won't be back for at least a while.

When asked specifically about Angelico's, Reimondo said that police have received a number of complaints concerning noise and parking violations. "Mr. Angelico has been very cooperative," he said. "When asked, he does turn the volume down as far as we know."

Reimondo said Angelico received a noise infraction last summer, but said, "This past summer, he's been very cooperative with us." Reimondo also said that last year police, Angelico's attorney, and the Chamber of Commerce all sat down to come to some sort of agreement.

Reimondo recognized that neighbors and businesses have their own interests, and "we try to find a happy medium." Having been informed of the outpouring of complaints during the Tuesday meeting, Reimondo added, "Apparently, [the noise has] gotten out of hand this year."

# Colchester School Board Chair Cautions Against Future Cuts

by Jim Salemi

Board of Education chairman Bill Hettrick this week offered some strong words regarding further cuts to the school board's proposed budget in the event voters again reject the town's proposed 2007-08 at referendum next month.

Hettrick, expressing alarm at the extent of cuts to the school budget, said if the school board starts "moving backwards and axing programs," like it did 16 years ago in response to tough economic times, he has no intention to continue to serve.

Hettrick, who has served on the Board of Education for 14 years, said he had not seen the school system in such a predicament since that 1991 budget season.

"There were devastating cuts in 1991," he said. "We went down to a 1.5 percent increase when inflation was at 3 percent. It took us eight years to recover."

Colchester spends on average \$2,000 less per student annually than school districts with similar demographics.

Voters have rejected three budget proposals so far for the 2007-08 fiscal year, and the school board has slashed close to \$416,000 from its budget since the initial May 15 budget defeat. A town meeting on a fourth budget proposal will be held Monday, Sept. 17, with a referendum to follow Tuesday, Sept. 25.

What the finance board will present at that referendum has yet to be determined, though members have indicated that the board is looking to reduce the budget to reflect a zero-mill increase.

Taxpayers rejected the last referendum by a larger margin than the second. By all indications, according to officials, the last budget's rejection by taxpayers was a reaction by voters who saw significant increases – some as high as 100 percent – in their tax bills following the last revaluation.

At the school board's meeting Wednesday, Aug. 15, Superintendent of Schools Karen Loisel presented a list of cuts totaling \$145,370. The board didn't take any action on those cuts, but it will present the list to the Board of Finance, and if the finance board agrees to the entire list, it would bring the grand total of cuts to over a half million dollars since May.

Loiselle said she decided on the items on her list in order to reduce the impact on academics; extra-curricular activities were affected, though. Loisel proposed expanding the "pay-to-play" policy for sports to include other extra-curricular activities and clubs such as music, the robotics program and the math team; this would effectively make the policy "pay-

to-participate."

That didn't sit well with any of the board members, but all said they supported the proposal, as they felt it was still preferable to eliminating an activity all together.

Other items on the cut list is a proposed elimination of indoor track at Bacon Academy High School, a popular sport at the school with about 55 participants, for a savings of \$10,000.

The superintendent also proposed eliminating a traffic agent at the elementary school, since the newly-created position has yet to be filled; the elimination of a proposed additional guidance counselor at Bacon, elementary and intermediate school math curriculum materials and the elimination of "smartboards," electronic equivalents of chalkboards at the middle school for a savings of \$8,000.

Rather than directing the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education to cut a specific amount from their budgets, the Board of Finance has instead directed both boards to revisit their budgets to see if there are any changes since the respective budgets were drafted back in December of 2006.

Also included on the list of cuts are \$26,594 worth of adjustments Loisel announced at the meeting. The adjustments were due to some resignations of personnel on the higher end of the pay scale replaced by new hires lower on the pay scale. Loisel also said she found savings in such accounts as transportation, benefits, vo-ag tuition and utilities, among other items.

At a Board of Finance meeting last week, First Selectman Stan Soby submitted a list of adjustments amounting to just over \$214,000, which included savings of \$37,327 in the workman's compensation fund – which Soby said was due to lower claims – and some savings on property and liability insurance.

Soby also proposed cutting a police cruiser for a savings of almost \$30,000, lowering the starting salary of a proposed new police officer of \$10,000 and a truck proposed for the maintenance department for a savings of \$28,000, as well as a number of smaller cuts from town department budgets.

Both the Board of Selectmen's and the Board of Education's proposed cuts will be a considered at Board of Finance workshops slated for Monday, Aug. 20, and Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 7 p.m. both days, at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave. The selectmen's list of reductions will be taken up at the Monday workshop, while the school board's will be discussed Tuesday.

