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Members of the Antique Veterans Honor Guard salute during Colchester's Veterans Day ceremony on the town green this week. The members of the Honor Guard toured the town's elementary schools last week to help teach students the meaning of the day.

Colchester Veterans Honored for Their Service

by Hannah Charry

Veterans Day came early in Colchester this year.

Members of the local Antique Veterans Honor Guard chapter traveled to William J. Johnston Middle School last Wednesday, Nov. 5, Jack Jackter Intermediate School on Thursday, Nov. 6, and then Colchester Elementary School on Friday, Nov. 7, to share with the students the meaning of Veterans Day.

"Every single year [the veterans'] show is one of my favorite days of the year," Tammy Gustafson, a first-grade teacher at Colchester Elementary School (CES), said.

The Honor Guard performed a flag ceremony on Friday, Nov. 7 in the school gymnasium and then separated into various classrooms for more conversations with the children. Colchester resident Walter Tallman, the executive coordinator of the Honor Guard, and has brought his unit to the elementary school annually eight times.

"The kids sit more quietly and attentively than any other assembly," Gustafson

said. "They understand the significance."

Gustafson's mother, Elizabeth, contributed to the event with a special Sept. 11 photography show. During the months immediately following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Elizabeth Gustafson traveled around eastern Connecticut taking pictures of flags local residents displayed. Tammy Gustafson said it was her mother's way of commemorating solidarity in patriotism during a period of national grieving.

After she saw the slideshow and veterans' presentation, school secretary Michelle Morgan said, "I thought it was a very touching ceremony."

When Jacqueline Somberg became the principal of CES eight years ago, she started the event in memory of her father and brother, both of whom served in the military.

"There had to have been close to 700 people in the gym" last Friday, Somberg said. "Hearing all of those people saying the pledge at the same moment was very powerful."

Colchester resident Bob Kvederas was one of those 700. He first joined the Army Reserve at the age of 17 and was stationed in Berlin, Germany, after World War II. He also served two one-year tours during the Vietnam War, starting in 1966.

"The best thing you could hope for 40 years ago was indifference, rather than hostility," he said. But now he thinks that Americans are much more appreciative and supportive of their soldiers. This was striking, he thought, because while abroad he thought civilians were more welcoming than fellow Americans were when they arrived home.

Now, "we [Americans] have a sense of obligation. We want to honor those who've served," Kvederas said. Among citizens who fight abroad and the people who commend them at home, "there's a sense of great pleasure that you're doing something decent and right," he said.

Since February 2004, Kvederas has traveled with Tallman and their unit around the southeastern corner of the state to per-

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form a special service ceremony for funerals of honorably discharged veterans. They have attended 99 funerals this year, and 405 since 2004.

Tallman said a local veteran named George Murray III organized the group about seven years ago by gathering a few friends to go to funeral services. "He wanted it done the right way," Tallman said, so together the two eventually gathered a larger coalition of now about 30 veterans who travel around the state to honor the deceased.

Members of the Antique Veterans Honor Guard span about a 40-year age range, with Donald Spafford, 90, representing his World War II comrades. Spafford was in Europe from 1944-45 during World War II. The youngest, William Vashon, just returned from Afghanistan in 2007 during a stint with the National Guard.

Tallman joined the Army when he was just 20 years old in 1949. He served during the Korean War, but was stationed in Germany to

replace soldiers there who left to fight. "We were lucky," he said. Tallman's 8-year-old grandson, Jordan Tallman, read a poem in his honor when the troop visited Jack Jackter Elementary, where Jordan is a second-grader.

Memorial services for the entire town continued Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. Flag bearers stood on the Veterans Green. During the ceremony on Tuesday, local residents were welcome and participated in a multi-denominational service. A few short comments from speakers such as First Selectman Linda Hodge followed. Approximately 20 veterans and 30 onlookers attended. Afterwards, the veterans gathered in the Senior Center on 95 Norwich Ave. for refreshments and an opportunity to share memories.

Shiela Lagasse, a Colchester resident for 14 years, attended the service, as she has annually with her son Wayne, now 17. "I feel it's very important to support the veterans and give thanks to everything they've done for this country," Sheila Lagasse said.

*From the Editor's Desk***Observations & Ruminations**

by **Mike Thompson**

No, I still don't like it.

That was my thought after I looked recently at *The Hartford Courant*. It's been about a month and a half now since the *Courant* unveiled its much-heralded new look. I didn't care for the redesign when it was first unveiled, but then I'm not always a big fan of change to begin with, especially when the change doesn't seem particularly warranted. So I decided to give the new-look *Courant* some time, to see if maybe it would grow on me.

I suppose it still could grow on me....but I'm not holding my breath.

The problems with the new *Courant* start on the very front page. In case you haven't seen it by now, the words *Hartford Courant* now run up the left side of the cover, rather than across the top as it always has (and where mast heads usually go). But the problems start even before you get to the *Courant* name. At the top of the cover page (and also at the top of the front page of the other sections of the paper), there is always "Reader Speak," random quotes that readers had posted recently to courant.com. Of course, since the quotes are about stories that have already been published, they're almost always completely unrelated to anything else on the page. (The front page of Wednesday's Living section, for example, contained stories about same-sex weddings and charitable donations, as well as a column about commercials..... and the "Reader Speak" was someone complaining about gas prices.)

The inclusion of these "Reader Speak" items seems like little more than a way to drum up visitors to the paper's website, and that's probably precisely the idea behind them. The new *Courant* is constantly reminding readers, "Hey, look, we've got a website!" (Even the official name of that aforementioned Living section is now "courant.com/CTLiving".) As a friend of mine said to me a few weeks ago, it's like it's 1998 and the *Courant* just discovered this magical thing called the Internet.

One can only hope the "Reader Speak" thing is a novelty that will soon wear off. But it probably won't. I have higher hopes that the lists in the Living section labeled "2Do2Night" and "2Do2Day" will die off or at the very least get renamed. Seeing a professional newspaper – particularly one that still boasts on the cover it's "America's Oldest Continually Published Newspaper" – re-

sort to writing headlines in the style of text messages is sort of like seeing your grandmother trying to rap; it's strange, and a little embarrassing.

If you've picked up the *Courant* since its redesign, you've surely noticed it's a good deal lighter than it used to be. In what's no doubt an effort to cut costs, there are now fewer sections of the paper. This has meant a fair amount of shuffling things around. The business section is now in the front section of the paper. The weather page and the obituaries have been moved to the Living section. (There's something a little odd about death notices in the middle of a section called "CT Living," don't you think?) And some features have been eliminated altogether: Good luck finding the TV listings. Unless you saved the *TV Week* from the Sunday paper, you're out of luck. (I'd suggest consulting *TV Guide*, but they redesigned that once-great magazine a few years back and it's pretty much useless now.)

