



Portland resident Jill Deane was surprised a few days before Christmas with a phone call from talk show host Ellen DeGeneres and a roomful of prizes, valued at \$25,000.

Portland Resident Gets Christmas Bonus from *Ellen*

by Michael McCoy

It was Wednesday, Dec. 19, and Jill Deane still had plenty of Christmas shopping to do. All that changed around 10 p.m. that night.

While doing some cooking, Deane got a call. After the normal exchange of pleasantries, the caller said, "This is Ellen DeGeneres." After a pause, Deane said quietly, "Is it really you?"

The call came during a taping of *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, the comedian's daily afternoon program. A few weeks before, Deane had sent a letter to the show, asking for seats to a taping during "Ellen's 12 Days of Giveaways," a special Christmas-themed batch of shows.

In her letter, Deane joked that she wanted one of her five children to write in saying how she deserved to be on the show. She also wrote that she hoped her husband Dan would write in to say what a great wife she's been. However, Deane lamented in her letter, "That's not gonna happen."

So, on Dec. 19, DeGeneres read the letter to her studio audience, and then called Deane. During the call, Ellen said the 12

days were over and they just gave out the last prize. Then Deane heard a knock at the door. Ellen said she better answer it. Deane did just that, only to find about nine people there, some in Santa hats, with a bounty of prizes. "Be careful what you wish for," Ellen told Deane over the phone.

It turns out that Deane got more than she bargained for. While she did not get to attend a taping of one of the "12 Days of Giveaways" installments, she received every single prize that others had received during the 12 days, the largest of which was a weeklong trip to Puerto Rico.

Deane and her family also got tickets to *Ellen*. She, Dan and their five kids – Katie, Christie, Spencer, Sullivan and Henry – flew out to Burbank, CA this past Wednesday for a Thursday taping. At the taping, DeGeneres was to interview Deane about winning the contest. The episode will air today, Jan. 11, at 4 p.m. on WVIT-TV Channel 30.

The family plans on staying a couple of extra days after the taping, Deane said, as

it is their first time on the west coast. Planned destinations include the beach (Dan's pick) and the Hollywood Walk of Fame (Jill's pick.)

Deane, a part-time caregiver and author, says she has watched *Ellen* ever since the talk show first aired in 2003. "It's the most uplifting show," said Deane. DeGeneres is "hysterical, and she does so many things for people... I DVR it everyday. It makes me so happy."

"She doesn't talk about anything sad," Deane continued. Plus, she added, "She dances."

Winning the contest has "been really great," Deane said. She wound up with \$25,000 worth of prizes. The list is overwhelming, and includes an I-Pod Touch, a Nintendo Wii, a Playstation 3, two digital cameras, a Hewlett Packard laptop computer, La Costa watch, Gucci pocketbook, a bunch of gift cards, a trip to Las Vegas, and two pairs of what Deane called "crazy expensive jeans."

"It was a big help at Christmas," Deane

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said of winning the grand prize. She ended up giving much of the winnings away as presents: the jeans to her daughter, the Gucci pocketbook to her mother, and a Blackberry phone to one of her sons. And if it weren't for winning the contest, Deane said, "The kids wouldn't have gotten all these terrific things."

"The kids are ecstatic," Deane said. This will be her kids' second plane trip and her fourth. The Vegas and Puerto Rico trips will just be Dan and Jill, and they are thinking about going

in the spring. It will also mark the first time the two have been away for a week since having kids, who range in age from 11-18.

When asked if she has ever struck it big like this before, Jill responded, "No. I've never won anything before." After a pause, though, she remembered, "I won a raffle once."

The episode showing Deane's surprise aired on Dec. 21, but the clip can still be viewed at ellen.warnerbros.com or at youtube.com.

Marlborough Residents Concerned with Lake Impact

by Kristina Histen

About 40 residents gathered at Town Hall Monday night to voice their dismay about a project that, many felt, would have a negative impact on Lake Terramuggus.

The Conservation Commission held a public hearing Monday night on plans for a pond, gazebo, and dock at 9 Old Cider Mill Ln., and the new proposal of an ornamental fruit tree area at 17 Old Cider Mill Ln. Joseph Sanford currently owns the property at 17 Old Cider Mill Ln., and has a contract to purchase 9 and 11 Old Cider Mill Ln.

"There are a lot of residents in Marlborough, and this is all our lake," resident David Boston said. "Don't take more than you share."

Sanford, his legal and engineering team, had a more detailed plan for 9 Old Cider Mill Ln., requested by the commission at an early meeting. Chris Ferrero of Ferrero Hixon Associates, the landscape engineer of the project, presented the material and informed the commission of some critical changes made.

In the revised plans, the pond has been reduced by 100 square feet, the gazebo went from 35' to 30' radius, with the idea that the footing may be smaller in size depending on the final structural design, and the proposed 60-foot dock has been changed to 45-feet. In addition, lighting structures have been estimated to range from eight to 10-foot tall, with a 75-watt metal halide.

Also, plans for the orchard at 17 Old Cider Mill Ln. have been canceled. It will now be proposed as a fruit, tree, and shrubby area, adding a more natural preserve.

In a letter sent to Conservation Commission Chairman Don Hautman and the other members of the Conservation Commission, Boston

and his wife Jane expressed their opposition and concerns.

"Some residents think that Mr. Sanford has designs to take all the activities on his properties and turn it into commercial venture at some point," the Bostons wrote. "It's in close proximity to Marlborough Barn to take advantage of their many visitors and patrons. Customers could pick fruit at the orchard, enjoy orchard-baked goods on the huge gazebo while gazing over the pond and lake, and when done take a ride on a pontoon boat or kayak of their choice, sunset cruises, etc. Has it been confirmed that this will always remain residential?"

Planning and Land Use Director Peter Hughes said Sanford is a property owner in Marlborough, and is allowed to use his property residentially. Ferrero said there are no intentions of commercializing.

"We just want to know why it is you want what you want," resident Seth Miller said. "What value do you get with a 45-foot dock? It will disrupt fishing, kayaking, and swimming. Who's going to monitor these things? My fear is with 10-foot, 75-watt lights, it is going to look like Disneyland. That's great, we should start charging admission!"

Miller's comments were followed by applause by most in the room.

The public hearing on the proposal for 9 Old Cider Mill Ln. was closed after Monday night's meeting. The Conservation Commission's decision on the project will be announced at its Feb. 4 meeting, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. The proposal for 17 Old Cider Mill Ln. remains open for discussion, and the public hearing on the project has been continued to Monday, Feb. 4.

Lyman Viaduct Repairs Have Begun in Colchester

by Kristina Histen

Work has begun on repairs at the Lyman Viaduct, to help control erosion and make other short-term improvements.

The state Department of Environmental Protection has funded a \$500,000 grant for the project, which will take place at seven locations of the Lyman Viaduct that need repair, said Jason Cohen, director of the town's Parks and Recreation Department.

The Lyman Viaduct is one of the biggest thrills of the Air Line State Park Trail, towering 137 feet high over Dickinson's Creek. After decades of erosion due to visitors scampering down the slope of the viaduct to reach the creek below, the surface has slipped away to dangerous levels, Cohen said.

Sewage pipes are at risk of being exposed and spilling their contents into the environmentally sensitive area, and trail users must be wary of wandering into one of the many sinkholes encroaching on the trail along the viaduct, Cohen said.

"If the pipe were to burst, it would take out the embankment and blow out the hillside, spilling out 1,400 gallons a minute of raw sewage into the Salmon River," said Mark Decker, the Public Works Director for the town's Water Development. "It would be a mess."

On Dec. 31, New England Infrastructure, Inc.

of Upton, MA set up their specialized equipment on the trail, Cohen said. The company has begun construction, and depending on the weather, it should only take about a month to complete, said Decker.

Cohen said the work includes clearing away much of the unstable surface and anchoring in wire mesh bags of large stones, similar to work that was done about 20 years ago to repair the same type of erosion elsewhere on the slopes.

In addition, significant repairs will soon be required on the waterway below, including reinforcing two large pipes and their supports that carry Dickinson Creek under and through the viaduct, Cohen said.

The state Department of Environmental Protection and the local Departments of Public Works in Colchester and East Hampton are researching a long-term solution to this perpetual erosion problem, Cohen said, but for the time being the emergency repairs to the area will avoid possible dangers on the trail.