# Peters House Saga Isn't Over in Hebron

by Sarah McCoy

The house at 150 East St., commonly known as the Peters House, has put town officials and some residents at odds in recent years. And it looks like that's happening again.

The latest chapter in the Peters House saga comes as a result of the town increasing the parcel size from two acres to three and a half, as it negotiates the final sale with Jeff Farber.

Farber, a Hebron resident who has a background in construction, has offered to purchase the property known as the Peters House for him and his family to reside in. He and Town Manager Jared Clark are currently in ongoing negotiation regarding the sale of the property.

Initially the town had planned to sell the house with two acres of land. And had the lot been buildable, the two acres would have sufficed. But much of the land is considered wetlands, and this forced the town to increase the overall parcel size, to give it the minimum building lot required.

"The additional land isn't something that Farber needs or has expressed interest in," Clark reported. "This is a matter of the town satisfying their regulations."

The Board of Selectmen more than a month ago authorized Clark to begin sale negotiations with Farber. However this minimum building lot regulation, and its application to the Peters House, was only realized recently.

"Why didn't they know of these regulations before now?" Hebron Historical Society Vice President Donna McCalla said. "The town has

been in such a rush through the whole process that they've made procedural mistake after procedural mistake."

McCalla said she and the other members of the Hebron Historical Properties Commission and Historical Society have not given any input on the sale negotiations. In a letter to the HHPC, Clark wrote that the Commission has "poisoned the ability...to work constructively with Mr. Farber."

As a result of the letter, the town has operated alone in determining building limitations and assurances of preservation. "We've been shut down," McCalla said. "People who would honestly, heartfully, like to know what's going on are being denied that opportunity."

Clark cautioned that he and Town Planner Mike O'Leary have not had an opportunity to meet with the town engineer and, therefore, the plans are still preliminary. "This is a draft that is subject to change," he said.

Assuming the plans don't change drastically, the majority of the 3.5 acres will be to the north of the house. Clark said this additional space will provide an adequate channel for diverting drainage off of the proposed park land that is planned at 150 East St.

Despite this recent development regarding the lot size, Clark said he is still confident a final sale agreement can be reached between Farber and the town before the Board of Selectmen's next meeting on Thursday, Sept. 20.



# Marlborough Mother-Daughter Team Completes Mountain Climb

by Sarah McCoy

They did it!

Marlborough resident Natalie Dana and her daughter, Meredith Krauss of Waltham, MA, reached the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro last month. The pair made their way from the jungle of Tanzania to the glacier at the top of the continent.

When Natalie retired earlier this year she knew she wanted to do something that would knock her socks off. On Mount Kilimanjaro she found what she was looking for.

"It was everything I needed and more," she said. "It was exactly what I needed both for a mental and physical challenge."

For nine days Natalie and Meredith walked. They walked through the lush jungle. They walked across hardened lava. They walked over rocky cliffs. And finally, they walked across shear ice, five inches thick. Along the way they took photos, made friendships and filled an internal desire.

While neither has any regrets, they were certainly ready for the civilized world after roughing it for nine days.

"Nine days without a shower was my limit," Natalie said. "No, four days was my limit. Nine days just about did me in."

Everything the pair did on the mountain was hard. Going to the bathroom involved a bucket and a lawnchair with a hole in the middle. Even breathing was hard. On her way down, Natalie came across a glacier about 20 yards away. By the time she walked to it she was left breathless from the air pressure.

However, going with a guided group gave Natalie and Meredith all the tools for success. Twenty-four porters carried all their food and supplies. "We had watermelon every day and even had fresh pumpkin soup," Meredith said. "It was great but then you stop and think, someone just carried a pumpkin up the mountain for me."

Whether it was physical support or a pat on the back, the guides and porters from Tusker Trails proved invaluable. And, though to a much lesser extent, so did the *Rivereast*.

"It was in the back of my mind that I have to make it because I didn't want the *Rivereast* article to say how my mom made it and I didn't," Meredith said, laughing. "I'd never be able to show my face in town."

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro was an experience of a lifetime for Natalie and Meredith. "It had a haunting beauty," Natalie said. "At times, it was almost like you were on the moon."

"Before we left I thought I would get to the top and think, 'It's all downhill from here,'" she added. "But when I looked down from that glorious summit all I could think about was, 'what next?'"