There's also no Connecticut section anymore. So where's the local news, you ask? In the front section of the paper, there's a hodgepodge of news items (along with plenty of ads) from across the state. Maybe your town's in there, maybe not. And I use the term "news items" for a reason. There seem to be an awful lot of short little news briefs, and not a ton of actual stories with somebody's byline underneath them. (Which, I suppose, is not terribly surprising, given the massive staff cutbacks the *Courant* endured over the summer.)

And that's about it for local news, and that's a shame. The *Courant*, like so many other newspapers out there, seems to be slowly getting away from local news. And local news is really what papers like the *Courant* should do best, as it's the one thing newspapers offer that the Internet doesn't. National news and sports stories abound on the web. You can get your comics on the web too. And as for the opinion section of the newspaper – well, there are blogs all over the web these days. But it's tough to find local news at, say, Yahoo! News or msnbc.com.

I know it's a tough time in the journalism industry. News came just this week that two long-standing daily papers, the *Bristol Press* and the *New Britain Herald*, will fold unless their parent company can find a buyer. But I don't see how a local newspaper getting away from the one thing it offers that's truly unique – and that's local news – will help it survive.

Colchester Residents Lodge Complaints Against Former Business

by **Hannah Charry**

A now-defunct local travel agency is under investigation by the state, after customers have alleged they paid money for trips that were never planned.

Norwich resident Debbie Long's business, Alpha Travel, is now closed and the owner told her clients that she was filing bankruptcy. The travel agency was located on 167 Lebanon Ave.

Colchester resident Dawn Fries said she received a letter from Long dated Friday, Oct. 3, that made it unclear whether Fries would receive a refund for a trip she already paid for. Fries said she lost \$3,799 for a vacation to Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean. The trip was planned for December. Fries alleged that Long had never booked the tickets, but instead cashed the deposit check for herself.

Two other Colchester residents, Linda and Vaughan Long (no relation to Debbie Long), were similarly shocked when they discovered their trip to Belize was never booked. They thought they reserved airline tickets with Debbie Long for a flight in January. The couple planned to stay there for three months to celebrate their recent retirement. Linda Long had worked as an elementary school teacher for 33 years, and her husband was a mechanic. Linda Long said she wanted to have their "trip of a lifetime" in a tropical location where they could still speak English. It would have been their

first extended stay out of the country.

Linda Long said she sent a check for approximately \$700 on Sept. 3, and their bank statements show that the check was cashed on Sept. 10. But the couple at that point still hadn't received any confirmation that the trip was booked. When Vaughan Long went to the Alpha Travel office shortly thereafter, to confirm their arrangements, he found a sign on the door that said the business had filed for bankruptcy. He called the phone number written on the sign, but reached a receptionist for a bankruptcy lawyer, not Debbie Long. Vaughan Long said he received a general statement that the police had been contacted, and there was no indication of receiving a refund.

"We figured we'd been duped," Linda Long said. She said that when her husband went to the former travel office "he looked through the window and all he could see was an empty office with wastebaskets."

Linda Long said she initially decided to use Alpha Travel's services because of the business' convenient location near her own job, and a coworker had recommended it after a successful trip booked with Debbie Long a few years ago.

"It's very frustrating that no one is giving answers," Linda Long said. She is equally concerned for other consumers. "There are other people out there who might not even know that

they were taken advantage of," she said. "They might show up to the airport and find out when they arrive that their tickets were never paid for."

Fries sent a letter to Attorney General Richard Blumenthal's office, hoping for a possible refund. She also sent a letter to the Connecticut Better Business Bureau and Norwich Superior Court.

Connecticut State Police Sergeant Shane Hassett said, "I can tell you, yes, we've received many inquires regarding Alpha Travel closing up business and taking up many deposits on vacations that weren't fulfilled." He added that he remembers four specific people who filed complaints through the State Police, but could not give more information about their names or locations.

Howard Schwartz, a press relations representative for the Better Business Bureau, said two cases have been filed with his organization against Alpha Travel over the past 36 months.

Hassett said it is possible that Debbie Long could be penalized in both civil and criminal courts. For now, authorities are trying to determine which avenue to pursue. He said he could not identify a timeframe for when this decision would be made.

"There are seven or more complaints,"

Blumenthal said. "We are working actively and aggressively to investigate the matter in cooperation with the police. We're seeking the status of consumer deposits on vacations, especially whether the agency took those deposits knowing that it would collapse."

State law does not require travel agents to acquire a license, although their organizations must comply with regulations dictated by the Federal Trade Commission.

"We have seen cases involving businesses that collapse or go into bankruptcy and the question is whether they knew they were going out of business when they made commitments and took consumer money or deposits," Blumenthal said.

"A lot of people expected to get tickets in the mail but no one did," Fries said. "If it's a civil case, I don't think I stand a chance of a refund so now it's just a case of wait and see what they do."

Linda Long said she will be more careful in the future when working with small businesses. "I've learned a couple of things," she said. "[I learned] not to pay with checks, but with a credit card. I learned to get the itinerary before the trip and not to leave without a receipt."

Debbie Long's bankruptcy lawyer, Charles A. Maglieri, did not return calls for comment.

Sparse Turnout for Hebron Charter Hearing

by Sarah McCoy

The Charter Revision Commission held an initial public hearing Wednesday night to garner feedback from residents as to possible changes for the document that drives the town's government. However, the public hearing failed to attract a necessary ingredient – the public.

There were only five residents in attendance, and three of those were already major players in town politics: Town Manager Jared Clark, Town Clerk Carla Pomprowicz, and Board of Selectmen Vice-chair Mark Stuart.

As per the town charter, every five years the town of Hebron must form a Charter Revision Commission (CRC) to evaluate the document that shapes the way Hebron operates.

To begin the process the CRC solicited input from all the town boards and departments as to changes they would like to see made in the document. Wednesday was the first opportunity for residents to give their input. "The charter itself is what drives our town government," CRC member Harvey Desruisseaux said. "It dictates how the town will operate. For instance, should we have one voting district or two? It takes the charter to make those changes."

Hebron resident Mike Harder was in attendance on Wednesday to get clarity on what can be included in the town charter. "I've never paid any attention to the town charter before," he said. "What can be in it? Are there general areas which it oversees?"

CRC chair Karen Strid said the town charter is not about specific policies or ordinances, it's about the structure of government and how it functions. She encouraged anyone interested in having the charter changed express their views in a letter directed towards the CRC.

With limited public in attendance, Clark took the opportunity to express the major problems he sees when working with the charter on a day-to-day basis. Clark said he would like to see town departments have the ability to make transfers within the budget year-round. As it currently stands, they can only make transfers within the last three months of a fiscal year.