The entire section of the trail from Bull Hill Road to the East Hampton line is officially closed during the project. There are barriers erected on either side of the viaduct Monday through Friday while the contractors are on site. The trail is open on evenings and weekends.

Hodge Praises Proposed Colchester Rezoning

by Kristina Histen

First Selectman Linda Hodge held a press conference Tuesday afternoon to express support for a proposal to rezone sections of Colchester for commercial, office, and mixed use development.

The economic improvement of Colchester has been listed as a top priority for many years, and to develop the community alongside the economy is essential to resident's quality of life, Hodge said.

"I live in Colchester," Hodge said. "I would not support something that would destroy the charm or what we value. Now is the time to move forward."

There has been growing concern over the need to relieve residents of an increasing tax burden, Hodge said, mainly due to the lack of new non-residential development. There needs to be developed commercial/business parcels to increase the tax base in a way that suits the town, she said.

The proposed zone changes would affect up to 700 acres of land, Hodge has said, and the three areas identified for the business park zones are: property between Norwich and Windham Avenues, property between Parum and Chestnut Hill Roads and property along Lake Hayward Road near Route 11. The public hearing on the proposed changes was closed two weeks ago, and now the Planning and Zoning Commission will discuss the issue for the next several weeks before rendering a decision on rezoning the land.

The goal of the plan is to create business and economic development that will provide goods and services for residents, job opportunities, and/or a balanced tax base, Town Planner Adam Turner said. The proposed business park would be put in proximity to transportation routes, near availability of water and sewer, and development of focal points would be considered at the intersection of Routes 2 and 11, he said.

"Mixed-use is a preferable development; it is character compared to big box development," Turner said. "We need commercial development, or we will fall behind."

While there would be some residential development permitted, the proposal is to limit it to the Business Park parcels exclusively and does not extend to all the commercially designated parcels. Hodge stressed the housing would be "affordable housing," not low-income housing, for such people as college graduates, young professionals and age 55+.

The idea of providing multiple family housing is restricted to a parcel with a 15-acre minimum size, Hodge said, and if the proposal is fully developed, over one mil-

lion square feet of commercial and office lands will be available.

Without re-zoning, the properties could be developed for 500 3-4 bedroom units and with the residential component; with rezoning, there would be 800 1-2 bedroom units. If those units are developed, over a million square feet of commercial/office development would be seen, Hodge said.

Also, water and sewer expansion is planned for these areas. The proposal was consistent with the 2005 plan for the expansion of water and sewer development as well as the sewer expansion area identified in the Plan of Conservation and Development, Hodge said.

The town has committed to providing water and sewer services to the State Maintenance Facility, as well as the Parum Road shopping center, and if those areas are to be served, it opens up other adjacent areas as well, Hodge said.

Environmental concerns with the business park proposal were also addressed, Hodge said, and added that the issues raised in the Environmental Research Team study were manageable through engineering design. Colchester was a leader in that area, she said. Most land in the town contains some wet areas, and sites are constantly designed to address environmental concerns, Hodge said.

"We were one of the first to utilize the 'leaky berm' method and our Stop and Shop-managed wetlands, which control and treat runoff from that center, is state of the art," Hodge said.

Since the proposed sites would be serviced by water and sewer systems, the overall effects of septic systems and stagnant wells would not be an issue, Hodge said. This is because the indicated sites are so large, they literally create wetland systems which naturally control and filter water, she said.

Once completed, these areas will contribute to the town's tax base and provide needed jobs, Turner said. The proposal is consistent with the state, regional, and town's comprehensive plans, he said, and there would be no sprawl. These areas are also in smart growth locations, linked directly to existing urban and suburban uses, and are adjacent to extensive transportation systems, Turner said.

"I think we have to do it," Hodge said. "Wait any longer and towns will be in the ballgame before us. We have to move forward now. This will protect our downtown while drawing more people into town, improving our quality of life."

Andover Senior Luncheons in Trouble

by Sarah McCoy

The most popular event for Andover senior citizens may soon come to an end this spring.

The Monday noon luncheons are in danger of being shut down, if Municipal Agent for the Aging Cathy Palazzi cannot come up with additional funding to keep the hot meals coming.

Palazzi began the weekly hot lunches last fall. Since its inception, the program has boomed, with over 50 individuals coming each week. "Usually our most successful events are attended by 30 or so people," Palazzi said. "It has been wonderful to see the seniors come in for a hot meal and stay to chat with their friends."

Each week the Hop River Café, along Route 6 in Andover, provides meals for the group at \$4 for each person. The senior citizens pay \$2 each, leaving \$2 per person to come out of the senior department budget. So far that hasn't been a problem but, come this spring, the department will be tapped out of the money set aside for the program.

"It's been wonderful to see how popular the luncheons have been," Palazzi said. "But, that usage has left us a little short and we're asking everyone for donations to keep the lunches going."

The lunches provide more than just a meal for Andover's senior citizens. They are a time for socializing and a time to learn as a new speaker comes each week to inform the seniors about a relevant topic. This coming week Lorenzo Marshall from Connecticut Light and Power will be on hand to discuss energy saving tips.

The Town of Andover does not pay anything to host the weekly speakers. The speakers donate their time.

Last fall, Palazzi ran two fundraisers, a tag/bake sale and a lasagna dinner night. These two events brought in \$1,200 for the lunch program. This money has been used to subsidize the difference between the cost of providing the lunches and the income the program brings in. Without any other income coming in to fund the program, Palazzi has watched the account dwindle. She estimates that the town will only be able to offer the lunches until April unless more money is raised.

Those interested in learning more about the lunch program or to make a donation, can call Palazzi at the Andover Town Office Building at 742-8088.

Proposed Hebron School Budget Increase Lowest in 10 Years

by Sarah McCoy

Not even hot cocoa and cookies could coax residents out to Gilead Hill Elementary School last Thursday, Jan. 3, as the Hebron schools administration and Board of Education began their budget discussions for the upcoming 2008-09 fiscal year to an empty room.

Last month, Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz presented her budget to the BOE. At the time it stood at \$11,659,466, a 5.93 percent increase over the current year's budget. Since then the numbers have dipped to \$11,552,994, an increase of 4.96 percent, after savings were realized primarily in the benefits line item.

The proposed budget figure does not include the \$180,000 recommended by the school system's auditor to set aside as a part of GASB 43. GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) 43 is a new accounting standard put in place by the federal government that calls for towns and school districts to set aside money for post-employment benefits. While not mandatory, towns and/or school districts could expect a more favorable bond rating if this money is set aside, according to Bill Mazzara, director of finance and operations for both the Hebron and RHAM school district. If the district opts to fund GASB 43, the budget increase would be 6.59 percent.

Mazzara said that all of the entities involved – the towns of Hebron, Andover and Marlborough, their respective Boards of Education and the RHAM school board – would, most likely, act as a group. "Creditors would consider the whole picture, meaning the finances of the town and the school, to determine our rates," he said. "Therefore, I would expect it to be all or nobody."

Mazzara is currently in discussions with Town Manager Jared Clark on the matter.

Other than GASB 43, the budget put forth by Cruz is without much controversy, to this point. The 4.96 percent increase represents the smallest increase requested by a Hebron schools superintendent in over 10 years. Last year, the town approved a 6.76 percent increase, the year a before 6.99 percent increase and in 2005-06 voters approved an 11.73 percent increase in spending.

"We recognize that the town is seeing budget constraints in other areas so we responded in the spirit of cooperation," Cruz said. "We did our best to come in with, what I feel, is a very reasonable budget."

That isn't to say the schools are getting everything on her wish list. Last fall, department heads from Gilead Hill and Hebron elementary schools submitted their budgets. These amounted to an increase of 11.28 percent. Cruz pared this down to the current 4.96 percent.

"It's tough," she said. "You want to provide the best education, but at what cost? This year the Board [of Education] will face a number of tough choices."

One of the toughest may be the number of teachers in the sixth grade. There are currently 195 students split between 8 teachers in the sixth grade at Hebron Elementary School. Next year's expected sixth grade enrollment is only 170, and one of the current teachers is set to retire at the end of June. Instead of replacing this teacher, Cruz is suggesting the district forego the hire and save, between salary and benefits, almost \$70,000 from the budget. With 170 students and seven teachers, class size would be 24.3. The board policy for sixth grade classes is 24.

