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Colchester First Selectman Linda Hodge, right, shakes the hand of developer Steve Darley after Wednesday's ribbon-cutting ceremony at Amston Village, the town's newest residential community for seniors.

Senior Housing Community Opens in Colchester

by Kristina Histen

Colchester First Selectman Linda Hodge took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday morning to commemorate the official opening of Amston Village, the town's newest residential community for seniors.

Amston Village is located at the junction of Route 85 and Old Amston Road, and offers new apartment rental opportunities for people 55 and older. The development consists of 32 one- and two-bedroom garden-style apartments in four one-story wood frame buildings. A central community building on the property contains a large meeting room and laundry facility.

Due to Amston Village's location, tenants can find several services and shopping opportunities nearby. The Colchester Senior Center and a public golf course, for example, are within two miles, and free transportation is available on request.

"Amston Village will provide much-needed affordable rental housing for seniors," Hodge said. "It is a pleasure to add something that our community needs while adding a look and feel that matches

the culture of Colchester."

Hodge also expressed thanks to the state Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) "for its financial support of various projects, including Amston Village."

Thomas Cicalone of the DECD called Amston Village "a beautiful project and money well spent." He added that the development "is a shining example of a working partnership between state agencies and private developers to produce quality affordable housing."

For the project, DECD provided \$3 million from the state HOME funds, \$500,000 from the newly-created Housing Trust Fund, and also provided the land to the developer, Amston Village Limited Partnership, for \$1.00.

Timothy Coppage, Vice President of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), said his organization's mission is to provide financing for affordable rental housing such as Amston Village, in addition to CHFA's single-family mortgage program. CHFA provided \$3.3 million in mortgage financing as well as an alloca-

tion of low-income housing tax credits for the development.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) distributed federal funds to the state HOME program, which in turn were provided for the Amston Village development.

"We invest in good partners," Julie Fagan, Field Office Director of HUD, said. "We invest because there is a great need for seniors and working families. We invest because of a good vision at a local level. That vision can clearly be seen at what you've done here today. Seniors are a great generation and we need to give back to them."

Steve Darley, representing Amston Village Limited Partnership, expressed particular appreciation to State Representative Linda Orange (who was not present) for supporting legislation that authorized sale of the land to the nonprofit developer. He also said the involvement of DECD, CHFA, and the Boston Capital Corporation were vital to the success of Amston Village.

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Amston Village construction began in December 2006, and while it's been completed, there still is a punch list of work that needs to be done, however, and a wait for certain agencies to come through, Darley said. Move-in was anticipated for March 1, but it looks as though that will be pushed back a bit because things are being worked on the Certificate of Occupancy.

Tenants for six apartment homes have been approved and 16 or 18 are being processed now, and Darley believes that within six months the majority of the complex will be filled.

Among the approved tenants are Beverly and Bob Winter, who were also in attendance at the ceremony. They live about three miles up the road and watched the progress of the development as they drove by every Sunday on their way to church. They finally applied last December.

"We are so anxious to get into a new home," Beverly said. "The price is right, and it is really lovely here. We are very happy, and we haven't even moved in yet!"

Prospective tenants seem to fall into three general categories, Christine Firth, Marketing Specialist for Amston Village, said: seniors who already live in apartments and want to make a change; those who are downsizing and are selling or have sold their homes; and those who are relocating to be closer to family in the

greater Colchester area. Amston Village is targeted for low and moderate-income seniors, she said. The federally-established rents range from \$578 to \$852, typically below market rents in the area, Firth said, and they are available for seniors under 60 percent of the area median income.

The common reason for selling homes seems to be to cut back on costs and the need for the convenience of living on one level, Firth said; most can't afford to heat a whole house and it is too difficult to go up and down stairs, she said.

"Regardless of their reason for wanting to relocate, Amston Village represents an affordable solution as most other financially assisted apartments for seniors in central eastern Connecticut are on a wait-list basis," Firth said.

Firth said an elderly woman came in with her daughter to look at one of the units a few weeks ago. Throughout the showing, the woman had her hand over her eyes and her head rolled back, and Firth was worried that she was going to faint. She then turned and said to Firth, "To think that I could spend my last days in something as lovely as this."

The project is still accepting applications and anyone interested should come to the Community Building between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday, or call 537-0863.

Colchester Schools Get Grant to Aid Security

by Kristina Histen

A recently-awarded state grant will be used to help improve security at the middle and high schools, Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle has announced.

Loiselle said Colchester Public Schools has received a \$37,153 grant to improve the security systems at Bacon Academy and William J. Johnston Middle School.

"We were pleased to be selected for competitive funding," she said.

The competitive grant was written by Director of Facilities Gregory Plunkett, and was awarded by the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security based on needs presented through the application process. The needs were identified as the result of a security audit performed by school officials and School Resource Officer Fred Briger, Loiselle said. She said Colchester received the award because the school system had an updated crisis plan in place.

Loiselle said she was appreciative of Plunkett's expertise and initiative to write the grant.

"We in Colchester rely heavily on competitive grants to move forward in many key areas," Loiselle said.

The award, combined with funds budgeted in this year, will allow the school system to purchase \$54,000 of security equipment for the two schools.