"Our goal is to keep positive balances in each account," he said. "For instance, this year we budgeted the exact amount we thought we needed for streetlights this year. However, a group of citizens requested an additional streetlight be installed, causing an overexpenditure of \$1,500. We should be able to transfer that money from someplace where we anticipate a surplus to cover the shortfall in the streetlight account."

Clark said there were approximately 50 transfers made in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

The CRC agreed to meet Wednesday, Jan. 21, with Clark and the boards of selectmen and finance to discuss how the town envisions handling transfers in the future.

The next meeting of the Charter Revision Commission will be held Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. in the Town Office Meeting Room. At that time the commission will begin considering the 27 changes requested by town departments, many of these are housekeeping and grammatical in nature. The public is encouraged to attend this meeting or any future CRC meeting to give their input.

"Last time around, we had a room full of people," Desruisseaux said of his previous tenure on the commission five years ago. "It would be great to see that again."

Price of Road Salt Causes Hebron Budget Issues

by Sarah McCoy

Winter salt is creating a sticky situation in Hebron.

Without a single flake hitting the ground Public Works Director Andy Tierney has found his snow budget \$20,000 in the hole thanks to the rising cost of salt. Every year the cost of running a town goes up, but this year Tierney is livid with the disparity Hebron is facing.

"Everyone across the state expected salt prices to rise," he said. "That's why we budgeted an extra \$20 a ton for this year's budget."

What Tierney didn't expect was the price to rise by over \$35. He's not mad at the prices, although Tierney wouldn't mind seeing them go down. He is livid at the process, which allows Colchester, located mere miles down the road, to purchase salt \$17 cheaper than Hebron.

Last year Hebron paid \$56.30 a ton for salt. This year the town is locked in at \$90.90.

In purchasing salt, the state government divides Connecticut into 26 "not store areas." Each area is put out to bid separately. In 25 of those 26 store areas the winning bids came in between \$67 and \$78. In Store Area No. 139, which includes Andover, Bolton, Columbia, Coventry, Hebron, Mansfield, Somers, Stafford, Tolland, Union, Vernon, and Willington, the winning bid was \$90.90 through Eastern Salt.

Hebron is under contract to purchase at least 450 tons from Eastern, which comes to \$40,900. That's Tierney's entire salt budget but only half of what he needs for an average winter.

"This shouldn't have happened," he said. "They should've tossed the offers out and rebid it."

Dr. Martin Anderson, Deputy Commissioner for the state Department of Administrative Services (DAS), the department responsible for overseeing the contracts, said this was not really considered. "We didn't see any irregulari-

ties in the bidding process," he said. "We had multiple contractors participate. It's an unfortunate situation but that's the lowest anyone came in at. If we threw it out and rebid the district there would be no guarantee we'd get anything better."

Anderson said DAS has been responsible for the salt contracts for at least 13 years. But Tierney said it's more like two or three, with the Department of Transportation being responsible for the contracts prior to that.

Tierney doesn't expect anything to change this year, "but there will be some serious conversations about this before we sign a contract with the state next year," he said.

In the past, Tierney said, he hasn't thought twice about buying salt through the state. With the buying power and safeties in place, Hebron was virtually guaranteed to have salt when they needed it at a good price. Tierney said he will now consider looking to partner with other towns separate from the state process or through the Capital Regional Council of Government (CRCOG).

Tierney used CRCOG to purchase the remainder of the salt he will need for the upcoming winter. Despite being a higher quality salt the final price was still \$10 less a ton.

The Public Works Department makes up \$1.1 million of the town's overall \$32.76 million budget. Tierney couldn't say where his department would make cut backs to compensate for the expected overage in the salt line item. "It's something we'll reevaluate down the road when we know what the winter has in store," he said.

The good news for Hebron is that Tierney had the foresight to stock pile 200 tons of salt from last year when the material was only \$56 a ton. "Beyond that, all I can do is hope for a mild winter," Tierney said.

Hebron Selectmen Vote to Accept Land Trust Open Space

by Sarah McCoy

The Board of Selectmen last week took the next step in obtaining land from the Mohegan Land Trust.

During the 1980s former Planning and Zoning Commission member Chuck Reagan formed the Land Trust as a way of ensuring open space preservation in Hebron. The group is now looking to become users of the land rather than owners.

Last month current Mohegan Land Trust President Bill Drinkuth wrote to Town Manager Jared Clark expressing an interest in turning over the 200-plus acres owned by the Land Trust to the town. "There was no open space program in Hebron when the group started," Drinkuth explained. "Now there is and our group, in some ways, seems redundant."

Additionally thanks to the change in federal requirements to maintain tax exempt status and increase in insurance premiums, owning the land has become an arduous task for the small group of volunteers. "We want to shift our focus to promoting the use of open space," Drinkuth explained.

Last Thursday, the selectmen voted unanimously to accept the donation, subject to the town's attorney finding clear title to the 21 parcels currently owned by the Mohegan Land Trust. After that is established the town will schedule a town meeting on the matter, which Clark expects to happen in January.

The land trust has acquired land through donations and through the subdivision regulations in the town of Hebron that require developers to set aside a certain percentage of the land they are developing to be set aside for open space. According to the assessor's records the Mohegan Land Trust oversees 223.5 acres

across town, many of these are linked to open space parcels the town already owns.

The effect that the transfer of ownership would have on the land, everyone agrees, will be minimal. "Preserving this land would be consistent with the town's policy of preserving and acquiring open space," Clark said. "It wouldn't be any different that the own space we already own."

After a town meeting on the matter the town of Hebron would become owners of the land in question, though, as per stipulations of the donation, the town must keep it as open space. However, Clark said he wouldn't be surprised if the land trust remained involved in the properties.

"I envision some sort of interested group of volunteers formed as oversight to the properties," he said. "I don't want to see the town spend a lot of money on the properties but we need an agent of the town to take an active interest in the property. Maybe that will be the Mohegan Land Trust."

Drinkuth left the door open for that possibility. For the last year the group of seven volunteers has been in discussion about donating the land. However, according to Drinkuth, there has been no talk of disbanding altogether. He said the group plans to hold open space activities and event to promote the use of the open space.

Clark said the selectmen, in their upcoming meetings, will discuss other items that could potentially require a town meeting for final approval. Once the Board of Selectmen has taken action on those items Clark will look to schedule a town meeting for all pending items. He hopes that this will occur by January.

Hebron Students Honor Veterans

by Sarah McCoy

Hebron Elementary School ended the day Monday with a schoolwide assembly honoring veterans. Over 60 veterans were present at the school to experience all the singing and support students could muster at the first annual "Take a Veteran to School Day."