Marlborough Police News

1/6-Kelly Scott, 37, of Wethersfield, was charged with possession of narcotics, possession of paraphernalia, operating under the influence, operating under suspicion/failure to maintain lane, State Police said.

1/7-State Police are investigating the unknown person(s) that slashed the front tires of the vehicle registered at 6 Austin Dr., Apt. #6, State Police said.

At last Thursday's meeting, some Board of Education members worried that the risks outweigh the rewards if student enrollment comes in greater than is projected. "I'm just worried that we'll start at 24.3 and end at 27.7," David King said about class size. His fear isn't entirely unfounded. Both last year and in 2006-07 the school system saw a net increase of 10 students above the district's projection for sixth grade enrollment.

"Not replacing this teacher is certainly a risk," Cruz said. "But, I feel we should stick to our guns on this one. That's not to say that we want class sizes to be above 24, but we have no hard and fast information saying that we will have an increase of sixth graders coming to the area. I'm rather uncomfortable continuing to maintain the position without that data."

An additional area of reduction also came under scrutiny during last week's school board meeting. Cruz's proposed budget reflects cutting the aide assigned to the math support department. She said it was a tough choice but she thought that due to realignment of the entire department, it was a necessary change, at least for the coming year.

The current math coordinator for the district is retiring at the end of June. When the district hires her new replacement, job duties will shift slightly; the math coordinator will not be responsible for data entry, whereas the previous coordinator was. This, Cruz expects, will free the coordinator up to provide additional support to students. Still, some school board members expressed concerns over how the staff reduction would be felt by students.

"My daughter is serviced by this paraprofessional and she does a wonderful job," board member Stephanie Raymond said. "I would like to have a better idea how you intend to replace this entire position."

The reduction of this position is a \$17,698 savings from the current year's budget.

The single largest area of increase for the school district comes from employee benefits, specifically health insurance. This line item rose 20 percent from the current fiscal year and represents about \$300,000 of the total \$545,904 increase in the proposed budget.

Other areas of increase include a 2.77 percent increase to the salary line item.

Also proposed is a \$85,000 increase for supplies and materials, including a \$20,000 increase in classroom supplies. In prior years, the school has relied on parents to contribute such items as pencils and tissues to their child's classroom for community use. This practice is set to end at the end of the current school year, if the proposed increase in supplies is adopted.

"I felt it inappropriate to ask parents to supply classrooms with the items that are needed to offer a free education to students," Cruz said. "In order to incorporate those previously supplied items into the budget there was an additional \$20,000 included for supplies and materials."

The Board of Education will meet every Wednesday this month as they work towards approving their 2008-09 budget. They must approve a budget by Feb. 1, at which point both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance will review it. In April a public hearing will be held on the entire budget and on May 6, voters will head to the polls for the annual budget referendum.

Portland Police News

1/4 — Pasquale Sanseverino, 33, of 72 Shalley St., New Britain, was charged with fifth-degree larceny, Portland Police report.

1/5 — Thomas A. Zink, 18, of 105 Vivian Dr., Berlin, was charged with possession of less than 4 oz. of marijuana, police say.

1/5 — Christopher Hinman, 19, of 518 Main St., Cromwell, was charged with operating with a suspended license, possession of alcohol by a minor, possession of alcohol in a motor vehicle by an underage person, and failure to drive in proper lane, police say.

1/5 — Madison Gish, 21, of 23 East Hayes Rd., East Hampton, was charged with operating a motor vehicle with suspended license and failure to obey traffic signal.

1/5 — Robert Rancourt, 25, of 146 East High St., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and traveling too fast for conditions.

Andover School Board Approves 3.75 Percent Budget Hike

by Sarah McCoy

The Board of Education Wednesday unanimously passed Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia's proposed 2008-09 budget.

Board members listened to Maneggia present the proposed \$3.92 million spending plan, which represents a \$141,700, or 3.75 percent, increase over the current year's budget.

"This is a budget that fits the needs of our students, teachers, and employees while being responsible to our taxpayers," Board of Education Chairman Jay Linddy said at Wednesday night's meeting.

Nearly 82 percent of the increase comes from salaries and benefits for school employees. The remainder comes, largely, from heating and energy supplies.

A quick perusal of the Andover Elementary School budget for next year reveals decreases in four of the eight categories. Rather than automatically bumping each account up, Maneggia used the district's actual spending patterns to prepare for the coming year. Accounts such as legal fees, plumbing, and bus liability insurance all saw reductions, to bring the line items within the expected amount.

"Twelve years ago these accounts would have been up 4 percent automatically," Linddy said. "They're now based on actual spending. This budget is a real credit to Andy" Maneggia.

Employee salaries were the single largest increase in the proposed budget. The 3.42 percent increase accounts for \$83,395 of the total \$141,701 increase. This increase is contractual.

Employee benefits were another area of increase for the Andover school system; however, board members were thrilled that the increase was only 6.34 percent. "Thanks to co-pay negotiations and plan selection, we aren't going

to feel the 20 percent increase that benefits are actually increasing by," Maneggia said.

Heating energy is another area that saw a huge jump for the 2008-09 year, as was expected; however, the increase isn't exactly what it appears to be. In his proposed budget, Maneggia denoted a 55 percent increase in heating energy. This isn't entirely accurate. Thanks to a mild winter in the 2006-07 year, over 17,000 gallons of oil the district was under contract for went unused. Instead of returning it, the school district bought the unused gallons for the current year. This money was allocated from another line item and is, therefore, not accounted for in the Heat Energy line item that appears in the budget. The budget indicates that the district spent \$73,000 in oil last year when, in actuality, the cost was \$111,113. So, the \$132,000 the school system has budgeted for heating in 2008-09 is actually only a 19 percent increase over current year spending.

In May 2006, Andover voters approved a 2.85 percent increase in spending for the school district's budget. Of this, over \$100,000 was returned to taxpayers after it went unspent by the district. While board members and administrators expressed confidence in the proposed budget, they hoped that a similar result would follow. "If you look at the accountability of this board, I think our record speaks for itself," Maneggia said. "It is a realistic budget that represents frugal spending."

The Board of Education will meet with the Board of Finance next month to reexamine the budget. A Town Meeting will follow in April, where residents will decide whether to take the budget to referendum. The referendum would likely take place in May.

East Hampton Town Council and Jim Thomas Reach Agreement

by Michael McCoy

The Town Council unanimously agreed Tuesday to a "release settlement" with Jim Thomas, the would-be town manager the council fired in December, mere weeks before he was to begin employment.

Last June, the Town Council fired longtime town manager Alan Bergren, and hired Thomas as his replacement in October. Thomas' hiring was to be effective Jan. 1.

However, on Election Day, the control of the Town Council shifted from a Chatham Party majority to a 3-2-2 Republican majority. On Dec. 18, this new-look Town Council voted 5-2 to rescind Thomas' contract, which included an annual salary of \$118,000. The contract also stated that either party would have to give 90 days notice to terminate the relationship, and that, should the Town Council terminate it, Thomas would receive six months severance pay.

That week, Town Council Chairman Melissa Engel said Thomas "was hired incorrectly," adding that he "should not have been hired by the Town Council three weeks before the election."

The week prior to the decision, Engel said she had contacted town labor attorney Mark Sommaruga to explore the nature of the hiring process.

After the Dec. 18 firing, Chatham Party Councilman Scott Minnick said, "This was clearly not about Jim Thomas," calling the move "purely political." Two days after the decision, Thomas said he was "shocked and disappointed."

A statement signed by Engel and Thomas and dated Jan. 8 read, "the decision was not based upon the conduct or actions of Jim Thomas." It continued, "The Town Council acknowledges the prior accomplishments of Mr. Thomas and recommends Mr. Thomas for consideration for employment as a town manager or in a similar capacity by any prospective employer."

Though neither Sommaruga nor Kenneth Plumb, Thomas' legal counsel, would elabo-

rate on the terms of the agreement, Engel said the town would pay Thomas \$60,000, and Thomas would not take any further legal recourse against the town.