Additional equipment will allow better surveillance both outside and inside the buildings during and after school hours, but Loiselle was careful to avoid specifics so that the vulnerabilities at the schools were not pointed out. There will be purchasing of more surveillance and sensing equipment along with other technologies to have an even more secure high school and middle school, she said.

The school system was notified at the end of January about receiving the award, and the funds were transferred over electronically, she said. The school system is in the process of securing quotes for the necessary equipment, Loiselle said, and it is expected that the new security measures will be in place by April 2008.

Hartford Man Killed on Route 6 in Andover

by Sarah McCoy

A Hartford man was killed in a two-car accident on Route 6 last Saturday, and the death led Andover's state representative to question what can be done about the dangerous stretch of road.

According to state police, Hector Rodriguez, 44, of 106 Victoria St., Hartford, was traveling westbound on Route 6 in Andover just before 3 p.m. last Saturday when his 1997 Ford Escort swerved into the eastbound lane, striking Joanne Torres of Berkley, MA, and two passengers. Police said the accident occurred just west of the Parker Bridge.

The impact forced Torres' 2002 Dodge Ram to the right shoulder, police said, while Rodriguez's car spun 180 degrees, resting on the center lane of the busy road.

Emergency personnel from Andover and neighboring towns responded to the call. Torres and her two passengers, Grace and Michael Wilkinson, both of Barrington, RI, were all transported to Hartford Hospital for non-life threatening injuries. Torres was treated for a broken ankle. All three have since been released.

Rodriguez was taken via Lifestar to St. Francis Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Also in Torres' car at the time of the accident were three English cocker spaniels. The dogs had just finished competing at the First Company Governor's Foot Guard Athletic Association Dog Show and Obedience Trials in Hartford. None of the dogs were injured in the crash despite their crates being crushed.

A resident who lives near the accident site collected the dogs and called Joel Hoffman, of Bolton, who owns one of the three animals. The Wilkinsons own the other two dogs. Hoffman said all three dogs seem to have no lasting effects from the

accident and Katie, Hoffman's dog, went on to win Best of Breed at Sunday's show.

In the last 22 years there have been 34 fatalities along Route 6 in Andover. However, prior to last Saturday, there had not been one since 2002. From 2002 until 2005 much of Route 6 remained under construction as workers improved sightlines and widened the roadway and shoulders. While the construction improvements have stemmed the number of fatal accidents, State Representative Pam Sawyer is looking into whether or not the total amount of accidents has decreased.

Sawyer said she believes that more needs to be done to protect drivers on Route 6. "At both ends of Route 6 [the I-384 side in Bolton and the Route 6 expressway that begins in Columbia], drivers are coming off an expressway," she said. "They, then, get onto the road with an expressway mentality rather than the local road focus that they need to have."

Sawyer has been mulling over different solutions for the Route 6 epidemic since last weekend. Installing medians or jersey barriers wouldn't be prudent because of all the driveways along the road, she said, but she does believe there is a way to create more distance between oncoming traffic.

In Foster, RI, also along Route 6, the town was facing a similar problem to Andover. The Rhode Island Department of Transportation decided to spread the double yellow lines about three feet from one another and install a rumble strip between the two lines. Sawyer said she feels like this could be a possible solution in Andover and has since asked Emil Frankel, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, to consider this for Andover.

Marlborough Burn Victim Still Critical

by Kristina Histen

The local 10-year-old burn victim of last week's backyard explosion is still in critical condition, but his father is expected to be discharged later this week.

Mike Hyde, 44, and his son Jordan, were burning brush on their property, 80 Chapman Rd., on Feb. 8 when a gas can exploded, covering the boy in gas and lighting him on fire. After a hellish ordeal of trying to put the fire out, Mike picked up Jordan and jumped into a nearby pond, finally putting out the fire and saving his son's life. Both suffered severe burns and were flown to Westchester Medical Center Burn Unit in Valhalla, NY.

As of Tuesday, Jordan is still in critical condition, Tracey Meeker, sister-in-law and aunt to the victims, said, and is receiving his third skin graft on his shoulders and neck area. He has received two skin grafts so far, one on his back and one on his chest and stomach, she said, and the grafted skin was taken from his thigh. His burns were more serious than first reported; he has sustained fourth- and fifth-degree burns to his chest, stomach and back.

"Very grueling surgeries," Meeker said. "But he is alive."

The doctors are keeping him in a drug-induced coma, but he did open his eyes for the first time on Saturday, Meeker said. He has also had a fever on and off since Sunday, but apparently that is very normal for burn patients, she said.

Mike has received skin grafts to his hands and face and is "recovering beautifully," Meeker said. He is due to be discharged later this week to go home, but his care is up in the

air right now because his wife has to stay in New York with their son, she said.

Relatives are volunteering to help, but he is mostly concerned with the well being of Jordan, Meeker said. Mike "is just beside himself about his son," Meeker said. He is trying to accept that it was an accident, she said, and he did everything he could.

"If he had not picked up his son, jumped into the water with his son, the burns would have been worse," Meeker said. "But it is still very difficult, as it is his son..."

Leslie Hyde, wife and mother of the victims, is holding up, and has still not left the hospital, her sister said. She has "started to get the wheels turning" on having Jordan moved to the Shriners Burn Unit for children in Boston, Meeker said, but he is not stable enough yet to transport.