Each month students and staff at HES take time out from reading, writing and arithmetic to focus on a different type of learning. Taking the form of assemblies or recognition ceremonies, students are taught the value of good character.

On Monday, all 700 students – dressed in red, white and blue – packed the gymnasium to honor both the veterans present and those across the country. "The idea was to allow students to authentically recognize the veterans that are part of their every day lives," third-grade teacher and catalyst for the event Christopher Lapsis said.

The vast majority of the veterans in attendance on Monday were relatives of either an HES staff member or student.

Principal Joanne Collins began the ceremony off by leading the school in the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem. Before turning over the microphone she read a letter addressed to all schools from President George W. Bush. In it, Bush asked everyone, "to remember those who did serve, are serving, and those who did not live to become veterans."

Kara Sundlun, a WFSB-Channel 3 news co-anchor and host of that channel's *Better Connecticut*, emceed the ceremony, filling in for coworker Scott Haney, who was forced to bow out with an illness. Sundlun, whose father Bruce served in World War II, introduced several students who each shared a piece of what Veterans Day means.

Sixth grade student Lexi Burgess gave a brief overview of the holiday, which began as Armistice Day in 1918 at the end of World War I. In

1921 the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated on this day and in 1938 the day was recognized as a national holiday. In 1954 the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all men and women who have served their country.

Chris Epps, another sixth grade student, followed Lexi with an explanation of the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a day of remembrance of those who died after serving while Veterans Day is intended to be a day to thank all who've served.

Jeff Hallbach then led the school in a moment of silence before Kelly Whitesell played taps to a silent gymnasium.

To close out the ceremony each grade level and the school's select chorus each sang the official song for the five branches of the U.S. military.

"Veterans Day isn't about politics. It's about service and sacrifice," Lapsis said after Monday's event. "I think it's important to convey that to our students and, by extending invitations to the greater community, we are giving them the opportunity to learn hands-on."

Tammy Sousa and her husband, Tom, are both retired Army veterans. They were in attendance on Monday at the request of their son, Tom, a student at Hebron Elementary. "I was truly moved," Tammy said of the ceremony. "I think it's a wonderful educational experience for student to learn about soldiers and what they do for the country."

On Tuesday, like most schools in the country, Hebron students had a day off from school. Lapsis hoped that everyone, staff and students alike, would recognize that Veterans Day is more than just a day off from school and work. "It's an opportunity to thank the people that have given us everything," he said.

Marlborough Finance Board Begins Budget Talks

by Hannah Charry

The Board of Finance (BOF) held its first preliminary discussion for the upcoming 2009-10 budget cycle on Wednesday, Nov. 12, a process that board vice chair Elizabeth Petroni said was sure to be a "delicate dance."

This year will have to include some compromises, the board concluded, with streamlining town departments in light of widespread economic woes for small towns across the state and nation. They anticipated cutting back on waste and asking for greater accountability on capital requests.

The most pressing piece on the agenda concerned funding for the asbestos abatement and encapsulation project in Town Hall. Funding to replace worn carpeting throughout the building was secured during the 2007-08 fiscal year. In May, First Selectman Bill Black invited the Connecticut Department of Labor's Division of Occupational Safety and Health. CONN-OSHA completed a more thorough inspection to revisit an asbestos problem that was uncovered during the original 1983 renovation of Town Hall. The CONN-OSHA report, dated Aug. 21, found several serious areas of concern that should be addressed by today, Nov. 14, although

no penalties or fines are issued if left untouched.

The BOF first discussed a summary sheet of needs for the project on Sept. 4, but did not receive the full CONN-OSHA report as requested until this week.

On Oct. 21, Black and the Board of Selectmen (BOS) moved forward to approve an emergency appropriation of \$10,000, which was secured through a provision in the Town Charter, to help cover costs (the project totaled \$22,500). The selectmen needed the BOF to officially approve the additional \$12,500 for the project at Wednesday's meeting.

And while the BOF did approve this amount, board members expressed concerns that they were bypassed in the decision-making process.

"The work was put ahead of our approval," finance board member Pasquale Amodeo said. "Obviously there's a white elephant in the room," he said of the encumbered sum, "even though the public didn't vote for it. It shows that we can be rendered powerless in making a decision."

BOF secretary Evelyn Godbout voted for the amount because "we don't have a choice at this point." But, she added, "At this point I don't

feel that money should have been encumbered."

Also at Wednesday's meeting, finance board members said they needed more thorough expense reports from town departments in order to prepare the 2009-10 town budget. "I think in some cases we haven't gotten the appropriate amount of detail," BOF member Dan McMahon said.

"If we are looking at substantially reducing the budget or holding it at the current spending level," Petroni said, "I would sustain discussion regarding what programs we need to get rid of."

But, BOF chair Catherine Gaudinski added, "There are not many programs to cut in this town."

Some major long-term town renovation projects that are currently underway are already paid for. The Town Center project started in late October. It will reconfigure Jones Hollow Road and the Town Hall parking lot to account for a new green. The expected completion date is May 2009 and costs \$900,000, which has already been accounted for by state grants. An additional \$275,000 in grant money has been allotted for sidewalk installation.

A 20-year plan calls for a new 100-acre business park that will include projected accommodations for new healthcare, distribution and service industries.

"Public works contracts are now being negotiated," Gaudinski said, with drafts of the park to be completed by the end of the year.

Pasquale suggested, though, that the finance board should focus more on short-term needs than long-term items like the business park.

"Maybe [the business park] isn't such a great idea right now," he said.

The BOF Wednesday also moved forward with the creation of an Audit Committee, which will be a three-person subcommittee of the finance board.

"We will set the tone for our goal setting and help with some of the responsibilities we have as a whole," McMahon said. The Audit Committee will meet again on Wednesday, Dec. 3, to continue preparation for the busy budget season.

The next full BOF meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m., in the conference room of the elementary school, 25 School Dr.

Marlborough Residents Collecting Used Cell Phones for Soldiers Overseas

by Hannah Charry

A local collection drive is connecting Marlborough to the Middle East and beyond.

A month ago, Town Hall administrative specialist Darlene Crowley noticed a box of old cell phones in her office. Rather than throw them away, she researched online for an environmentally sound method of disposal. She found a program called Cell Phones for Soldiers. It is a national nonprofit organization that takes money raised from recycled cell phones to buy prepaid phone cards. These cards are then sent to soldiers stationed around the world so that they can save money to call home.