For Natalie, retirement isn't a conclusion; it's just the beginning of a new chapter in life. She's already booked a trip to the Grand Canyon for later this year. Then she and her other daughter, Amanda, are planning to undertake a new adventure, heading to Machu Picchu in Peru.



With the summit behind them, Natalie Dana, left, and her daughter Meredith Krauss pause for a minute on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The pair recently finished a nine-day hike that took them to the top of the highest peak in Africa.

# Multi-Million Dollar Park Project Ready for Referendum in Hebron

by Sarah McCoy

After years of planning and preparing, the town is getting ready for a referendum next month on a \$4.5 million project that would have a significant impact on its park system.

The proposal calls for renovations at six locations across town, as well as the introduction of two new parks. The Board of Selectmen gave preliminary approval to the project at its Aug. 9 meeting. The proposal has since been referred to the Board of Finance who will meet Thursday, Aug. 23 to set a date for a public hearing.

However, a town meeting date has already been set, and it's planned for Monday, Sept. 17, at Douglas Library. A referendum is currently slated for Tuesday, Sept. 25.

The centerpiece of the park proposal would be on East Street. Four years ago the town purchased a 112-acre parcel, known as the Lombardi parcel, along the east side of East Street. Since then the town has worked to complete a design for a five-field multi-sport complex for active athletics in Hebron. Last fall the town allocated \$84,000 to complete the final piece of the design work. That work was completed in May.

The plans for the complex include a multi-purpose field for younger children closest to the roadway. Continuing into the property, plans call for two baseball fields with 60-foot base paths on the left. Behind those fields will be a pavilion. Deeper into the property still, an additional soccer field and a football/lacrosse field are planned.

In addition to playing fields, the East Street complex would also become the Park Operations department headquarters. In the middle

of the proposed park is a barn, which the town is looking to rehabilitate into a storage space for the parks.

"Currently much of the town's equipment is being stored outside or in the Public Works garage, forcing the Public Works Department to move some of their machinery outside," Clark said. "This additional space will provide protection from Mother Nature, as well as a central location for supplies."

The town is also considering relocating the Public Works Department to the parcel on East Street, but those plans are in the preliminary stages and could be dependent on the classification of the Park Operations facility.

When the town purchased the East Street land in 2003, it did so with the help of \$110,000 from the Open Space Land Acquisition Fund, for 11 acres of the parcel for town use. Of those 11 acres, 3.5 will, most likely, be used for the sale of the Peters House, which also sits on to parcel, closest to East Street. Two additional acres are also needed for the Park Operations facility. Clark is trying to determine if those two acres count towards the town's 11 acres or if they are still classified as part of the park.

"If it does count [to the 11 acres], that leaves only 5.5 acres for the Public Works Garage," Clark said. "Is that enough? I don't know. Plans have been drawn out. But, before we finalize these plans, I hope to have clarity to the issue."

If it's not enough, Clark said, one possible solution could be for the town to reimburse the Open Space Land Acquisition Fund for additional acreage. However it pans out, the town is not looking to undertake construction on a

Public Works facility until after construction for the park itself.

Earlier this year the town had asked the Park Development Committee to look at doing this part of the park project in phases, with phase one tackling the first three fields of the complex; the other two would be dealt with at a later date.

But this plan was rejected, because it would end up costing the town more money in the long run, due to such factors as inflation and the cost of getting the machinery out to the area again. "We were looking at losing two fields," Town Manager Jared Clark said. "That's essentially two-fifths of the project for an immediate savings of only 20 percent."

The \$4.5 million project would also turn land adjacent to and behind the Church of the Holy Family on Route 85 into a passive recreation park. This will include trails for walkers, bikers, horseback riders, and even snowmobilers.

The park project would also feature renovations at six locations in town. An irrigation system will be installed at Veterans Memorial Park; an additional soccer/football field will be added to Hebron Elementary School as well as an irrigation system; Gilead Hill School will have existing fields realigned to add an additional soccer/football field; and at the Old Colchester Road fields, the town has planned an alignment of the parking lot, installation of an irrigation system and overall improvements to the fields themselves.

The issue of playing fields has been a thorn in the town's side for countless years. Each year

over 1,200 youths participate in athletics across Hebron. But, because of limited space, each field winds up over capacity. "The more hours of use on a particular field, the harder it is to grow grass," Clark said. "Grass is essential to a safe playing surface and is something the town is mindful of."

Clark added that the town is currently following a turf management schedule to maintain the town's current fields as best as possible.