Jordan is receiving "the best care possible for being on the East Coast," Meeker said.

A trust fund has been started by Meeker because of the ongoing costs and the fact that both parents will be out of work for an undetermined amount of time. If anyone cares to make a donation, it can be made at any Bank of America in the name of "The Jordan Hyde Family Fund" as a business account opened in Texas. The donations will be used for medical and living expenses ongoing as needed.

"My sister said to pass on thanks to all the friends praying," Meeker said. "We feel the love and prayers being extended to our family."

For more information on how to donate, visit jordanhydefamilyfund.com.

Colchester Students Enthralled By Wildlife Show

by Kristina Histen

The evening of Feb. 11 was bleak, cold and dreary. Inside the Jack Jackter Intermediate School (JJIS) gymnasium, though, it was anything but.

Understanding Wildlife, Inc., a nonprofit organization, came all the way from Ohio last Monday to present several showings of "Live on Stage, The Rain Forest," transforming the packed gym into a lively, tropical atmosphere, complete with reptiles, rare birds and monkeys.

While the animals were entertaining, arguably the wildest creatures present were the excited elementary students in attendance.

Seven "of the bravest" children were called upon from the audience by Mike Kohlrieser, founder of the program and animal trainer. The students were so anxious to be picked to go up on stage that they volunteered themselves without even knowing the task first. They were told by Kohlrieser to hold out their arms like bird perches. Since birds had been the major attraction for the show thus far, they eagerly did so, with big smiles on their faces.

Their eyes quickly widened with fear when Iggy, an 11-year-old, 13-foot, 85-pound Albino Burmese Python was carried out and placed in their arms. One of the seven volunteers quickly stepped off to the side to avoid touching the reptile.

Third-grader, Paul Chasse, 8, was one of lucky volunteers who got to hold the snake, and said it was "so cool, but really heavy."

Kohlrieser explained to the kids details about Iggy, specifically eating habits.

"Burmese Pythons are not poisonous, and closely related to the boa constrictor," he said. "To eat, it wraps its body around its victim, squeezing really tight until it feels the last exhale, then squeezes tighter so it can't breathe, suffocating it until it dies. I can show you how, if I could have just one volunteer."

Every child in the audience raised their hand. "We have really good insurance," Kohlrieser joked.

The audience (including parents) hung on

every word he said, sitting so close to the edge of the stage that they had to be asked several times to push back. He used witty humor and exaggerated animal tricks to entertain, while emphasizing the underlying message of promoting the conservation of the rainforest.

Iggy was just one of many exotic creatures presented at the show. There were four different types of birds, including Magnum, a Yellow-Naped Amazon Parrot, and Kelly, a Blue and Gold Macaw; there were North American Alligators and an African Serval; and finally, probably the most appealing to the crowd, were Desi the chimpanzee and Rascal, a Capuchin monkey.

"If people see how beautiful these animals are, how intelligent they are, they would be more willing to protect and save them," Kohlrieser said.

Kohlrieser told the audience that even though these were all great animals, they did not necessarily make great pets. He explained how Desi likes to grab toilet paper and run as fast as he can through Kohlrieser's house, or how Rascal likes to cause trouble and embarrass the animal trainer. This was apparent when the little monkey ripped the toupee off his head at the end of the show, causing an eruption of laughter throughout the audience.

Brian McGinnis, father to first-grade triplets and new to Colchester, commented on how entertaining the show was for the kids (and maybe for himself too). His own kids were so excited to attend that they talked about it all night long. Back in Michigan, he said, they used to live near a zoo and got to see animals all the time. Since they moved to Connecticut about six months ago, there hasn't been much of an opportunity to do so.

One of the triplets, Madison, 7, who really enjoyed the show said her "favorite animal was the blue and yellow birdie," referring to Kelly, and the "coolest part was when the bird was flying through the crowd."

Kohlrieser's wife, Marcia, said, "We are hop-



Students at Jack Jackter Intermediate School held Iggy, a 13-foot, 85-pound Albino Burmese Python at a wildlife show held at the school last week. Animal trainer Mike Kohlrieser, far right, of Ohio-based Understanding Wildlife, presented the show.

ing to inspire children to want to do things like recycling and conserving energy. By doing that, they will be saving the rainforest and homes to those types of animals. Together, we can make a difference."

Understanding Wildlife officially started in 1992, and travels across the nation from September to May, visiting about nine to 10 states, and approximately 300 elementary schools, a year. The assemblies are put on for free and funded through the family night shows which "pay for everything." On Monday admission was \$5 per person, and during intermission

people were encouraged to pay a donation of \$5 to take a picture with Iggy. There were also souvenirs that ranged in price from \$2-\$25 that included candy snakes, stuffed animals, and rainforest printed tee shirts.

"I want to give a sincere thank you to everyone here," Kohlrieser told the crowd. "When I first came up with idea [of Understanding Wildlife], people said it will never happen. But, because of people like you, I am able to live my dream. Thank you very much. You people are amazing."

Portland Nobel Prize Winner Talks Global Warming

by Michael McCoy

Given the laid-back atmosphere of the First Congregational Church in Portland Wednesday night, one might not assume a Nobel Prize winner was present.

But in reality, Dr. Gary Yohe, a member of the church's congregation, was present, ready to speak about global warming. Yohe is senior member of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC), which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore.