Crowley comes from a family tradition of dedication to the military. Her father served during World War II and her brother, George Dunn, fought in Vietnam. So she knows how important it is for people to stay in touch with loved ones overseas. "You're afraid for their safety," she said. "Although I appreciate letters, I enjoy hearing their voice. To be able to hear their voice is a lot better. When they call home and can talk to their wife, kids, and mother it's a lot different than getting a letter three weeks after things have happened."

Crowley said that, when he was in Vietnam, it cost her brother about \$50 per minute to call family in America. His son, Matthew Dunn, is a Navy Seal currently stationed overseas (he isn't allowed to disclose his location), and isn't able to keep in touch with his family as much as he would like.

"It's so hard to keep in touch with Matthew," Crowley said. "We only heard from him a few times a year" because the price of calling home was so high. "It's so hard for the families when their soldiers are overseas, going through the anxiety of worrying about them and not having them home and helping with everyday decisions," Crowley said.

Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded in 2004 by two teenage siblings, Brittany and Robbie Bergquist. When they read that a soldier in the Army Reserve was charged \$7,600 in phone bills to call home from Iraq, they decided to help. The teenagers donated their personal savings and held a car wash to help him pay.

After their initial contribution, the Bergquists started Cell Phones for Soldiers in

collaboration with ReCellular, a Michigan-based recycling program. On average, ReCellular provides an hour calling card per donated phone, but the original price of the phone, model, age, and working condition can affect the amount of time on the card.

It's been about a month since Crowley started the Marlborough drive for Cell Phones for Soldiers, and she said it's been successful.

"I think it's doing really well," she said. "To send over 22 pounds of old cell phones already, that's not too bad. It's good for the town to recycle. As long as the nonprofit organization is in existence I think we should keep doing it."

There are four places in town for residents to drop off their used phones: Town Hall, located at 26 North Main St.; the Transfer Station, 76 Quinn Rd.; the Senior Center, 17 School Dr.; and Richmond Memorial Library, 15 School Dr.

"This program is amazing because it's so grassroots," Monte Doran, a ReCellular representative, said. "We're literally collecting from across the country."

Cell Phones for Soldiers reports raising almost \$1 million in donations so far and has distributed more than 400,000 prepaid calling cards. There are 3,000 collection sites across the nation. Anyone can start a local chapter of the organization as long they first register online.

"It's unbelievable," Crowley said, of the wide variety of age groups and individuals who have already contributed over the past month.

Resident Kenneth Hjulstrom is supportive of the drive and hopes that word spreads. His son Justin, 25, served in a military police department in Germany from 2005-07. Justin has completed his commitment to the National Guard and is now in the process of applying to the Hartford Police Academy to be closer to home.

"I think it's a great program," Hjulstrom said. "Anything you do to support the troops is important. Their families are trying to get through the financial challenges of having their husbands abroad, so I think this is a great effort. It is something that could increase communication with families."

Propane Discussion On Tap for Next Week in Portland

by Michael McCoy

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) will hold a special hearing next week on the proposed propane depot that has caused so much consternation among residents.

The matter was to be discussed at the PZC's Oct. 16 meeting. However, the proposal had generated so much interest among residents, the commission decided to postpone the meeting, and instead hold a special hearing at a later date, devoted exclusively to the project.

That hearing will take place next Thursday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Portland High School, 95 High St.

Technically, the matter involves two separate applications, both filed by Bruce and Kenneth Woronoff, on property owned by Gospel Lane Properties LLC. (The Woronoffs own Gospel Lane Properties.) The applications, which total 16.26 acres on four parcels, are for special permits to construct a bulk propane storage and distribution facility. (One application involves two parcels of land at 34 Gospel Ln. The other involves two parcels on William Street Extension. The proposed facility would be spread over all four parcels.)

The applicants seek to put three 30,000-gallon aboveground tanks on the Gospel Lane property, and then another three 30,000-gallon

aboveground tanks on the William Street Extension property. The properties are located in the IP (Planned Industrial) zone. In May, the PZC passed a text amendment, which effectively permits the sale and distribution of petroleum products in such zones. That application was also filed by Gospel Lane Properties.

Early last month, 14 local households banned together to form Portland Residents Opposed to Propane (PROP). They enlisted the help of attorney Michael Dowley of Middletown.

The group filed for intervenor status in October, and intends to sue should the PZC approve the application.

The PZC special meeting begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 20 in the Portland High School cafeteria. Planning and Land Use Administrator Deanna Rhodes said that for legal reasons, the two applications must be heard separately. And while she said the Gospel Lane application would undoubtedly be heard next Thursday, there was a possibility the William Street Extension application might not even be opened if comment on the first goes late into the night.

Regardless, Rhodes said the PZC will not rule on the application until at least December, and most likely sometime in early 2009.

Water Test Next Week Crucial to Belltown Place

by Michael McCoy

The matter of Belltown Place, the controversial development that was shot down by the town in June, is in a sort of limbo for now – but a water test next week could prove to be a major development for the project.

One year ago, Glastonbury-based Pelletier Development Company submitted an application to build 127 dwellings on a 24.4-acre parcel on South Main Street. From February to April, the application went to a number of hearings with the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Agency (IWWA) and the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC). These hearings went well into the night and consistently drew in excess of 100 people.

On May 28, the IWWA unanimously approved the project, but then a week later PZC unanimously rejected it.

Two weeks after PZC's decision, Pelletier Development filed an appeal, accusing the PZC of being without sufficient justification for its action, calling it "not supported by the weight of evidence." It also alleged that the commission's decision had "a substantial adverse impact upon the availability of affordable housing" in East Hampton.

PZC chair Mark Philhower has said he stands behind the decision, and said the developers "refused to show that they could provide adequate water development."

The matter went to a pretrial conference in New Britain last month, where a settlement was sought. Though no agreement was reached, another such conference is likely.

Pelletier has also attempted to strip South Main Environmental Trust (SMET) of its intervenor status through a "motion to strike." SMET is a group of citizens, many of them living in the neighborhood of the proposed development, who have banded together to oppose Belltown Place. They also enlisted the help of attorney Keith Ainsworth.

Ainsworth said Pelletier's reasons for the motion were two-fold. First, Pelletier said that affordable housing is a public health concern, which trumps any environmental health concerns. However, Ainsworth said environmental health *is* public health, if for no other reason than that drinking water is affected by the environment, and drinking water a public health issue.

The other reason simply alleged that SMET did not give sufficient reasons for their actions.

Because SMET has registered as official intervenors, the trust must agree to any settlement between the town and the developer before it is valid. The court has not yet ruled on this.

Ainsworth expected the ruling to come in this week. Though he said, "I'm not terribly concerned," he added, "I won't say it's a done deal yet."

Belltown's appeal also criticized Chatham Health District director Thad King's "refusal to allow the drilling of sufficient exploratory wells deprived the plaintiffs of the opportunity to present a modified application," and therefore not fully allowing them to address concerns of an inadequate water supply.