One of the biggest question marks associated with the \$4.5 million project is whether the town can afford it at this time. Clark said the town will finish paying down the sewer project in 2012. "At that point we can take on an additional \$10 million of bonds and, given all else equal, remain at the same tax rate," he said. "So, the question becomes, are we willing to take on a temporary increase in taxes for a few years until then?"

There isn't an estimate as to just what that tax increase would be, since the project has yet to even go to the Board of Finance.

If the project is approved, the town would put it out to bid, but it would also undertake as much of the renovations as possible using its own work force. Ground would be broken this fall by town workers, and then construction would continue next spring by whatever outside firm that was awarded the bid.

"Ideally," Clark said, "We'll finish construction in one season. A second season will be needed to establish the grass and the fields will be available for use in the spring of 2010."



# Portland Dance Studio Hoofs Its Way Into Town

by Michael McCoy

After 17 years of success in Portland, Amber DiMauro is expanding her Encore Dance Studios to East Hampton. The new studio, which will open for classes next month, is named, appropriately enough, Encore Encore.

"I feel that the biggest mistake when opening a second location is treating it like it's second-rate," DiMauro said. "That's why I called it Encore Encore. It's like a shadow of the first one."

DiMauro, a Portland native, started dancing when she was five years old. "My mother actually put me in dance because I was shy," she said. "It was definitely a real confidence builder."

And it inspired her. "Even though I was a tomboy, somehow I knew I was going to make dance into a career, even at that young age," she said.

In 1989, DiMauro simultaneously graduated from Portland High School and the Greater Hartford Dance Academy for the Performing Arts. Also, since she had completed her graduation requirements around Christmas 1988, but wasn't due to walk until the following June, DiMauro had some time on her hands, and spent it studying at Trinity College and dancing with the Hartford Ballet.

In fall of 1989, DiMauro enrolled at Dean Junior College in Franklin, MA. But then her parents divorced, so she could only afford to complete a year of the two-year program.

So in 1990, DiMauro, at only 19 years old, opened her own business, Encore. For two years, the studio operated from a location on Main Street where Super Moon Mart now sits. For the following three years, it was located at the corner of Route 66 and 17A, which currently houses Brooks Pharmacy. In 1995, Encore moved to its present location, 350 Marlborough St., located in the Tri-Town Plaza.

Since 2002, DiMauro has lived in East Hampton with her husband Sebastian, and daughter MaJenta. And early this summer, shortly after Studio 62 in East Hampton closed down, DiMauro said she felt the urge to open a second location.

"I just had a gut feeling that this was the right time," she said. She said she looked at Studio 62's location, at 1 Sinco Pl., just off Route 66, near its intersection with Route 16. She said she found it to be an ideal spot.

"The opportunity opened for me," she said. "It's all about timing."

DiMauro acquired the building on July 1; the following week she began making renovations, which included a new paint job, converting a storage space into a waiting area for parents, and more.

"We were here night and day for three weeks solid," she said. "It all happened so fast."

With the second location opening up, DiMauro has added two new staff members, bringing the total number of staff to seven, in addition to herself. They will split their time between the Portland and East Hampton locations.

Yoga instructor Erin McGuire was brought on this summer, and Robbie Sambat will begin teaching Latin Ballroom in September. "Now with the whole *Dancing with the Stars* on TV, ballroom has become a phenomenon," said DiMauro. Both studios will offer instruction, for partners and singles alike.

In addition to Latin ballroom, these include ballet, tap, jazz, acrobatics, hip-hop lyrical, and point. "We run the gamut," DiMauro said.

DiMauro promised a consistent approach to teaching. "It's always been important to me that each teacher brings their own personality to the program," she said.

Also, DiMauro added, "I couldn't do it without my staff. We are a team. It's definitely not a one-man show."

And this team is looking forward to the new East Hampton studio, DiMauro said. "We're all very excited," she said. "We crave adventure and new goals."

While DiMauro said she knew she "never wanted the life of a performer," she recognized that some of her students might. Of the approximately 160 students currently enrolled at the Portland studio, about 15 are in the competitive program, participating in various events.

"I try to make that sort of program available to those who want more," said DiMauro, who added that, once or twice a year, she takes those students to New York, where they visit Broadway Dance Center and Steps on Broadway.

Both Encore and the new Encore Encore accept students starting at age 2, with students ranging in age up through and including adults. DiMauro said that, in her pre-school and kindergarten classes, she still incorporates a dance that helped her break out of her own shell when she was young: the Hokey-Pokey. She said this serves as a wind-down for the kids, signaling to them that they will be back with their parents momentarily.