Engel said she hoped to have a new town manager within six months. Since Bergren left in October, Public Works Director Bob Drewry has served as acting town manager, a position he had filled intermittently in the past. Originally, Drewry had agreed to fill the position until Thomas arrived on Jan. 1.

Drewry said Tuesday he was willing to continue on in the position, pledging, "I will do the best job I possibly can for East Hampton."

However, Minnick thought that pulling double duty might be too much for one person, and brought up the idea of finding another acting town manager. Minnick said there are many retired town managers that often fill such positions.

Town Council member Susan Weintraub agreed with Minnick. But councilman Bill Devine said "it would take an interim town manager six months to a year to get acclimated." Council members John Tuttle, Christopher Goff, and Tom Cordeiro seemed to agree with Devine. "Any efforts we would take to find someone for the interim we should spend on getting a permanent town manager," Cordeiro said.

Ultimately, the council voted 7-0 to keep Drewry in the position until a permanent replacement could be found.

Engel added that although Drewry has not asked for a dime, she planned to bring the matter of further compensation for Drewry up at an upcoming council meeting.

Thomas, 47, was most recently the town manager for Old Orchard Beach, ME, a resort town near Portland. His last day was Jan. 4. He referred all questions regarding Tuesday's settlement to Plumb, who declined to comment. Sommaruga also wouldn't elaborate as to the terms of the settlement, but, he said, "This agreement resolves all matters. ... It's a complete and total final settlement."

Portland Residents Mourn Beloved Dentist, Friend, Family Man

by Michael McCoy

The year began on a sad note in Portland, as friends, family, and colleagues said an unexpected goodbye to Thomas Sullivan.

Sullivan, whom his friends referred to simply as "Tom," died suddenly of a massive coronary in the Dominican Republic while vacationing with his family and friends on Dec. 29.

Born in Middletown on Nov. 29, 1958, Tom was a lifelong Portland resident. His mother, Catherine, is deceased, while his father, James, still lives in town.

In 1974, Tom was a member of the Xavier football team that took home the state title. During his senior year, he was named to the All Hartford County Conference Defensive Team, and was eventually inducted into the Portland and Middletown Halls of Fame. He graduated in 1977 and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in science and pharmacology from the University of Rhode Island in 1982.

It was at college that he met his wife Lisa, whom he married in 1983. Lisa, a nurse, was attending Salve Regina in Newport, R.I. Tom then received his doctorate of dental medicine from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine in Farmington. He opened his practice in Portland in 1985.

Another lifelong Portland resident, John Dillon, recalled fond days spent with Tom when they were younger. "His backyard was the place to be on the weekend," Dillon said, recalling playing "every sport imaginable" along with Tom and the rest of the neighborhood kids. Dillon also remembered waiting with great anticipation for his mother to bring a plate of homemade cookies outside. Tom's childhood home was located at the end of a dead end street on Waverly Avenue Extension, making it an ideal spot for youngsters.

"We'd always gravitate to the Sullivans," said Dillon. He said families in that neighborhood seemed to stick around, and, Dillon said, "it's essentially the same neighborhood as when we were kids."

"He was a great guy," Dillon said of Tom.

Local attorney George Law said he couldn't remember exactly when he and Tom struck up their friendship, but he figured it must have been at least 15 years ago. On top of that friendship, Law noted, "Tom is a client of mine, and I've been a patient of his."

"They just don't come finer," Law said of his friend. "He was just revered by everyone... He was just a big-hearted man."

Law remembered thinking, when Tom started his practice 23 years ago, "How does a dentist just open up shop like that and expect to do well?" But Tom never worried about being in want of patients, and, Law said, "My understanding is his was one of the most thriving practices in the greater Middletown area."

But, despite his great success, Law said Tom "was just as down to earth as he could be." Law made special mention of Tom's generosity. "He always made himself available... He would take care of everybody." This selfless, Everyman quality appealed to everyone he came in contact with, Law said, and "you would never have known he was this successful professional."

Law recalled one memorable episode from a few years ago. Law's daughter was about eight years old and had recently been to Tom's office. Later that night, the young patient was having pain, so Law called Tom, and "you would never have known he was this successful professional."

Peter LaMalfa was perhaps Tom's closest friend. The two met while playing sports in grade school at Xavier. LaMalfa estimated he knew Tom for around 40 years, and they were best men at each other's weddings.

LaMalfa said Tom "was very competitive. It could be backgammon; it could be throwing rocks... He was probably a better hunter and fisher than anything."

LaMalfa said hockey just might have been the one sport he was better at than Tom. "He didn't ice skate, and I didn't hunt and fish," said LaMalfa. But, he said, "I'd go out on the boat fishing with him and I'd get seasick."

LaMalfa graduated from Xavier with Tom in 1977 and has become an insurance sales manager with Middle Oak. LaMalfa also trusted Tom with his teeth, ever since he opened the practice. "He pulled my wisdom teeth, spur of the moment," LaMalfa chuckled. He said he was in for a routine cleaning, Tom noticed that they would have to be addressed and just yanked them on the spot. "I always trusted him," LaMalfa said.

LaMalfa said he thought UConn wanted Tom to stay at the medical school a couple of extra years and specialize in pediatrics. LaMalfa suggested that Tom could have wound up practicing dentistry in perhaps a

more glamorous place than Portland. But, in the end, Tom wanted to set up shop in his hometown, where he seemed to be loved by all. LaMalfa estimated that thousands attended his wake Monday evening, and that some waited in line for over two hours to pay their last respects. "It was huge," LaMalfa said.

LaMalfa said Tom's wife, Lisa, has "done an awesome, awesome job" coping with this unexpected loss.

Lisa and Tom would have been married for 25 years this July.

On Wednesday, a day after the funeral service, Lisa described the scene that led to her husband's passing. Tom was throwing the football with his sons on the beach, when Lisa decided to go for a swim. Lisa remembers him yelling, "Don't you think you're out a little too far?"

Eventually, he joined Lisa in the water. He was only a few feet away from her when, "He looked at me and said, 'Help me.'" This struck Lisa as especially odd, since he was a very good swimmer.

According to Lisa, Tom made it to the beach, where he slumped over and eventually lay on his back. Lisa administered CPR, and a number of people from a nearby surf school came over to help. Eventually, emergency personnel arrived. "We worked on him for over an hour and a half," Lisa said. "He was dead, I believe, as soon as he slumped."

Though Lisa and the children, Brandon, 15, and Michael, 14, came back on the following evening, authorities had to perform the autopsy in the Dominican Republic. Tom's family received his body on Jan. 5. Deeming the cause of death a "massive coronary," Lisa said, medical professionals "assured me he felt nothing." Lisa also said the process of the family getting the body back was relatively speedy, and said this was due in part to help by the U.S. Embassy.

Lisa said that though Tom did have high blood pressure and high cholesterol, he never had any heart problems, nor did any of his family members.

Despite his death, Sullivan's practice is still in operation, and opened back up on Jan. 3, thanks to an outpouring from the local dental community, who have all put in time when they can. Law, who also served as Tom's legal counsel, said he has received calls from about 40 dentists who wanted to help in any way possible. Lisa is currently

exploring what exactly to do next with the practice, located at 553 Portland Cobalt Rd. She estimated her husband had over 3,000 patients.

"No matter who you were or what problem you had, he would see you," Lisa said, adding that he was especially good with kids.

Lisa admitted visits to a dental office are rarely looked forward to, but, she said, "He made people not mind going to the dentist."

"They would maybe leave with deer meat," Lisa added, noting her husband's tendency to give away offerings from his latest prize.

Lisa was surprised that it seemed every patient she encountered at the wake had a story to tell about Tom. One of these patients said that during a procedure, in an effort to make it more palatable, Tom took a bear that he had stuffed and starting prancing it past the window. "He was like a big boy," said Lisa.

Speaking of bears, Tom and his son Brandon each killed one in Maine in 2005. The following year, Tom killed another one, and in the process netted the record for the largest female bear shot in the state of Maine; the record still stands. Lisa said Tom would trot this out for fun to his friends. When they would rehash hunting stories, Tom would pipe up, "Who's got the state record?"

"He didn't let anybody forget it," she recalled.

She also remembered that he would often give away clothing that did not fit him anymore to kids that did not have as much.