Next week, Belltown Place will get that chance. For 120 hours, Milone and MacBroom, an engineering, landscape architecture and environmental science firm will conduct an aquifer stress test on the property.

David Murphy, Milone project manager for the test, explained pumps will be installed in five of the six wells on the Pelletier property. Murphy was unsure exactly when the tests will begin, other than that it will be sometime next week. Regardless of the start date, the wells will pump for 120 continuous hours, while two technicians from the firm monitor the effect on private neighboring wells.

Murphy said on Monday the firm mailed out 90 letters, which covers all households within a 2,000-foot radius from the site. The letters alert residents of the test and invite them to monitor their personal wells.

When asked if he had any predictions, Murphy responded, "No. We've been recruited to be very independent," and simply called the test a "fact-finding mission."

Murphy said the firm typically performs about four of these tests per year, primarily between the month of July and November, when "ground water levels are a little bit lower," but before freezing temperature can get in the way.

Though the test was the town's idea, Pelletier will foot the \$42,500 bill.

During Wednesday's Town Council meeting, council chair Melissa Engel called determining just how much water is available and how its retrieval will effect neighboring residents

"the piece of information we all need." She said the test is "the missing link to the entire development question."

When asked about the test this week, Ainsworth said, "More information is always good," and added, "I'm sure my clients will be participating with the well monitoring." He also said of the test, "It's a very sensible thing that should have been done before the application was filed."

Pelletier attorney Mark Branse denied comment.

The Town Council and Pelletier finalized the test agreement on Nov. 3. Public Utilities Administrator Vincent Susco said that both sides agreed that the test results will be binding. This means that if Milone and MacBroom say the results will support 127 units, the development will go forward.

The result will be less clear the lower that number is. For instance, if the firm declares that the wells will support 60 units, then Pelletier may build no more than that and the town must allow no less. However, Pelletier could decide the project is no longer viable if the number is low enough.

Ainsworth said that SMET has not signed off on the agreement, and that the results will not be binding until they do. Ainsworth said, though, that SMET was close to signing, but is awaiting the ruling on intervenor status, which he expected soon. However, he added that Pelletier has the right to perform the test without intervenor permission.

Devine's Jewelers Marks Thirty Years in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

Devine's Jewelers, East Hampton's lone jewelry store, is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Bill Devine, 65, a current Town Council member, opened the shop Nov. 15, 1978. And even though he was only 35 at that time, Devine had still led quite the life. The Boston native dropped out of high school in 1961, but managed to secure a deal with his principal that would land him his diploma should he serve four years in the military.

So, from 1961-65, Devine served in the United States Air Force as a mechanic. This included working on B-52 Bombers, sleeping under nuclear bombs, and taking part in a reconnaissance mission to Spain during the Cuban Missile Crisis. At the end of four years, Devine was honorably discharged, and he remembered, "There weren't too many jobs in '65," even for a guy fresh out of the service.

Furthermore, though Devine's old principal made good on his word, it took about six months for his diploma to be processed. So, while he waited, he landed a job selling shoes for Florsheim. However, Devine said selling shoes to men was not his cup of tea (though selling to women would have been a different story, he quipped), and he soon applied for a job at a jewelry store, cleaning the store's silver.

While he wasn't hired as a salesman, one day, while the store's owner was out, a soldier came in looking for a diamond ring for his girlfriend. Devine said he would have to come back a little later when the owner returned. But the guy said he didn't have time to wait, since he was being deployed to Vietnam that night and planned to propose immediately.

Curious about the business of selling jewelry, Devine had been spending his lunch breaks pretending to be shopping for jewelry at other stores in town to observe the salesmen. He had also, of course, listened to his boss sell jewelry. So, with this informal schooling, Devine made his very first sale, to that soldier: a one-half carat ring for \$250.

Devine spent the better part of the next decade working for jewelers in and around Boston. In 1975, he got a job with Bulova, a watch manufacturer, selling to all Connecticut retailers except Hartford and Fairfield counties. His sole source of pay was four percent of the profit for goods he sold.

After he got the job, he moved to Connecticut, and he and his wife Ann (the two married in 1972; their daughter Kerri is currently a sophomore at Central Connecticut State University) settled in Marlborough. He lived there for three years, before moving to East Hampton in 1978 he purchased Clark's Corner Store, located at the corner of North Main Street and Summit Street. He immediately renamed the store's jewelry counter "Devine's Jewelers," and eventually phased out the store's other offerings, which ranged from general goods to appliances to furniture. Devine figured, "I know about jewelry," but had little interest in selling the other items.

Things have changed somewhat since 1978, and not just the location. (Devine is now located at 4 Summit St.) "The marketing aspect has changed drastically," Devine said. Back then, more people worked in town and pedestrian traffic was heavier. Today people work out of town, and depend more on large chain stores located in malls. Jewelry sales also take place via catalogues, cable television shopping channels and the Internet.

According to Devine, 95 percent of his business consists of repeat customers, many of who have been coming for 20 or 30 years. And, Devine boasted, he sells jewelry to "98 percent of the people who come to my store," which he takes to mean that those who come into Devine's Jewelers have a hard time not finding something they like.

"They want quality, and they want to trust you," Devine said of his customers.

When Devine bought the store, his entire inventory consisted of 12 Bulova watches, six wedding rings and two engagement rings. Today Devine's offers virtually anything that shines, including earrings, pendants, small and large diamonds, gold, silver, platinum and valuable antiques. Other than sales, the business performs watch and jewelry repair, watch battery replacements, engraving and stone settings. There's really no jewelry need the store cannot accommodate, Devine said. And if a customer is looking for a particular item not in stock, Devine said, he can get it within a few days.

Devine also buys old and scrap gold as well as estate jewelry.

Devine said his store carries items ranging



Devine's Jewelers is celebrating its 30th year in business this month. Owner Bill Devine, right, is shown here with his assistant, Sheila Kiely, said.

from \$10 all the way up to \$20,000, ranging "from conservative stuff to high fashion." Devine's also carries items that are virtually one of a kind, as well as a creation of his very own, aptly called, "A Devine Creation." The piece consists of lava beads on an 18-carat gold chain.

Though Devine's clientele reaches far beyond East Hampton (even Texans have been known to shop at the store), his Belltown base seems particularly fond of him. Nikki O'Neill (wife of late governor William O'Neill) said she used to go into Devine's around Christmastime and pick out a piece she fancied. "That's how I got to know him," she said of Devine. When her husband would come in, Devine would steer him toward the piece she had selected and everybody won.

"That's part of the game," O'Neill laughed.