DiMauro said she sees dance as a valuable tool for children of all ages. "It goes way beyond dance," she said. "It carries over to their school work and helps with public speaking."

While, DiMauro said, it's commonly observed that parents often push their children into their own interest, she said she never wanted to impose dance on her daughter, MaJenta. But,



Amber DiMauro is getting ready for the opening of her new dance studio, Encore Encore. An expansion of the successful Encore Dance Studio in Portland, this new business will begin offering classes next month.

she said with a laugh, "I can't get her to do anything else. All she wants to do is dance." MaJenta, who has danced for 5 years, will be 7 next month.

In recent years, DiMauro has taken on another project, *The Nutcracker*. In Christmas of 2004, she created the Community Dance Ensemble, which that year performed Tchaikovsky's classic ballet in Middletown. The group was composed of any area children who wanted to participate, and proceeds from the show went to the Portland food bank.

The Community Dance Ensemble reprised the ballet the following year, this time in Portland. Proceeds from this production of the ballet benefited Portland Youth Services' Adopt-a-Family program, which helped families in need. Though DiMauro took a break from it last year, she plans to stage it again this year. While this year's production will be in Portland, DiMauro said that, in the future, she plans to alternate each year between East Hampton and Portland.

In addition to helping the food bank, DiMauro said it also benefits the children, who paid only a \$5 fee to participate in the program. "It's for kids to be exposed to arts who otherwise might not be able to afford it," she said.

DiMauro said she is thrilled to have her new studio just two minutes from her home, but, she said, "They're far enough away from each other to have separate clientele."

Encore will officially begin its instructional season on Sept. 10, while Encore Encore will open one week later. "I like to give the kids a couple of weeks to get into their school schedule and bus schedule," DiMauro said in explaining the September start.

On Saturday, Aug. 25, both studios will host open houses. "It's essentially our official grand opening" in East Hampton, DiMauro said.

While they will serve as an opportunity to check out both locations and see what the studio offers, the open houses will also include a number of free drawings, including T-shirts, free lessons, shoes, and recital tickets.

Also at the open houses, visitors will be able to watch a series of dance demonstrations, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Encore, and from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Encore Encore.

The two studios offer classes during the morning, afternoon and evening. A full list of classes and times are available at both studios. Encore Encore can be reached at 267-6467, while the original Encore's number is 342-5544.



Several members of Boy Scout Troop 72 received awards, rank advancements and merit badges at its Summer Court of Honor, held recently at Schuster Park.

## Colchester Boy Scouts Hold Court of Honor

Boy Scout Troop 72 held its Summer Court of Honor recently at Schuster Park, and the gathering honored several scouts with merit badges, rank advancements and awards.

The following Scouts received their rank advancements: Scout, Ryan Kennedy; Chris Lawrence, Ben Mausteller and Robert Montie; Tenderfoot, Daniel Brainard and Ryan Kennedy; 2nd Class, Jonathan Legato; 1st Class, Theodore Ball, Dylan Bausum, Vincent Chasse, Colin Patchell, Jonathan Steinmeyer and Christopher Stone; Star, Bryan Burtis; Life, Jack Griswold and Michael Sheridan.

Several merit badges were earned by the scouts over the previous several months: Camp-

ing, Frank Ball and Martin Ball; Citizenship in the Community, Dan Morano; Citizenship in the Nation, Pat Dooley, Jack Griswold and Michael Sheridan; Communications, Jack Griswold; Emergency Preparedness, Kyle Reed; Family Life, Michael Sheridan; Pets, Theodore Ball, Dylan Bausum, Chris Lawrence, Ben Mausteller, Robert Montie and Colin Patchell; Plumbing, Michael Sheridan; scholarship, Frank Ball, Theodore Ball and Ryan Kennedy; Snow Sports, Bryan Burtis, Aidan Griffin, Dan Morano and Michael Sheridan.

In addition, Special Awards were earned by several of the Scouts, including the Robert M. Hutchins Award (named in honor of a former

Troop 72 Scoutmaster) by Dylan Bausum, and Stula Awards by Vincent Chasse (Gold), Theodore Ball and Colin Patchell (both Silver).

An Iceberg Award was handed out to Robert Montie. Dylan Bausum, Jonathan Cocco, Keith Griswold and Christopher Stone earned their Year Round Camper awards, while Pat Dooley, Russ Griffin and Dan Morano received their Third Year Round Camper, and Aidan Griffin earned his Fifth Year Round Camper.