Fellow church member Faith Fraulino organized the event, which is part of a five-week series during Lent addressing the importance of being "good stewards of God's world."

One of the IPCC's main charges is to publish pieces related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a treaty acknowledging dangerous climate change, signed by more than 160 countries, including the United States. This treaty aims to "stabilize greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference in the climate system," though Yohe said there is often much debate over just what qualifies as "dangerous."

Yohe said the treaty also aims to help developing countries adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

While working with the IPCC, Yohe came up with a haiku, which he recited Wednesday night: "The climate is changing / Humans are to blame / The poor will suffer / The rich will

cope."

Only about 15-20 people attended Yohe's speech, but those that were there heard some sobering information. During his talk, Yohe showed an image of Greenland, and told the crowd, "By 2050, we may commit ourselves to no ice on Greenland and not even know it." Yohe explained that there are certain irreversible trigger points that can be reached, and they could be reached by 2050. But, he added, humans might not notice the change (which in this case would be the ice melting away) for another couple hundred years.

Yohe's presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

Yohe was asked what regular people could do during their everyday lives to affect positive environmental change. "I actually really like Governor Rell's 'One Thing' campaign," Yohe responded. This consists of doing one thing each day to help the Earth. Yohe took it a step further to say that before long, that one-thing should become mere habit, allowing people to move on to one other thing, and so forth.

Yohe also suggested that the public demand that climate change become part of the political dialogue. People "need to insist that these issues are as important as Iraq, social security and healthcare," Yohe explained.

This prompted one woman to say, speaking to citizens in general, "If you think that healthcare and climate change aren't related,

then you haven't been paying attention."

Yohe also told the audience, "There are countries out there just waiting for the U.S. to take a leadership role" in regards to global warming. Among them, he said, is China.

But, Yohe said, political leaders can only do so much. "The fundamental change comes from the bottom up," he said, adding that, for real change, people must reevaluate their values. This would require citizens to simply say, "Thank you, I have enough," Yohe said. Yohe listed high-definition televisions as one of these, as a result of their using four times the amount of energy as a normal television.

Wednesday's presentation was held at a Congregational church, and Yohe said religion is an institution not typically associated with climate change. However, Yohe said he felt that faith-based organizations are one of the most logical places for people to start making lifestyle changes, given that it all comes down to a shift in an individual's value system, and mentioned that this is in no way limited to Christian groups.

But, it's one thing to talk change and it's another thing to actually do it. "I know it's hard for me to make changes in my life," Yohe said. Alluding to his 1992 Toyota, Yohe laughed, "I still haven't bought my Prius yet."

Yohe is originally from Westchester, PA, and now lives in Portland. In 1977, he received his

PhD in economics from Yale.

After two and a half years at State University of New York-Albany, Yohe began teaching economics at Wesleyan University, where he has been every since. In 1982, William Nordhaus, one of Yohe's professors at Yale, asked him to participate in a study of carbon emissions with the National Academy of Sciences. "I had the good sense to say 'yes,'" Yohe smiled.

Yohe showed humility when addressed as a Nobel laureate. He said that, if you include everyone who's contributed to the IPCC's cause since 1988, there could be as many as 2,000 people who could have won the Nobel. Also, he said, he was in a lottery with 39 other people, vying for eight spots to the December ceremony in Oslo, but was not chosen.

Three weeks remain in the First Congregational Church series, including next week's presentation by Rabbi Andrea Cohen of the Interreligious Ecojustice Network (a network the church belongs to). The following week, Portland's own Andy Bauer, chairman of the town's Clean Energy Task Force, will speak.

The programs start at 7 p.m. at the church, located at 554 Main St., and are preceded by a homemade soup supper at 6:30. All are welcome to attend both. Childcare is provided for kids in sixth grade or younger.

Belltown Motors Gets Into Sales Business

by Michael McCoy

Less than two years after beginning major upgrades, Belltown Motors has added a new feature to their business on Route 66.

Belltown Auto Sales and Rental opened for business on February 5, and is a collaborative effort between co-owners Anthony Flannery, 43, Owen Flannery, 53, and Matt Hickey, 31. Anthony and Owen also own Belltown Motors.

About 30 years ago, when he was just a teenager, Anthony worked for a garage called Belltown Motors, located in the exact same spot. In 1997, he opened his own shop in Portland. Owen, meanwhile, had previously spent 21 years in accounting, but joined his brother shortly after he opened the business. He and Anthony are lifelong East Hampton residents.

In 2005, the two opened Belltown Motors. The next year, they started major improvements, the first phase of which included a new \$1.2 million state-of-the-art facility, completed in December 2006. The following spring, Belltown Motors became an official State Emissions Testing Location. The two also answer calls for AAA, fielding 400 requests per month.

After moving into the new facility, the Flannerys began looking for tenants for the old space, located on the same property. The brothers were looking for something that would complement their existing business. They never found that ideal client, though, and by last summer started kicking around the idea of opening their own auto dealership.

When Owen mentioned this plan to some friends, they recommended he commission Hickey to get involved. Owen had actually already known Hickey for seven years prior to that from golfing.