In addition to all of his attractive qualities, Lisa said people always commented on his "dancing blue eyes."

Though Portland Memorial Funeral Home handled the wake and funeral arrangements, they both were held at St. Mary's Church, due to the sheer number of people expected to show up to pay their respects. In fact, while the wake was scheduled for 5 p.m. Monday, doors opened half an hour early, as there were people already lined up. According to Lisa, it was not until 11:30 p.m. that everyone had gotten a chance to say goodbye to Tom.

The funeral and burial followed on Tuesday. Tom's family has asked that, in lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy should be directed to the American Heart Association, the Church of St. Mary, or the Xavier High School Fund. Tom's full obituary appears this week on page 6.

Portland Street Fight Leads to Arrest of Rockville Man

A Dec. 28 fight on Main Street near Dunkin' Donuts led to the arrest of a Rockville man, according to Portland Police.

Todd Ducas, 44, of 25 Hammond St., Rockville, was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and first-degree criminal mischief, Portland Police say.

On Dec. 28, shortly before 3 p.m., Portland Police say they received a report of a fight in progress on Main Street in the area of Dunkin' Donuts. According to police, witnesses said a white van, driven by Ducas, had been operating erratically and tailgating a black Dodge Durango, driven by Rafael Ortiz, 42, of 1 Riverside Dr., as it entered Portland, via the Arrigoni Bridge. On Main Street, Ortiz stopped and approached the white van, police say, at which time Ducas exited the van and began punching Ortiz.

Police say witnesses report that, after the two men stopped hitting each other, Ducas

began damaging the Durango. As a result, police report, the passenger side window was smashed, the passenger side mirror was torn from the vehicle and thrown at the front windshield, smashing the window, and the vehicle's turn signal was ripped from the steering column.

Ducas then returned to his vehicle and waited for police to arrive, police report.

Police say that, when they responded to the scene, they found Ducas had "visible lacerations to his facial area," while Ortiz had "obvious reddening" over his left eye.

Police say Ducas was taken to Middlesex Hospital for treatment of his injuries; the injuries required more than 25 stitches, police say. He was then arrested, and released on a \$1,500 non-surety bond. He is due in court Jan. 15, police report.

Ortiz was released from the scene, pending further investigation, police say.

Colchester Police News

1/2- State Police are investigating the unknown person(s) that spray-painted the exterior wall of Jack Jackter Intermediate School, State Police said.

1/2-Christopher E. Smith, 25, of 210 South Main St., Marlborough, turned himself in to State Police for the charges of second-degree failure to appear and violation of probation, State Police said.

1/3-Alexandre Dasilva, 34, of 25 Morin Ave. Apt. #C, Danielson, turned himself in to State Police for the charges of third-degree burglary and third-degree larceny, State Police said.

1/3-A juvenile at Bacon Academy was charged with possession of narcotics, State Police said.

1/3-Jessica Feltovic, 23, of 11 Crestwood Rd., Coventry, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

1/4-State Police are investigating the unknown person who used the identity of Christopher D'atri to make unlawful purchases, State Police said.

1/5-Laurie Tyler, 54, of 201 Regan Dr., Vernon, turned herself into State Police for

charges of evading and following too close, State Police said.

1/5-Antonio Ayala, 27, of East Hartford, was charged with possession of firearm, violation of protective order, possession of narcotics, weapon in a motor vehicle, DWI, reckless driving, and disobeying signal of an officer, State Police said.

1/6-State Police are investigating the missing items stolen from the unlocked vehicle of Kurt Kunst, State Police said.

1/7-Elizabeth Watson, 20, of 203-B Lebanon Ave., was charged with possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and failure to drive right, State Police said.

1/7-State Police are investigating the burglary at the Learning Emporium where two fire extinguishers and \$170 cash were stolen, State Police said.

1/7-Jennifer Hyde, 20, of 595 Westchester Rd., was charged with DWI and failure to have lights and devices illuminated, State Police said.

1/8-Troy Kenneth, 22, of 2065 Glasgo Rd., Griswold, was charged with third-degree burglary and third-degree larceny, State Police said.

Housing Development Proposed for South Main Street in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

A 129-unit housing development has been proposed for South Main Street – and not all of the would-be development’s neighbors are happy about this.

The most outspoken neighbor thus far has been 82-year-old Bill Reardon who lives at 55 South Main St. His property consists of 30 acres that have been handed down through his family since his great-grandfather, John Wall, bought the land after returning from the Civil War. “It’s gotten to be such an emotional issue, I can’t even think,” said Reardon.

Reardon is a retired electrician, World War II veteran, and cancer survivor. He said, if approved, the proposed housing development would affect more than just he, his family, and South Main Street residents. “In plain English, it will bankrupt the town,” he said.

On a personal level, Reardon feared the development would result in excessive noise, endangerment of his farm animals, and a sharp drop in the value of his property. “No one will buy the property knowing what’s coming there,” said Reardon. His concerns also included issues of water and traffic.

The potential development first came up at a Nov. 28 Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (IWWA) meeting, when the agency accepted an application from Pelletier Development Company for a project called Belltown Place.

On the morning of Dec. 8, members of the IWWA conducted a site walk of the property, allowing members of the public to see just where the proposed development would sit.

Reardon is hoping for a groundswell of support to extinguish the project. “I’m appealing to everyone to help me,” he said. “I’m not too proud to beg.”

Belltown Place is designed, in part, to be a Housing Opportunity Development (HOD). To qualify for HOD, a family must make no more than 80 percent of the median income in a given town. It is in no way subsidized by the government, but the developer cuts at least 30 percent

of the fair market value off the price, in return for being able to build more dwellings per acre. The idea to give residents the chance to live in towns they would not normally be able to afford to live in.

According to Town Planner David Dodes, Pelletier Development will first need to change the text in the zoning regulations that deals with HOD. Should that pass, they would need to change the zone from R2/R4 to HOD.

As for the text change, Dodes said zoning regulations did not even address HODs until October 2006. Part of that language allows for no more than five dwellings per acre. “The [Planning and Zoning] Commission really had to push to get it to five,” Dodes said. Pelletier Development is looking for something more along the lines of six or seven units per acre. (Just as a reference point, a 55 and over community is allowed no more than three units per acre.) “That first hurdle, quite frankly, is going to be a very tough one to get over,” Dodes said.

According to state law, 10 percent of a municipality’s dwellings are to be “affordable,” which is what an HOD is considered. Dodes estimated that East Hampton had 4,500 dwellings, and that only about 3.7 percent of them would qualify as “affordable.”

“There’s all kinds of potential consequences that are never enforced,” said Dodes. “It’s been a bone of contention in almost every town.”

Dodes seemed skeptical about this plan making it through the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC); but, even if PZC defeats it, the matter might not end there. “The developer fully expects that to happen [PZC defeating the project],” Dodes said. “They go through the motions because they have to.”

But, Dodes said, developers often take towns to court when their plans are thwarted. In fact, he added, “They build it into their timetable. It’s like the developers now have this 2x4 that they whack the town over the head with.” Dodes said that Connecticut courts side with the developer 98 percent of the time, and that nothing

short of proving a potential development would threaten the health or safety of a resident would make a court rule otherwise.

“Looking at this dispassionately,” Dodes said, “it’s going to provide affordable housing for people.” However, Dodes worried that the development could “overcrowd the lot,” cause traffic concerns, and change the character of the neighborhood.

The site plan refers to the project as “Belltown Place: A Townhouse Community”. It would be located on a 24.44-acre parcel. Once, wetlands, flood zones, and slopes are subtracted from the equation, the developable area comes to 20.57 acres. With 129 units on that acreage, the average would come to 6.27 units per acre. The units would be townhouse-style condos.

In addition to driveways and garages, the plan calls for 275 parking spaces. The streets would sport such names as Liberty Court, Freedom Lane, Independence Way, and Constitution Lane.

Speaking of the recently-deceased Governor O’Neill, Reardon said, “We knew each other all our lives. I’m kind of glad he’s not here to see this.” Reardon said he isn’t against development in East Hampton, but objects to fitting 129 units on 24 acres.

“I’m not an optimist,” he said. “My bone of contention is people shouldn’t be forced to live like animals just because some guy found a way to make more money.”