Troop 72 is sponsored by the Colchester Federated Church, and meets there on Monday nights at 7 p.m. Its 2007-08 scouting year will begin on Monday, Aug. 27. Boys between ages 11-17 are welcome to join.



# Colchester Couple Unhappy with CL&P

by Jim Salemi

When Taras and Marli Rudko bought their Farm Gate Drive home four years ago, they thought their power bill seemed high, compared to what they were paying while living in their previous home running roughly the same appliances, lights and electronics.

They thought it was an error, and brought the matter to the attention of the power company.

A customer service representative at Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) told Marli, she claims in a 40-page report complied for state agencies that oversee utilities, that the representative told her that she should consider herself lucky, as the previous owner's bill was twice that of her bill.

In hindsight, the Rudkos would consider themselves lucky if it were as simple as high electric bills.

Over the intervening months, then years, they saw their bills fluctuate wildly and seemingly contrary to usage. Inquires to the power company went largely unanswered, and when the company did respond, it did nothing to correct the problem, the Rudkos said.

Then appliances and electronics started burning out. The Rudkos stepped up their pressure on the company. They still weren't satisfied with the actions the company took, which included sending a technician out to run tests, so CL&P suggested the Rudkos hire an independent electrician and monitor the voltage coming into the house.

What the electrician found provided the answer CL&P could not: The voltage coming into the home was inadequate, causing electric motors and electronics to draw more amperage than they are rated for. That resulted in the gradual overheated motor and transformer windings until the equipment failed.

Months later, Marli said, the neutral leg of the power supply coming into the home failed, causing nearly everything electrical to explode. The couple had no choice but to file a claim with their insurance company, which Marli said caused their rates to increase.

The Rudkos said the power company tried to solve the problem by overdriving power to the house, but that, they said, caused more equipment failures.

They have since appealed to the state Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) and state Attorney General Richard Blumenthal's office, to help seek restitution and hold CL&P

accountable for what the Rudkos said were deceptive business practices, in that the company was aware of the over-billing and power supply problems. They have filed a brief with DPUC and are waiting on a hearing date.

Assistant Attorney General Michael C. Wertheimer suggested that the Rudkos poll their neighbors to see if they experienced any of the same problems. They did, and said they found their neighbors had been going through the exact same thing; most, though, said they had no idea the high bills were caused by inadequate power, instead assuming equipment failure was due to age or a defect in the equipment.

The Rudkos collected nearly 90 signatures on a petition demanding state officials investigate CL&P from their neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods.

One neighbor was Mickey Nye.

She said four years ago, right around the time the Rudkos moved to the neighborhood, her electric bill more than doubled.

The bill had been averaging \$150-\$170 a month, but then it jumped up to \$400. This was also the same time her kids moved out, and she had expected the bill to go down. "We went two summers without running the air conditioners because of the bills," she said.

About a year ago, Nye said, she lost a well pump and another refrigerator failed, as well as a computer hard drive and a dishwasher, all in a two-month span.

"We were not thinking electricity," Nye said. "We were thinking it was just bad luck."

She said her electric bills have dropped since April.

In a statement, after reviewing the Rudko's complaint, Blumenthal said he "believes [those affected by the problem were] failed by the system."

In January, CL&P installed two transformers to correct the voltage problem, but the Rudkos still intend to seek restitution for the previous charges. They haven't stated how much money they intend to seek.

According to Mitch Gross, spokesman for CL&P, the company will cooperate fully with state agencies.

"We have taken care of the issues in Colchester," he said. "Repairs have been made. The issues that were raised have been addressed, and if customers continue to have issues, those too will be addressed."

## East Hampton Police News

7/31 — Jeremy C. Broad, 26, of 36 Ridgeview Dr., was issued a ticket for disobeying an officer's signal and traveling unreasonably fast, police said. On 6/12 police said Broad was involved in a one-vehicle accident on White Birch Road, 300 feet north of Elmwood Drive.

8/2 — Darcy P. Roper, 38, of 18 Blue Heron Dr., was issued a ticket for traveling unreasonably fast, police say.

8/2 — Lucinda J. Harrington, 38, of 20 Maplewood Rd., was issued a ticket for operating a motor vehicle while using a cell phone, police say.

8/3 — Jason R. Pangretic, 27, of 12 Carriage Dr., was arrested for disorderly conduct and possession of drug paraphernalia, police say.