Hickey is originally from Meriden. While a student at UConn, as well as working as the Recreation and Youth Services Coordinator for the town of Willington, he found himself in need of a vehicle. Since he knew someone at Patriot

Motors in Wallingford, he went there. However, before they were finished with him, he left with not only a vehicle, but also a job detailing cars. From there, Hickey entered into sales and eventually led the sales division at Patriot. After five years there, Hickey spent five years managing Barlow Auto Sales in Vernon.

Hickey seemed to see the Flannerys' proposition as a no-brainer. "Five years down the line," Hickey said, "if I didn't take this opportunity, I'd have regretted it."

Hickey added, "I think it's safe to say that between the three of us, there's 50 years of car experience."

So, the trio began renovating the old office building in November, and finished in late January. They were held up for a couple weeks when waiting for their license form the state to come through, but they opened Feb. 5.

Belltown Auto Sales currently has an inventory somewhere in the neighborhood of 15 vehicles, including cars, trucks, and vans, and before long plan to up that inventory to about 25. The business also offers a range of detailing services, including interior, exterior, and engine cleaning, waxing and shampooing.

As the name suggests, the new business also offers auto rentals, and later this year, small construction equipment rentals.

"We're like a one-stop-shop here," said Owen of their property, which also includes a Napa parts store.

Belltown Auto Sales and Rentals promises high-quality vehicles. Though much of their stock comes from auctions and dealerships, they welcome walk-ins who have a car to sell in excellent condition. They also offer financing options.

"Our reputation and our name is important to us," Anthony said, noting how long the Flannerys have been in town. Anthony said Belltown offers "the dealership image without the dealership price."



Pictured, from left, are Anthony and Owen Flannery and Matt Hickey, who recently opened Belltown Auto Sales and Rental.

Anthony said, "Some people have the mindset, if they don't go to the dealership, they can't get the array of variety."

But Belltown Auto Sales currently stocks GM, BMW and Subaru vehicles, as well as several other cars, including a pristine 1999 Porsche 911 Cabriolet that has only 28,000 miles on it.

And, Owen promises, "If we don't have it we can get it."

The Flannerys plan to continue making im-

provements to the 4.7-acre property, and Anthony asked residents to keep an eye out for further enhancements.

Owen estimated Belltown Auto Sales would hold a grand opening sometime in the spring.

Belltown Auto Sales and Rental is located at 80 East High St. It is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the owners plan to extend the hours in the summer. The business can be reached by phone at 365-0807.

Portland's Trinity Episcopal Has New Priest

by Michael McCoy

The members of Trinity Episcopal Church have welcomed a new shepherd for their flock, and he brings with him 26 years of experience ... in museum management.

Growing up in Michigan, Reverend Steve Ling was raised in the Baptist church, and was quite active. During junior high and high school he volunteered at a state Baptist youth camp over the summers. He even pondered going into the ministry full-time. But, he recalls, "I decided I didn't have a strong enough call."

So, upon his 1969 graduation from Everett High School in Lansing, MI, Lind went to Albion College, a small liberal arts school in southwest Michigan. In 1973, he graduated with a bachelor's degrees in English and history. The next year he was married.

Ling remained in Michigan, where he taught high school history and government classes for five years. In the meantime, he attended Michigan State University, and received his master's degree in educational administration in 1978.

It would seem that these studies would lead Ling to make the common leap to school administration. However, Ling's heart led him elsewhere. "I found myself spending literally all my free time visiting museums," he said, "and I started asking myself why I wasn't working in one."

So, in 1978, Ling and his wife moved to Massachusetts, where he took a position as assistant director of the DeCordova, a contemporary art museum in Lincoln. "It gave me an opportunity to learn the museum business from the inside," Ling remembered, "and I found that I did like it."

In 1980, Ling and wife moved to Manchester, where he became the executive director of Lutz Children's Museum. During that time, he also became the president of the American Association of Youth Museums.

The following year Ling got divorced, but remained here in Connecticut, working at Lutz. In 1985, he married his current wife, Thea. The two have two daughters, Jennifer and Elisabeth, and a three-year-old granddaughter, Maverick. In 1992, Ling moved again, this time to Harrisburg, PA, where he took a position as executive director of the Museum of Scientific Discovery, which has since become absorbed by the Whittaker Museum of Arts and Sciences.

But in 1994 Ling returned to the Nutmeg State to plan and open the Fire Museum of Greater Hartford, which is located in an 1897 firehouse. He called the effort "one of the things

I'm most proud of in my entire career." The Fire Museum is still in operation.

In 1996, Ling took a job with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, working on the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Ling worked out of Scranton and oversaw three museums and one historical village documenting the history of anthracite mining in northeastern Pennsylvania.

But then, around the turn of the century, an unexpected thing happened. Ling received a call from God.

"I spent 31 years of employment very happy with what I was doing," Ling said. But, he admitted, there was "a still, small voice that kept at me over years and years and years. Over a period of time, I was able to ignore it." Eventually, though, this turned into a "nagging voice," Ling laughed, and he could ignore it no longer. So, at the beginning of the decade he started actively seeking a career in the church. More specifically, he was interested in the Episcopalian church, which he began attending after his first marriage in 1974. "I fell in love with the Book of Common Prayer," Ling recalled.

But, Ling said he remembered thinking, "I'm really not interested in going back to school for three years." So, he met with Paul Marshall, Bishop of the Bethlehem Diocese in Pennsylvania, to begin an alternative training program.