Devine, O'Neill said, is "honest, which is of course very important in that type of business.

If he says it's silver, it's silver. If he says it's gold, it's gold."

O'Neill said Devine is "well-liked and respected by everyone in the town" and added, "He's just a plain old good guy."

During Devine's Jewelers 30 years of operation, five jewelry stores have opened in town – and all five have failed. Today, Devine's is a two-person operation. For the past four years, East Hampton native Sheila Kiely has worked as Devine's assistant.

Starting tomorrow, Saturday, Nov. 15, Devine's Jewelers is offering "30 days of 30 percent off," which applies to every piece of merchandise in the store.

Devine's Jewelers is located at 4 Summit St. It's open Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call the store at 267-4492 or visit www.devinesjewelers.com.

Nine-Hour Standoff Ends in East Hampton Man's Death

by Michael McCoy

A standoff with an East Hampton man stretched from Wednesday afternoon to early Thursday morning, before ending with the man's suicide, East Hampton Police said.

Police said that, at about 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, they received a report of a suicidal man with a gun held up in a second-floor bedroom at 41 Main St. Police said the incident was called in by the man's roommate. East Hampton Police Chief Matthew Reimondo said officers immediately secured the scene and evacuated the man's roommate and her daughter from the upstairs apartment and one woman from the downstairs apartment.

Efforts to establish communication with the man were not successful, since there was no phone in the residence, Reimondo said. So, the Capital Region Response Team from West Hartford arrived with an armored vehicle that carried a public address system. Through this, Reimondo said, police instructed the man to do things like turn on a light or open a blind. However, he stopped responding to instruction just after 9 p.m., Reimondo said.

The Middletown Police Emergency Response Team was summoned to assist, police said, but continued efforts to negotiate

did not gain any response from the man. Insertion of tear gas did not create any reaction from the man, which, Reimondo said, left police expecting the worst. Police forced entry into the home and found the man dead, the result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound at about 12:15 a.m.

Police said the man was 44 years old and from East Hampton.

Reimondo said police personnel were at the scene until about 6 a.m. Thursday. Reimondo figured that at the height of the standoff about 10 East Hampton officers and 35 total law enforcement personnel were at the scene. During the standoff, Reimondo said, Main Street was closed off from Route 66 to Barton Hill Road (though people who had to use the road to access their homes were allowed through.)

Though police did not enter the home until just after midnight, Reimondo commented that "we had the building surrounded," from the onset of the standoff. "There's no reason to rush a situation like that," Reimondo said, and added that attempting to "talk him out" is the most sensible option.

Investigation is ongoing, and the police still await autopsy results from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Farmington, Reimondo said.

Colchester Police News

11/4-Maria Fiasconaro of 202 Scott Rd., Willimantic, turned herself in on a charge of second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

11/5-Steven K. Hammerly, 30, of 4 Cherry Swamp Rd., Moodus, turned himself in on a charge of second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

11/5- Kate A. Cocomo, 21, of 208 Meeting House Ln., Middletown, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

11/5-Sandra Lynn Schlough of 47 Russell Rd., Norwich, was charged with fifth-degree larceny after she was caught shoplifting at the Colchester Stop & Shop, State Police said.

11/6-Amanda L. Poland, 22, of 135 Smith Rd., East Haddam, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

11/9-Keith Christianson, 28, of Windham Road, Willimantic, turned himself in on a charge of fifth-degree larceny, State Police said.

Andover Police News

10/18- Joseph Golino, 55, of 1 Cubles Dr., Vernon, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

10/20- Ryan Malek, 22, 8 Kingsley Dr., was charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct and third-degree strangulation after an argument with his girlfriend became physical, State Police said.

10/26- Samuel Sauvas, 43, of 5 Butternut Ln., Newington, was charged with breach of peace and interfering with police, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

10/16- Nancy A. Derda-Laflamme, 47, of 331 W. Road, Colchester, was charged with breach of peace and capability of causing injury to a minor, State Police said.

10/16- Louis Stone, 52, of 21 Kelsey Place, was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

11/3- Tanya Jukusowski, 37, of 6 Samuel Hill Rd., Colchester, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

Portland Police News

11/6 — Thomas McArthur, 27, of 47 Airline Ave., was charged with first-degree failure to appear and second-degree failure to appear, Portland Police said.

11/6 — Matthew Czernicki, 31, of 513 Main St., was charged with DUI, police said.

Marlborough Police News

10/31- David P. Lubbers, 53, of 14 Clark Hill Rd., Colchester, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

10/14- Tony Tee, 33, of 217 East High St., East Hampton was charged with violation of a protective order, State Police said.

Obituaries

Portland

Marion Catherine Flood

Marion Catherine Flood, 91, of William St., Portland, died Thursday, Nov. 6, in Portland. Born in Portland, May 10, 1917, a daughter of the late Thomas C. and Anna Ahern Flood, she was a life-long Portland resident.

She was a graduate of Portland High School, Albertus Magnus College and the Cambridge Secretarial School and had been employed in the Pathology Department of Middlesex Hospital for 40 years until her retirement in 1977. She was a member of the Portland Democratic Town Committee and had served as vice chairman. She also was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Connecticut Valley Hospital and Middlesex Hospital Auxiliary, the Brownstone Chapter of AARP in Portland, the Friends of the Portland Library.

She also was a volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program as well as the American Red Cross. She was a poll worker for many years for which she was honored by the Secretary of State. She was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary and was a member of the Ladies Guild as well as a member of the Council of Catholic Women.

She is survived by her nieces and nephews, Thomas W. Flood, Timothy C. Flood, Michael E. Flood, Mary H. Flood, all of Portland, Katharine Sandalls, of Weston, MA, Ellin Murphy of Allston, MA, Patrick G. Flood of East Calais, VT, William C. Flood of Queen Creek, AZ, Elizabeth C. Flood of Manchester, Joseph S. Flood of Guilford; 20 grandnieces and grandnephews and 10 great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews.

She was predeceased by her brother Thomas W. Flood, her nephew John Flood, and her grand-nephew Benjamin Sandalls.

Her family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home 231 Main St., Portland, Tuesday, Nov. 11. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Nov. 12, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home and then in the Church of Saint Mary, where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated. Interment followed in St. Mary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Marion's memory may be sent to the Church of Saint Mary 51 Free-stone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

For directions, or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit www.portlandmemorialfh.net.

East Hampton

Alberta Ethel Dickerson

Alberta Ethel (Marks) Dickerson, 84, of East Hampton, widow of Clark C. Dickerson, died Saturday, Nov. 8, at Wadsworth Glen in Middletown. Born May 21, 1924, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late George and Ethel Marks.