Twelve of the acres that the Pelletier Developers are looking to develop were bought from Wayne Rand in late 2006. Rand had bought that land from John and Rose Anderson on Nov. 3 of that year. Rose Anderson seemed quite disturbed by the plans Pelletier has for her former property.

“Well, I am 100 percent in shock; I am horribly upset,” she said. “When I sold the property to Mr. Rand, I didn’t know about his reputation.”

“He sat in my kitchen and assured my husband, my son, and I that there would be no development,” Anderson said. She also mentioned that Rand had said he planned to build 10 homes, which would not include condos or cluster housing.

After the Dec. 8 site walk, which alerted her to the plans, Anderson said she confronted Rand on the phone. According to Anderson, he responded, “I sold the property; it’s out of my hands.”

“I have been sick ever since,” Anderson said. Anderson said the only reason they even sold the land was because their son, who had taken ill, was coming back to live with them, and selling the property was the only way they could afford to build on to their home and make sufficient room.

“I’m physically ill over this,” Anderson said. “I feel like I have betrayed my neighbors. Had I known this, I wouldn’t have sold. I definitely would not have sold.” But, she added, “There’s no recourse, because I don’t have anything in writing.”

In response to Anderson’s comments, Rand said, “It’s hogwash.” He added, “I said we would put in as many as we could with the current regulations.” He said the number of units he gave the Andersons was “upwards of 50.” “I must have said it four or five times,” he said.

After trying to do something with the property, Rand said, “The anti-developers took control of the Town Council, so I sold it. Nowhere did I ever say there would be 10 homes.”

“If she felt that it was that much of an issue, it would have been in the contract,” continued Rand

Neither Joseph nor Matthew Pelletier were available for comment.

The matter is scheduled to go to an IWWA hearing on Wednesday, Jan. 30, at 6:30 p.m., and a PZC hearing on Wednesday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. Both hearings are scheduled to take place at Town Hall.

Portland Schools Chief Proposes 4.86 Percent Budget Increase

by Michael McCoy

Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen rang in the new year with a budget presentation, as she pitched her proposed 2008-09 spending plan to the Board of Education last Wednesday, Jan. 2.

Doyen’s proposal comes in at \$17,845,771, a 4.86 percent increase over the current year’s budget. In a document presented to school board members, Doyen reiterated the three priorities that were given to her in the fall of 2005, shortly after she came to Portland. One of those charges was to “evaluate current personnel structures for all groups and job categories.” To this end, Doyen’s proposal calls for the elimination of a reading teacher position at Valley View School that has been vacant for the past year.

Doyen has also proposed adding a part-time math professional in the high school and a full-time teaching position in the middle school, which would address both math and science. The latter addresses next year’s seventh-grade class, which is expected to consist of 133 students, 27 more than this year. Doyen predicted that other grades would not see significant enrollment changes.

Another of Doyen’s priorities was to address curriculum to “improve student learning.” At the high school level, the proposed budget addresses curriculum by featuring no fewer than three new courses, including Computer Integrated Manu-

facturing Systems, a pre-engineering course offered through Project Lead the Way. The high school will also offer new Advanced Placement courses in Chemistry and Statistics. As of next year, Portland High School students could potentially earn 15 college credits.

Doyen’s budget document read, “New budget dollars are devoted to the ongoing improvement of students’ academic opportunities and challenges. My continuing goal is to provide whatever opportunities are possible in order to challenge and motivate students at all grade levels.” Doyen said the chief goal of her proposed budget was “to improve student learning academically, ethically, and socially.”

Also, in her budget proposal, Doyen pointed to last year’s Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) scores at the middle school as a victory for Portland. Last year Portland students’ scores improved by 16.4 percent over the scores of the previous year. This marked the most improved school performance in the state. Doyen also praised the girls’ cross-country team for winning the state title during the past two seasons.

Doyen’s budget proposal designates \$20,000 towards replacing worn or obsolete materials. Doyen said most of this money would pay for student computers. This means there will be little left for items like athletic uniforms and band instruments.

The biggest increase in the proposed budget comes in the form of employee insurance. This item checks in at \$347,924 higher than the current year’s budget, or a 13.34 percent increase. Doyen said the school system’s rates had risen because “we had a lot of illnesses over the past year.”

Doyen has also earmarked \$20,000 for magnet school tuition. This year, the state government is mandating that school districts pay for students attending magnet schools, starting with the 2008-09 school year. Doyen anticipated six students will attend magnet schools next year, at a cost of about \$3,600 per pupil.

The proposed spending plan also features an additional \$40,000 to pay for a long-term social studies substitute teacher. This is because Jim Stotler, a social studies teacher at the high school, was called to active military duty this past November. So, the school system is responsible for not only Stotler’s salary, but for the salary of his replacement. Doyen expects Stotler to return to the high school in February or March of 2009.

Doyen said Portland has received \$150,000 in state money to fund afterschool programs. “We work hard to go for whatever grants we can,” Doyen said. One of these new afterschool programs will begin this spring, and will be conducted for students in grades 1-6 at Chatham

Court, she said. Though recreation will be involved, the club will mostly be geared toward homework and will be staffed with certified professionals. Doyen said she also hopes to add a technology component to the program.

Currently, Portland is in the second year of a seventh through 12th grade curriculum reorganization, which Doyen said has thus far provided “much better continuity and coherence” and “a lot more curriculum coordination,” which has led to improved student performance. A key component of this was switching to just one principal and one associate principal to oversee grades 7-12.

The Board of Education conducted two budget workshops this past Wednesday and Thursday. Doyen anticipated the school board voting on the proposal during its regular meeting next Tuesday, Jan. 15. However, should board members need more time to ponder the budget, another workshop would be scheduled for the following day.

Last year the Board of Education passed Doyen’s budget, without changing a thing. Doyen chalked this up to both she and the school board’s financially conservative approaches.

The Board of Education must present a 2008-09 budget to the Board of Selectmen by Friday, Jan. 25.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Anna M. Skripol

Anna M. (Ackerman) Skripol, 86, of Marlborough, formerly of Windsor Locks, the wife of 58 years to the late Frederick T. Skripol went home peacefully to be with the Lord on Saturday, Jan. 5, at Marlborough Health Care Center. Born in Manchester she was the daughter of the late John and Rose (Streng) Ackerman. With a strong faith in God, she was a lifelong member of Calvary Church, West Hartford. Anna was a very active member of the Civil Conservation Corps Chapter 130, and a member of the Marlborough Senior Citizens.

She is survived by her children and their spouses, Frederick T. Skripol, Jr. of Mechanics Falls, ME, Robert and Sharon Skripol of Glastonbury, David and Joan Skripol of Marlborough, and Betty and Robert Fitzgerald of Hebron; eight grandchildren, Lori Baker, David Skripol, Jr., Bethany Skripol, Robert Skripol Jr., Mark Skripol, Jennifer Laws, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Katherine Fitzgerald; and seven great-grandchildren Brandi, Daniel, Gabriella, Sarah, Nathan, Holly Grace and Emma Rose.

Funeral service was Wednesday, Jan. 9, at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester, followed by burial in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Family and friends called at the funeral home on Tuesday, Jan. 8. Memorial donations may be made to Anna's niece, Joy (Skripol) Phillips, Family Mission to Hungary at the following address: ABWE (Association of Baptists for World Evangelism) PO Box 8585 Harrisburg, PA 17105 Account #:013685 or visit their website at www.phillips.abwe.org. For online condolences visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Sebastian Mark Adorno

Sebastian Mark Adorno, 47, of Main St., Portland, died Sunday, Dec. 30, 2007, at Yale-New Haven Hospital after a short battle with liver cancer. He was born April 19, 1960 in Middletown, the son of the late Michael S. and Freda (Hays) Adorno. He is survived by a sister and brother-in-law, Roberta and Gilbert "Bud" Durbin of Bombay, NY; five nephews, Vincent Adorno of Rocky Hill, Jason Adorno of New Britain, Gil Durbin, Jr. of East Hampton, Jeffrey Durbin of Fort Covington, NY, and Shawn Sullivan of Middletown; and three nieces, Kim Clark of East Hampton, Kelly Sullivan of Norwich, and Patricia Durbin of Bombay, NY. He was predeceased by a brother, Michael V. Adorno, and a sister, Roselyn C. Sullivan. A memorial service will be held at the convenience of his family and friends. There are no calling hours. Memorial contributions may be made to Yale-New Haven Hospital, Office of Development, P.O. Box 1849, New Haven, CT 06508. Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements.