In 2003, Thea was visiting family in Connecticut and stopped by her old employer, Hartford Hospital. When there, a doctor she had previously worked with offered her her old job back, as a nurse in electro-physiology, making significantly more than she was currently earning.

The couple wasn't sure just what to do. When Ling consulted Bishop Marshall, the bishop responded, "Why are you screwing around here with me? Why aren't you getting a real education, and why aren't you at Yale?" (Marshall had previously taught at the New Haven university.)

So, in 2003, Ling enrolled in Yale School of Divinity; he graduated last May. In May 2005, Ling began serving as a seminarian, a position analogous to an internship, at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Middletown. Though he was only required to stay for a year, he enjoyed it so much he stuck around throughout his studies. After graduating, he accepted a part-time position as Assistant Priest, a position he still holds.

And then, this past December, Ling was awarded the position of priest-in-charge at Trin-



Reverend Steven Ling, 57, is the new priest-in-charge at Trinity Episcopal Church.

ity Episcopal Church, a part-time position.

Tara Soughers was formerly priest-in-charge at Trinity until 2004, when the church felt it could no longer support a full-time priest. Retired priest Halsey Stevens of Killingworth filled the interim position for three years. According to Ling, Stevens decided last year it was time for him to move on and "time for the church to look for a new face."

Ling hopes to see the church grow once more into a congregation that can support a full-time priest, and hopes he is around to be the one for the job.

Ling has been with Trinity for over two months now. When asked if he has any plans or initiatives, his response was simply, "What's happening now, I'm getting to know the people, and they're getting to know me." However, Ling said, he plans on looking through the attendance books and contacting former parishioners, asking them to give the church another try.

Holy Trinity in Middletown and Trinity here in Portland have a relationship. In the summer, when attendance wanes and staff take more frequent vacation time, they combine services, meeting in Middletown in July and Portland in

August.

This relationship will be evident again during Holy Week, the period leading up to Easter. The week begins on March 16, Palm Sunday, with services at 9:30 a.m. at Trinity. Until Easter Sunday, all Holy Week services start at 7 p.m. This includes Tuesday night, which will take place in Middletown at Holy Trinity, and Saturday night's Easter Vigil, which will also be at Holy Trinity. Easter Sunday service will be back at Trinity at 9:30 a.m. that day.

Ling called the Easter Vigil his favorite service of the year. During that time, the service covers the history of the early Christian church.

Overall, Ling said, "I'm very excited to be here." He expressed great fondness for the structure of the church, which was built in the 1870s, and has a brownstone exterior. "It's an edifice of Portland's history," Ling said, adding, "The inside of the church is gorgeous." And, Ling said, "The people have been very welcoming."

"I'm very lucky," Ling smiled. "We hope to be here for a long time."

Trinity Church is located at 345 Main Street in Portland. Anyone with questions for Reverend Ling may contact him at 342-3670.

Colchester Police News

2/14-Jose Ortiz, 52, of 190-G Foster Dr., Willimantic, was charged with operation under suspension and failure to wear seat belt, State Police said.

2/14-Edgar Bradley, 70, of 282 N. Windham Rd., Windham, turned himself in to State Police on charges of breach of peace and following too close, State Police said.

2/15-Alexander Shanfeld, 19, of 92 Parum Rd., was charged with third-degree larceny, State Police said.

2/15-Scott Carli, 19, of 128 Old Hebron Rd., was charged with sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

2/15-Pearl Francis, 37, of 191 Burnside Ave., East Hartford, turned herself in to State Police on charges of operating under the influence of drugs/alcohol, possession of a controlled substance and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

2/3 — John E. Hollis, Jr., 39, of 27 Bodwell Rd., East Hartford, was issued a ticket for operating under the influence of alcohol, misuse of plates and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, East Hampton Police report.

2/8 — Kye Vestergaard, 21, of 102 Sisk St., Middletown, was issued a ticket for failure to drive right, police report.

Andover Police News

2/13-Three youth offenders were all charged with possession of marijuana greater than four ounces and possession of marijuana with intent to sell, State Police said.

2/15-Danielle West, 21, who police listed no current address for, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

2/15-Wallace Barton III, 23, of 463 Lake Rd., Andover, turned himself in to State Police on charges of failure to drive in established lane and DWI, State Police said.

2/15-Matthew Faski, 21, of 28 Skyview Dr., turned himself in to State Police on charges of conspiracy and sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

2/17-Steven Battalino, 47, of 6 Sylvan Glen Dr., East Lyme, was charged with operation of a motor vehicle while under suspension, State Police said.

2/17-Richard Barboza, 39, of 119 Killingworth Rd., Higganum, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

2/18-Cliff Earl Dixon, 24, of 123 Chestnut Dr., was charged with breach of peace and possession of marijuana, State Police said. Dixon was also arrested 2/19 and charged with interfering with an officer, State Police said.

2/9 — Michael F. Muzio, 43, of 106 Richard Rd., Rocky Hill, was issued a ticket for failure to renew registration, police report.

2/14 — Nelson M. Roman, 31, of 70 Home Ave., Middletown, was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol, operating under suspension and traveling too fast for conditions, police report.

Portland Police News

2/9 — A 17-year-old male was arrested on charges of reckless driving, Portland Police report.