She had worked at Standard Knapp as a machinist before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps., in 1944 at the age of 20. She proudly served her country as a sergeant in the Marine Corp during World War II. After being honorably discharged from the military she returned to her job at Standard Knapp. Alberta was a member of the United Methodist Church of Portland, and was a member of the East Hampton VFW Fowler Dix Park Post. She also enjoyed target shooting with her pistol.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Clark and Joyce Dickerson of Glendale, AZ; a daughter and son-in-law, Pamela and Brian Welch of Englewood FL; a sister and her husband, Barbara and Ernie Rego of Florida; four grandchildren, Colleen and her husband Gregory McKirryher, Clark Dickerson and his wife Shannon, Andrew Dickerson, and Keith Dickerson; and a great-grandson, Cole.

A graveside service with military honors in the State Veterans Cemetery will be held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to United Methodist Church of Portland, P.O. Box 459, Portland, CT 06480 or Women's Memorial Dept. 56 Washington DC 20042-0560. To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Annette Hill Rea

Annette Hill Rea of Jamesville, NY, formerly of East Hampton, passed away peacefully Oct. 25, with her daughters and several other family members at her side.

Annette was born Jan. 29, 1928, in East Hampton, to Wyman and Barbara Hill. She was born and brought up in East Hampton. After graduating from East Hampton High School she attended Colby Junior College where she was given the nickname "Bunkie." After graduation she then attended and graduated from Syracuse University where she was a member of Alpha Phi sorority.

Annette's first husband and father of her three children was George R. Lindemer. Subsequently, Annette married Dr. Oscar Oberlander and they lived in Parish, NY. In 1997 Annette married retired Colonel Everett Rea and they lived in Syracuse.

Annette was predeceased by her husbands, her older sister Catherine H. Feist and her grandson Mark Becker.

Annette was a cherished mother, grandmother, great grandmother wife and friend to many and her sunny disposition and optimism were contagious characteristics. There was gentleness in Annette that caused everyone to enjoy her presence. She enjoyed taking pictures during her many trips, water aerobics and almost any activity that brought family and friends together. She also enjoyed being near water in the Thousand Islands and Skaneateles Lake. She also enjoyed her coming home to East Hampton where she grew up.

Annette is survived by her children, Betsy and her husband Rick Powers of Cazenovia, NY, Geoffrey and his wife Deborah of Stowe, VT, and Annette and her husband Dr. Peter Becker of Fayetteville. Annette is also survived by grandsons Aaron Powers, Brian and Eric Becker and Matthew Lindemer, great-granddaughter Alexandra Powers nephews Larry and David Lindemer and George Feist, niece Barbara Sargent, stepdaughters Elizabeth Mertens, stepson Will Rea and many others in her extended family.

Calling hours were held Thursday, Oct. 30, at the Eaton Tubbs Schepp Funeral Home, 7191 East Genesee St., Fayetteville, NY. A memorial service was held at the Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church Friday, Oct. 31, on Jamesville Road, Jamesville, NY.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church or an organization of choice that honors the love and generosity evident throughout Annette's life.

Marlborough

Helen B. Synder

Helen B. (Hinchcliffe) Synder, 92, passed away Monday, Nov. 10, at Marlborough Health Care Center. She was the wife of the late Phillip Snyder.

Born in New Britain, she was the daughter of William and Gertrude (Heslin) Hinchcliffe. She leaves behind a son, William Snyder and his wife Patricia of Coventry; two daughters, Mrs. Lawrence Mundell (Phyllis) of Newington, Mrs. Richard Champion (Margaret) of Florida; six grandchildren, Phyllis Stumberg, Kimberly Cicerchia, Maribeth Kavajian, Cheryl Champion, Michael Mundell, Richard Champion; seven great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her sister, Gertrude Hinchcliffe.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at the Church of the Incarnation, 544 Prospect St., Wethersfield on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 10 a.m. Burial will follow in the Rose Hill Memorial Park in Rocky Hill. Family and friends may call at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill, today, Friday, Nov. 14, from 4-7 p.m.

The family would like to thank the staff at Marlborough Health Care Center for their care and compassion. Everyone is asked to meet directly at the church on Saturday.

Marlborough

Ingrid S. Abel

Ingrid S. Abel, 66, of Marlborough, has passed on to join her beloved late husband, Peter Abel, and daughter, Corina Abel DiBacco on Nov. 8. Ingrid loved to garden, read, and spend time with her five beautiful grandchildren.

Ingrid is survived by her daughter Andrea and her husband Todd Bourdon, son Alexander, brother Paul Kunz and his wife Mary, son-in-law Frank Dibacco, and her five grandchildren, Samantha, Christopher, Zachary, Nicole, and Joseph DiBacco.

Memories of Ingrid will be lovingly cherished by her friends and family.

Services will be held in private. Her family asks that those who knew Ingrid remember her through pleasant thoughts and memories as she had wanted her passing to be a celebration of life.

Portland

Ethel Koch Kelly

Ethel Koch Kelly, 98, of Gloria Heights, Portland, died Monday, Nov. 10, at Middlesex Hospital. She was the wife of the late John Kelly.

Born in New York, NY, Feb. 1, 1910, a daughter of the late Martin F. and Ellen Milby Koch, she was a Portland resident for several years. She had been employed by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad for many years until her retirement and had been active in the USO during World War II. She was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church.

She is survived by her nephew Richard Murphy and his wife Carol, of Portland with whom she made her home; her nieces Jacqueline Larson and her husband Rolf of Long Island, NY, and Edith Sofoul of Bonita Springs, FL; and her grandnephews David S. Murphy and his wife Mary and Craig R. Murphy and his wife Pauline.

A memorial service will be celebrated Saturday, Nov. 22, at 11 a.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland. A reception will follow in the Church Hall. There are no calling hours. Arrangements are under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

East Hampton

Cindy L. Bach

Cindy L. (Miller) Bach, beloved mother, sister and wife, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Nov. 8 at Teton Valley Hospital in Driggs, ID, due to complications from pneumonia. She was 55 years old.

She is survived by her husband John Bach of Driggs, ID; daughters Montria Hospod of Jackson, WY and Mikki Oliveira of West Hartford; sister and brother Nancy Sowle and Edward Cunningham of Connecticut; and sister and brother Evelyn Relay and Eugene Cunningham of Maine; along with three wonderful grandchildren, Samantha, Tyler and Isabella, whom she cherished. She is predeceased by her mother and father, Helen and Cecil Sowle, and brother, Charles Sowle. She previously resided in East Hampton and Glastonbury for many years.

She enjoyed spending time with her husband children and grandchildren, gardening, fishing, and antiquing.

Cindy will be deeply missed by her family and the many friends she had all around the country.