8/5 — David Benjamin, 41, of 12 Hayes Rd., was arrested for improper signaling, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating without insurance, misuse of plates and operating under suspension, police say.

8/5 — Joshua J. Mitchell, 27, of 14 Whitney Rd, Columbia, was issued a ticket for failure to renew registration, police say.

8/6 — Christopher C. Bureau, 42, of no certain address, was arrested for third-degree assault, second-degree unlawful restraint, disorderly conduct, violation of a protective order

and two counts of first-degree failure to appear, police say.

8/7 — Meaghan E. Holbrook, 26, of 85 North Main St., and Robert P. Sherman, 58, of 10 Crestwood Dr., were issued tickets for traveling too fast, police say.

8/7 — Kevin P. Glass, 31, of 16 Cove Ave., Norwalk, was issued a ticket for using a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle, police say.

8/7 — Joseph Collings, 58, of 288 Middlefield St., Middletown, was issued a ticket for traveling too fast, police say.

8/8 — Patrick R. Young, 37, of 158 Main St., Portland, was arrested for no taillights, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, misuse of plates and no insurance, police say.

8/8 — Anthony Gargon, 54, of 2 Olde Flatbrook Rd., was issued a ticket for failure to obey a stop sign, police say.

8/9 — A 17-year-old male was arrested at court on charges of second-degree reckless endangerment, first-degree criminal mischief, and tampering with a motor vehicle, police say.

8/10 — Chetra Ileng, 19, of 74 Childs Rd., was arrested for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, police say.

## Portland Police News

8/11 — Amanda Roy, 21, of 372 Main St., No. B, was charged with third-degree criminal mischief, Portland Police say.

# Obituaries

## Portland

### Clarence Burr

Clarence E. Burr, 73, of Portland, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 7, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the son of the late William E. and Ruth (Spencer) Burr. He was a machinist for many years at the Russell Company and also a member of St. James Church in Higganum.

He is survived by three sons, Howard Burr, Peter Burr and his fiance, Sherry Poplin, all of Higganum, and Raymond and Patricia Burr of Florida. He also leaves three grandchildren, Jessica Burr, Raymond Burr, Jr. and Ashlee England; his sister, Hazel Minor of Higganum; a nephew and best friend, Franklin S. Burr, Jr.; and a niece, Lois Burr; along with several other nieces and nephews.

At the convenience of the family, burial will be private. A memorial service was Tuesday, Aug. 14, at St. James Church, 498 Killingworth Rd., Higganum. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Moose Scholarship Fund, 605 Saybrook Rd., Middletown.

## Hebron

### Warren McGuinness

Warren A. "Mac" McGuinness, 73, of Lake George, NY, beloved husband of Barbara (Kellogg) McGuinness, passed away Monday, Aug. 6, at Glen Falls Hospital, NY. Born Jan. 18, 1934, in Hartford, he was the son of the late Warren McGuinness and Mary "Frances" (Penny) McGuinness. After graduating from Wethersfield High School in 1952, Mac served in the U.S. Navy from 1953 until 1955. He worked for HELCO and Northeast Utilities from 1955, retiring in 1987.

He served as a constable in Hebron from 1972 until 1983 and on the Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals and was a director of civil preparedness for Hebron. After moving to Lake George in 1989, he worked as a cameraman for TV Channel 8 in New York. He and Barbara also ran a business videotaping weddings and special events. He was a member of B.P.O.E. Lodge No. 81 and a past exalted ruler. He was predeceased by a brother, Alan McGuinness.

In addition to his loving wife of 52 years he is survived by two daughters, Linda Holbrook and her husband Arthur of Stafford, and Nancy Gagne and her companion Douglas Clark of Andover; four grandchildren, Aimee and Melissa Gagne and Emily and Samuel Barone; three sisters, Cynthia and her husband Frank Budaj of Wethersfield, Judy and her husband Tom Murning of Rocky Hill and Penny and her husband Terry of Marlborough; and many nieces and nephews and dear friends. At Mac's request there will be no calling hours. A memorial service will be private and at the convenience of the family. Donations in Mac's memory may be made to B.P.O.E. Lodge No. 81, Cronin Rd., Queensbury, NY 12804. Condolences may be mailed to Maynard D. Baker Funeral Home, 11 Lafayette St., Queensbury, NY 12804 or sent to [www.bakerfuneralhome.com](http://www.bakerfuneralhome.com).