2/16 — Steven W. Rockwell, 47, of 106 Newfield St., Apt. 18, Middletown, was charged with DUI, police report.

2/19 — Sarah E. Leblanc, 19, of 181 Paley Farms Rd., was charged with failure to respond to infraction and three counts of second-degree failure to appear, police report.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Allen Villar

Allen Lazarus Carlos Villar, 48, beloved and devoted husband of Natalie Marie (Fenton) Villar, passed away on Friday, Feb. 15, surrounded by his loving family. Allen, formerly of Glastonbury, was born in Havana, Cuba, son of Jose and Maria Villar. Allen and Natalie were happily married for 28 years and lived in Marlborough, raising their family.

His happiest times were spent with his family: snowmobiling in Vermont, boating, fishing, Block Island vacations, and being a dad. He was the vice president of sales in New England for UTZ Quality Foods. Allen was an entrepreneur, loyal husband, devoted father, loving son, brother, mentor and a great friend to all who knew him. His life was lived to the fullest and with his passing he leaves us many messages.

In his passing he leaves to mourn his loving wife, Natalie; his mother, Maria; a daughter, Jessica Villar and her fiancé, Derek Fletcher; his two sons, Thomas and Daniel Villar, all of Marlborough; his three brothers and their wives, Joseph and Karen Villar, Raul and Valerie Villar and Richard and Michelle Villar; and a sister, Elvira and David Cote. He also leaves his brothers and sister-in-law, Valerie Seaver, Michael and Patrick Fenton, along with numerous nieces, nephews, friends and associates. He was predeceased by his father, Jose Villar.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Saint Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury. Entombment followed in the mausoleum of Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury. His family received friends and relatives on Tuesday, Feb. 19, in the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made in Allen's honor to the Framingham Heart Study, 73 Mt. Wayte Ave., Framingham, MA, 01702. For online condolences and tributes visit www.mem.com.

Hebron

Harry K. Megson

Harry K. Megson, 85, of Hebron, passed away Wednesday, (February 13, 2008) at the Elm Hill Long Term Care in Rocky Hill. Born Jan. 13, 1923, in Glastonbury, son of the late Harry and Grace (Killam) Megson. After graduating from Glastonbury High School in 1941, he enlisted in the Air Force and served as a B-26 pilot in World War II. He flew 19 missions before being shot down and held in a German POW camp until the war's end.

After the war, he studied civil engineering at the University of Connecticut where he was a member of the Alpha Gammo Rho fraternity, graduating in 1949. He subsequently practiced in Glastonbury for many years, where he was a founding partner of both Megson & Hyypa and years later Megson & Heagle Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Always a farmer at heart, Harry moved his family to 100 acres in Hebron in 1965, where they began raising and showing registered Shetland ponies. Later his interest shifted to Registered Polled Hereford cattle, and remained a respected breeder of quality livestock for more than 30 years. He also became involved in local politics, serving on the Regional Board of Education as well as the Hebron Board of Selectmen, where he spearheaded the transition to the current town manager form of government.

Harry is survived by his wife of 59 years, Frances (Cummins) Megson; three sons, Thomas E. Megson of Richmond, VA, Richard R. and Jane Megson of South Glastonbury, James W. and Tracey Megson of Lebanon; two daughters, Sarah D. Megson of Hebron, Ann M. and Marc S. Baribault of Hebron and 16 grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Feb. 16, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, South Glastonbury. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Colchester

William A. Doyle Jr.

William A. Doyle, Jr., "Big Bill," 58, of Colchester, beloved husband of Sandra (Caiafa) Doyle, passed away unexpectedly Friday, Feb. 15, at home. Born March 13, 1949, in Burlington, VT, he was the son of the late William and Catherine (Gokey) Doyle. A 1967 graduate of Wethersfield High School, he went on to proudly serve with the Navy Submarine Service. Bill was a delivery driver for Viking and Freihofer Bakeries for many years until he was disabled due to an injury. Big Bill was well-known in the antique and classic car circuit with "Dad's Toy," his 1968 Camaro.

In addition to his beloved wife and longtime companion, he is survived by two sons, Jason and his wife, Dawn and Matthew; his stepdaughter, Danielle; his stepson, Paul; his sister and brother-in-law, Donna and Jonathan Potter; 12 grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends. He was predeceased by a son, Austin.

Friends called Tuesday, Feb. 19, starting at 1 p.m. at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, followed by a Memorial Service at 2 p.m. Committal with full military honors will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester. Visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com for online condolences.

Colchester

Joan K. Kramer

Joan K. Kramer, 76, wife of the late Charles V. Kramer, Jr. of Colchester passed away on Monday, Feb. 11, in Rhinebeck, NY. She was born on Dec. 18, 1931, in Stamford, daughter of the late Frank and Mary Clark Francis. Joan was a member of St. Andrew's Catholic Church. She will be remembered for her generosity and her love of caring for animals.

Surviving are three sons, Charles V. Kramer III; his wife, Tracey of Woodbury, Robert, his wife, Lillie Cook of West Virginia and Frank Kramer of Oregon; a daughter, Diane Cook of Colchester; a brother, David, his wife, Patricia Francis of Naples, FL; six grandchildren, Cheryl Wentworth, Heather Holbrook, Andrew Shaykin, Christopher, Katherine and Jennifer Cook; seven great grandchildren.