Hebron

Olga Lyons

Olga "Olly" Lyons, 81, of Lebanon/Hebron died on Friday, Jan. 4, at Windham Hospital. Born Aug. 1, 1926, in Liberty, NY, she was a daughter of the late William and Katie (Kowalchuk) Kolechitz. On Feb. 26, 1949, she wed Joe Hoyt Lyons in New York. He died Jan. 5 (see obituary on this page).

Mrs. Lyons was a homemaker and devoted her life to her family. Olly enjoyed crafts of all kinds and had a tremendous love for animals. She especially loved feeding the birds and deer.

She is survived by two children, Patricia Roberson of Lebanon and William Lyons of Hebron; a sister, Ann Keefe of Hebron; three grandchildren, Jeremy Roberson, Nickole Cowart and Roarie Lyons and two great grandchildren. She was predeceased by a brother, John Kolechitz.

Friends called Tuesday, Jan. 8, with a memorial service following immediately at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, Franklin Commons, 106 Route 32, Franklin 06254-1800. Visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com for online condolences.

Portland

Thomas John Sullivan

Thomas John Sullivan, DMD, 49, beloved husband of Lisa Rappa Sullivan and loving father of Brandon and Michael Sullivan, departed this life suddenly on Saturday, Dec. 29, 2007, while vacationing with his family and friends in the Dominican Republic. He was born Nov. 29, 1958, in Middletown to the late Catherine Otfinoski Sullivan and James A. Sullivan.

Tom leaves many family members to mourn his passing. Besides his wife and children, he leaves his father, James A. Sullivan; his brother and sister-in-law James and Maraide Sullivan of Glastonbury; his sister Catherine Rau of Portland; his sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Earl Rand of East Wallingford, VT; his brother John P. Sullivan of Middletown; his sisters and brothers-in-law, Patricia and Robert Lehman of Portland, Ellen and Christopher Nolan of Portland, Margaret and Anthony DeLucia of Glastonbury; his mother-in-law Eleanor Rappa of North Branford, and sister-in-law and brother-in-law William and Pamela McKernan of Monroe, many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends, especially Joseph Gubilee of Portland who he viewed as a second father. He will truly be missed by his loyal dogs Lady Bird and Rocky. He was predeceased by his mother Catherine Sullivan, his brothers Michael and Joseph Sullivan, his father-in-law Ralph Rappa, Lisa's grandmother Tessie Rappa, and brother-in-law Christopher Rau.

"Sully" was a good man, a generous man. He was so adventurous and full of life. He enjoyed many days and hours at the family cottage on Jobs Pond in Portland, and taking many cruises. He cherished his wife and sons and revered his mother and father. Tom was a lifelong resident of Portland, attending Portland schools and graduating from Xavier High School in Middletown. He received his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Pharmacology from the University of Rhode Island and his Doctor of Dental Medicine Degree from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine in Farmington, achieving the Award of Excellence in Endodontics. He completed his residency at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury.

In 1983, he married his college sweetheart Lisa, whom he met while they were in college in Rhode Island. He began his dental practice in his hometown of Portland in August of 1985. With his guidance and unparalleled skills, his practice quickly thrived in no time at all. He will surely be missed by all of his dedicated staff and faithful patients. He was always willing to go the extra mile to accommodate his patients.

Tom's achievements are numerous and far too many to list. He played varsity football and baseball. While attending Xavier High School, Thomas named to the National Honor Society. Tommy was a member of the 1974 Xavier Football team who went on to become State Champions coached by Larry McHugh. During his senior year at Xavier, Tom was named to the All Hartford County Conference Defensive Team and received Xavier's Defensive Award. He was also listed in the "Who's Who in National Athletics."

Upon graduation from Xavier, Tom received a full scholarship to the University of Rhode Island. Recently, Tom and his brother John were inducted into the Portland Sports Hall of Fame as well as the Middletown Hall of Fame. Tom was an avid sportsman. He was a great hunter and fisherman and proudly displayed his trophies for all to see. He was proud to hold the Maine state record for largest sow shot. He will also be missed by his loyal hunting dogs Lady Bird and Rocky. He gave back to the community and shared his zest for life by working with the youth of the town coaching football and baseball. He was a kid at heart and his love of life showed in all he accomplished. The family gives special thanks to the Giamminonni family for their undying love for Tom and his family and providing a safe journey home. He was a communicant of the Church of Saint Mary.

His family received relatives and friends in the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Freestone Avenue, Portland, Monday, Jan. 7. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Church of Saint Mary. Interment will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that expressions of sympathy be sent in Dr. Tom's honor to the Xavier High School Scholarship Fund, 181 Randolph Rd., Middletown, CT 06457, or to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492, or to the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, Ct 06480. Arrangements are under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free! I follow the plan God laid for me. I saw His face, I heard His call, I took His hand and left it all ... I could not stay another day, To love, to laugh, to work or play; tasks left undone must stay that way. And if my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss... Ah, yes, these things I, too, shall miss. My life's been full, I've savored much: Good times, good friends, a loved-one's touch. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief- Don't shorten yours with undue grief. Be not burdened with tears of sorrow, Enjoy the sunshine of the morrow.

Hebron

Joe Hoyt Lyons

Joe Hoyt Lyons, 82, of Lebanon/Hebron died Saturday, Jan. 5, at Harrington Court Genesis Elder Care facility in Colchester. His passing was only hours after his beloved wife.

Born June 13, 1925 in Coaling, AL, he was a son of the late Charles and Manda (Hubbard) Lyons. He was wed to the former Olga Kolechitz on February 26, 1949 in New York.

Mr. Lyons retired from the United States Navy after serving during WWII, Korea and Vietnam. During that time he served on many vessels including the USS Fulton, USS Vulcan and USS Little Rock. In more than 20 years of service he received many medals and honors. After his service in the military he retired from Electric Boat and also worked for Carolina Power.

Joe was a member of the Masons in Alabama for over 50 years. He loved to travel and was a very hard worker. He will be remembered for his devotion to his family and his love for his pets.

He is survived by two children, Patricia Roberson of Lebanon and William Lyons of Hebron; a brother, Melvin Lyons of Northport AL; three grandchildren, Jeremy Roberson, Nickole Cowart and Roarie Lyons and two great grandchildren.

Friends called Tuesday, Jan. 8, with a memorial service for both Joe and Olga following, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial at the family's convenience will be in the State Veterans' Cemetery in Middletown. The family would like to acknowledge with deep appreciation, the care and compassion shown to them by the staff of the Harrington Court Genesis Care Center. Donations in his memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Northern Connecticut Chapter, 96 Oak Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

Visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com for online condolences.

Salem

Joseph Barniak

Joseph Barniak, 81, of Salem and formerly of East Hartford and Indiana, widower of the late Eva (Harahus) Barniak, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London. Born March 26, 1926, in Hartford, he was a son of the late Ignatz and Katherine (Izdebska) Barniak. Shortly after graduating from Hartford High School in 1943, he enlisted in the Navy, where he proudly served during World War II. His tours of duty included Sicily, North Africa and the invasion of Normandy and he earned the WWII Victory Medal as well as the American, African and Middle Eastern Theatre Medals with two stars. Following his honorable discharge, he went on to study accounting.

On May 17, 1947, he and Eva were married in Hartford and shared 55 years of marriage before she predeceased him on March 3, 2003. Mr. Barniak was a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in both Elmwood and East Hartford for many years before his retirement. He was also recognized as a 50+ year member of the Postal Workers Union. Most importantly, he will be remembered for his honorable character and undying love for his family, to whom he was ever devoted.

He is survived by a son, Dr. Carl Barniak and wife, Srisamon of Newburgh, IN; a daughter, Linda Barniak of Salem; two sisters, Helen Rinaldi of Rocky Hill and Ann Lester of West Hartford; a brother, John Barniak of Fernandino, FL; four grandchildren, Joseph, Christina, Alexander and Laura; dear lifelong friends, Alice Tonucci of Newton and Ted Miller of East Hartford; as well as numerous extended family and friends.