## East Hampton

### Joanne Helen Johnson

Joanne Helen Johnson, 47, of East Hampton, passed away at Connecticut Hospice in Branford on Monday, Aug. 13. She was born July 6, 1960, in Middletown to Harold and Elizabeth (Dudek) Johnson of East Haddam. Joanne enjoyed horse racing, Harley-Davidson and going on cruises.

Besides her loving parents she leaves behind two daughters, Katlin Mullarkey of East Harford, and Meghan Mullarkey of East Haddam. Joanne is also survived by brothers Robert and Eric Johnson, both of East Haddam; a niece, Heather; a nephew, Robbie; an aunt, Carol Johnson of Marlborough; an uncle, Robert Dudek of California; and a companion, Gus Guinazu; and family. The family would like to give a warm thank you to all that cared for Joanne especially her employers at The Lee Company. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Swan Funeral Home, Old Saybrook, is in charge of arrangements.

## Andover

### Irene Stratton Bosk

Irene (Godlewski) Stratton Bosk, 88, of Andover and formerly of Hartford, beloved wife of Walter W. Bosk, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Aug. 11, at St. Joseph's Living Center in Windham with her family by her side. Born in Hartford on Nov. 18, 1919, daughter of the late Julius and Felicia (Koreszczewska) Godlewski, she was raised in Hartford and graduated from Hartford Public High School. A retiree of Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, she worked as an executive secretary in the engine sales department for over 25 years.

Irene was active in the Polish community in Hartford and was a Past President of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, State of CT and Chapter 51 in Hartford and the Polish Women's Alliance, Group 9. She also served as president of the SS. Cyril & Methodius Church Golden Seniors and as a member of the board of directors of the Polish National Home. In her spare time, Irene enjoyed activities at the Andover and Barry Square senior centers and also volunteered at the VA Hospital in Newington. She also enjoyed playing bingo, bowling and Polish dancing. She was a communicant of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Hartford.

Besides her husband, she leaves two sons, Henry "Hank" Stratton of Hartford, and Daniel Stratton and his wife Patricia of Derry, PA; two daughters, Jeanette Swank and her significant other Myron Larson of West Palm Beach, FL, and Carol Irene Stratton of Andover; a stepson, Edward Bosk of Andover; seven grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; a step grandson; four step great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her first husband, David Stratton; three brothers, Henry, Edward and Benjamin Godlewski; and a sister, Regina Godlewski.

Family and friends gathered Tuesday, Aug. 14, at South Green Memorial Home, 43 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, with a Funeral Mass following at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, Hartford. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Her family received friends on Monday, Aug. 13, at the funeral home. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Joseph Living Center, 14 Club Road, Windham, CT, 06280, P.L.A.V., Chapter 51, 275 Park St., Hartford, CT, 06106 or to SS. Cyril & Methodius School Fund, 55 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford, CT, 06106.

## Colchester

### Burton Guy Clark

Burton "Burt" Guy Clark, 55, of Moodus, departed this life on Monday, Aug. 13, to accept his next assignment from his Maker. Burt was born in Middletown on May 4, 1952, the son of Barbara (Johnson) Clark and the late Donald Everette Clark of Colchester. He graduated from Bacon Academy in the Class of 1970, and the class of 1972 from Thames Valley State Technical College. Upon graduation from college, Burt was employed by Whelen Engineering Company of Chester and upon his death had accrued 35 years of service.

Burt served Whelen Engineering in various capacities over the years, but for the past 11 years he served with great pride as Senior Engineering Technician, in the Automotive Group of the Engineering Department. He moved to his beloved town of East Haddam upon his marriage to his high school sweetheart, and lifetime best friend Sharron Lee Bayor in 1973, on his 21st birthday. Burt and Sharron raised two daughters, Bethany Ann of Jackson Heights, NY, and Shannon Lee of Middletown. He is survived by his mother, wife, and daughters. Burt's assignment in life was to care for his family, friends and community.

He served his community through his service of ten years as a driver/technician with the East Haddam Ambulance Association, 21 years as an Emergency Medical Technician, 32 years (and still counting) as a member of the East Haddam Volunteer Fire Department, and many years of involvement in East Haddam's Office of Emergency Management, serving several years as Director.

A graveside memorial service will be held Saturday, Aug. 18, at 2 p.m. in First Church of Christ Cemetery, on Town Street in East Haddam. There will be no calling hours. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the East Haddam Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 375, East Haddam, CT 06423. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton has care of the arrangements. To leave on line condolences visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).