Visitation was held Monday, Feb. 17, at the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Andrew's Church on Norwich Ave., Colchester. Interment will follow in Linwood Cemetery.

Portland

Dorothy M. Armstrong

Dorothy M. Armstrong, 73, beloved wife of the late Walter Armstrong died Sunday, Feb. 17, at St. Francis Hospital. Born in Glastonbury on May 1, 1934, she was the daughter of the late Sherwood and Anna (Kocum) Welch. A longtime resident of Portland, Dorothy was a parishioner of St. Mary's Church where she was a member of the Ladies Guild. Dorothy was a representative of the CT Chapter of Dystonia, a foundation dear to her heart. She enjoyed bowling, playing cards and was a member of the Bonco League in Portland. She also enjoyed traveling extensively with AARP.

Dorothy is survived by her daughter, Wendy A. Flis and her husband Donald of Moodus; her son, Duane Armstrong and his wife Michelle of Portland; a sister, Arlene Peterson and her husband Pete of Fort Myers, FL; a brother, Robert Welch and his wife Judy of Glastonbury; her four grandchildren: Kevin Armstrong, Kyle Armstrong, Dakota Flis and Devon Flis and many nieces and nephews.

Her funeral was held Thursday, Feb. 21, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery. Family and friends can pay their respects Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in memory of Dorothy be made to the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, One East Wacker Dr., Suite 2430, Chicago, IL 60601.

Portland

Maria Esposito

Maria (Duscher) Esposito, 96, of Portland, formerly of Great Neck, NY and Bloomfield, the beloved wife of the late John A. Esposito, passed away peacefully at home in Portland on Wednesday, Feb. 13. She was born in Germany Jan. 10, 1912, to the late Xavier and Anna (Kraus) Duscher.

After immigrating to the United States at the age of 17, she spent her first 40 years of her professional life as a dietician at the Buckley Country Day School on Long Island. Maria moved to Bloomfield from Great Neck in 1976. She continued as a dietician working for CIGNA and Combustion Engineering, then retiring in 1992 at the age of 80.

She had been a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield, and Saint Mary's Church in Portland as well as a member of the Bloomfield and Portland Senior Citizens. Maria leaves a son, Ernest Gaebel and his wife Ann of Mattituck, NY; a daughter, Hedy Jarvis and her husband Wal of Portland. Maria leaves two grandchildren, Victoria Tchetchet of Portland, Kerin BJelke and her husband Robert of Dix Hills, NY; and great grandsons, Anthony and Nicholas BJelke. Maria leaves as well three nieces and a nephew. In addition to being a gourmet cook Maria was an avid reader, reading two books a week without glasses until she died.

A Memorial Mass will be held Monday, March 3, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church, Portland. Burial will be at Mountain View Cemetery, Bloomfield, at the family's convenience. Donations in Maria's memory may be made to a charity of your choice. For online condolences visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

Portland

MaryAnne Elmstedt

MaryAnne Elmstedt of Portland passed away surrounded by family on Monday, Feb. 18, at Portland Care and Rehab Center. She was born June 29, 1930. She graduated from Grace New Haven School of Nursing. She worked as a head nurse at Middlesex Hospital and Portland Care & Rehab Center for over 20 years from which she retired in 1993. When she retired she worked at the YMCA and taught water aerobics for 12 years.

She leaves her husband of 54 years, John D. Elmstedt Sr., a daughter and her husband, Ruth and Fritz Leue; a daughter and her husband, Susan and Peter Haberli; and a son John D. Elmstedt Jr. She also had four grandchildren, Ricky and David Leue and Seth and Tia Haberli.

She was a member of Trinity Church for over 40 years. She was a Girl Scout of 45 years and was the leader of Senior Troop 62022 in Portland. She also spent the last 36 summers at Nelsons campground in East Hampton.

The wake was at Portland Memorial on Thursday, Feb. 21, and the funeral was to be at Trinity Church, today, Feb. 22, at 11 a.m.

Portland

Reva Paley

Reva Jean Russman Paley, of Portland, wife and best friend of Hyime Paley for 53 years, passed away peacefully on Monday, Feb. 18, with her loving family at her bedside. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Dr. Charles and Ethel Russman. Reva was an active member of Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue, Hadassah and Civitan Organization.

Besides her husband she is survived by her daughter, Pamela Paley; two sons and their wives, Mark and Luanne Paley and Stewart and Nathalie Paley; a twin sister, Naomi Hoberman and her husband, Marvin; a brother, Leonard Russman and his wife, Jean; as well as six grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She will also be remembered lovingly by her brother and sister in laws, Ralph and Sara Paley, Goldie and Murray Dash, Pearl Perloff and Phyllis Paley and many other close family and friends.

Funeral services were held at the Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue, 48 Old Church Street, Middletown, on Wednesday, Feb. 20, with interment following at Adath Israel Cemetery. The family observe shiva through this afternoon (Feb. 22) at the home of Reva and Hy Paley. Donations may be made in her memory to The Reva Paley Youth Book Fund for the Portland Library, c/o Liberty Bank, 245 Main Street, Portland, CT 06480. The Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church Street, Middletown is in charge of the arrangements.