He was predeceased by five siblings, Andrew, Michael, Phillip, John and Mary.

Friends may call 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. There will be a Panahyda service at 7 p.m. The funeral will assemble at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, at the funeral home, followed by a Service of Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Avenue (Rt. 16), Colchester, with Fr. Cyril Manolev, officiating. Committal with full military honors will follow in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown.

Donations in his memory may be made to his Church or to the charity of one's choice.

Colchester

Richard E. Allen

Richard E. Allen, "Cat", 65, of Colchester Commons, beloved husband of Janice, passed away Monday, Jan. 7, at Manchester Memorial Hospital. Born April 1, 1942 in Hartford, he was a son of Raymond and Lillian B. (Dupuis) Allen. He grew up in Higganum and was a graduate of Middletown High School. On July 11, 1992, he wed the former Janice Schierbeek Bos in Lebanon. Mr. Allen was a supervisor in the aerospace industry for Dynamic Metal Products for 25 years before his retirement in 2000.

In addition to his loving wife of 15 years, he is survived by three stepsons, Brian Bos and his companion Angie of Ellington, Alan Bos and his companion Christine of Vernon, and Kevin Bos and wife, Stephanie of Ellington; five grandchildren, Joseph, Anthony, Maxwell, Alexandra and Mia; a sister-in-law, Jeanne Allen; a niece Faith Wilson and her three children; a nephew Peter Allen and his wife Karen, their daughter and her husband and numerous extended family members and friends. He was predeceased by his brother, Thomas Allen.

Friends called Thursday evening, Jan. 10, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Funeral services were to be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 11, directly at the Colchester Bible Baptist Church, Chestnut Hill Road, Colchester with the Rev. Art Langdon, officiating. Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 106 Rte. 32, Franklin, CT 06254.

East Hampton

Frederick G. Everett Sr.

Frederick G. Everett Sr., 79, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Ann (O'Connor) Everett, died Monday, Jan. 7, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Dec. 5, 1928, in East Hampton, he was the son of the late William N. and Florence (Mills) Everett.

Fred was a lifelong resident of East Hampton. He had served his country in the National Guard during the Korean War. Fred had been a member of the East Hampton Congregational Church for over 40 years. He was a Life member of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department for over 40 years, a member of the East Hampton Fire Police having served as a Fire Police Captain for 14 years, a member of the Middlesex County Fire police, a member of the Fowler-Dix VFW Post of East Hampton, and was very active in the American Legion, having been a member of East Hampton Post No. 64 of the American Legion for more than 56 years, he had served as Past Commander of the 7th District of the American Legion, had been awarded East Hampton Citizen of the Year in 2003, and was an avid bowler, and was a member of the National Bowlers Association. Fred had retired from Jarvis Airfoil in Portland after 25 years of service.

Besides his wife he leaves three sons, Frederick G. Everett Jr. of Manchester, Timothy and his wife Sandy Everett of East Hampton, and Dwight and his wife Julie Everett of Saratoga Springs NY; three sisters Florence Stebbins of East Hampton, Myrtle Steinmiller of Andover, and Laura Everett of East Hampton, six grandchildren and one great grandchild. He was predeceased by his brother William Everett.

Funeral services were to be held Friday, Jan. 11, at 10 a.m. at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial with full Military Honors will follow in Lakeview Cemetery. Friends called at the funeral home Thursday evening. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424. To leave online condolences or for directions visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

More Obituaries on Following Page

East Hampton

Robert Joseph Caron

Robert Joseph Caron, 73, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Marilyn T. (Cianci) Caron died Tuesday, Jan. 8, at Yale New Haven Hospital. Born May 10, 1934, in Hartford, he was the son of the late August and Grace (Dumas) Caron. Robert was a communicant of St. Patrick Church East Hampton, where he was also a member of the Knights of Columbus. He had served his country during the Korean War as a member of the United States Marine Corp. He was retired from the MDC where he had been a Crew Chief and Compressor Operator. Robert was an avid Red Sox Fan who loved his family and enjoyed spending time with his extended family.

Besides his wife he is survived by his two sons, Jeffery T. Caron and Beth Fowler of Vernon and Paul Caron and son-in-law Rick Richie-Caron of Houston TX; a sister Rita Yanchinsky of East Hampton; a brother, Richard Caron and his wife Lois of East Hampton; a sister-in-law Lorraine Caron of Longmeadow, MA; five grandchildren Ashley Richie-Caron, Rickie Richie-Caron, Brianna Richie-Caron, Robert Richie-Caron, and Conner Richie-Caron, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a daughter Jessica Grace Caron, a brother Gaston Caron, a sister and her husband Lillian and Maurice Pellerin and a brother-in-law Leonard Yanchinsky.

A Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, Jan. 12, at 10 a.m. in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton, followed by committal in St. Patrick Cemetery with Full Military Honors. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton on Friday evening, Jan. 11, from 6 - 8 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Connecticut Hospice, Inc. Homeport Cove, 100 Double Beach Rd., Branford, CT 06405-4906, or Yale New Haven Hospital Oncology Dept., 20 York St., New Haven, CT 06504. To leave online condolences or for directions visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Roland C. LaVallee

Roland C. LaVallee, 78, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Jan (DesRoberts) LaVallee, died Wednesday, Jan. 9, at Chestelm Health and Rehabilitation in Moodus. Born Feb. 5, 1929, in Brooklyn, CT, he was the son of the late Francois X. and Rosina (Corbeil) LaVallee. Roland was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and a parishioner of St. Patrick Church where he was also a member of the Knights of Columbus. Roland had served his country in the US Air Force during the Korean War.

Besides his wife Jan he is survived by a son and daughter-in-law Keith and Cindy LaVallee of Roswell, GA, a daughter and son-in-law Kim and Philip Stepczyk of East Haddam, a sister Theresa Wallace of Middletown and his granddaughter Juliette Paige LaVallee. He was predeceased by his three brothers Leon LaVallee, Clifford LaVallee, and Gerard LaVallee.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 12, at 11:45 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton with the Rev. Charles LeBlanc officiating. Burial will follow with military honors in the State Veteran's Cemetery in Middletown. Friends may call at the funeral home on Friday evening, Jan. 11, from 7-9 p.m. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association Chapter 279 Suite 5 New Britain Rd. Kensington, CT 06073. To leave online condolences or for directions visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Mary Louise Rice

Mary Louise "Weezie" Scovell Rice, 84, wife of the late Charles "Chuck" Rice, of Penny Corner Rd., Portland, died Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center. Born in Middletown, Feb. 21, 1923, a daughter of the late Ernest W. and Verna Hetrick Scovell, she was a lifelong Portland resident. "Weezie", as she was affectionately known to her friends, was a graduate of Portland High School, Class of 1940, and the Connecticut Institute of Hairdressing in 1941. She worked in her profession for 37 years, the last eight as a hairdressing instructor. She served as the director of the Portland Senior Center for 16 years until her retirement in 1994. She was instrumental in securing a Small Cities Grant for \$300,000 which was applied to the construction of the town's new Senior Center. She also served as a member and secretary of the building committee.

She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Portland, the AARP, Brownstone Chapter, Friends of the Portland and Godfrey Memorial Libraries, the Historical Society, and was a volunteer for the VNA. "Weezie" was an avid UConn Husky basketball fan, both the men's and women's teams, as well as a fan of the Boston Red Sox. She loved duckpin bowling and playing set-back, and she always had to have her M & M's and gumdrops close by.

She is survived by three loving and devoted children and daughter-in-law: Wendy Lee Kauffman of Dillsburg, PA, Gary Noble Rice and his wife Linda Lee of Haddam, and Darlene May Rice of Portland; her grandchildren, Sarah Rice, Alison, Mason, and James Dyson, and Brittany M. Kelsey; and her sister, Phyllis Scovell Rowe of Middletown. She was predeceased by her brother, W. Stanley Scovell. Her family received relatives and friends at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home 231 Main St., Portland, Thursday, Jan. 10. Funeral services were to be held Friday, Jan. 11, at 10 a.m. in the First Congregational Church. Interment to follow in the Swedish Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, gifts in her memory may be sent to the First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., Portland, CT 06480 or to the Portland Senior Center Program Fund, 7 Waverly Ave., Portland, CT 06480.