

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 33, Number 7

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

May 2, 2008



Music and Miracles Founder and President, Dale Kaye (left), gives Breast Cancer Survivor Debi Rushford a check for \$14,000 at her salon, Shattered Endz last Wednesday, April 23. Rushford is the event's first recipient and inspiration for the organization, Music and Miracles.

Colchester Breast Cancer Survivor Benefits from New Organization

by Kristina Histen

A newly-formed organization gave all the proceeds from a benefit held in March to a Colchester breast cancer survivor last Wednesday, April 23.

When Debi Rushford first opened up the envelope that contained a check in her name for \$14,000 at her salon, Shattered Endz, located at 24 Norwich Ave, her hand immediately went straight to her heart. As she gripped the check with both hands, a teary-eyed Rushford turned to founder and president of Music and Miracles, Dale Kaye, and softly said, "Thank you...thank you so much."

Rushford was the first of many breast cancer survivors who will benefit from Music and Miracles.

Kaye, also a Colchester resident, first heard about Rushford's story through his hairdresser, breast cancer survivor and mutual friend, Alice Tipton. Rushford was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago and had a lumpectomy, chemotherapy and radiation treatment. She lost all her hair and dealt with other side effects. Currently, she is preparing for her second round of reconstructive surgery. The first was not successful and resulted in additional surgery.

Rushford is a single mother of two, a

hairstylist and business owner. She is very active in the community and works hard to help others with cancer. A Wigs for Kids Ambassador, she helps measure and fit custom made wigs for children with cancer, alopecia and hair loss due to accidents. She is also a program educator for the "Look Good - Feel Better" program and teaches free sessions at the American Cancer Society in Franklin. Rushford recently raised over \$1,000 for breast cancer research at her hair salon by raffling off a gift basket and donating a percentage of her monthly sales.

Kaye was deeply affected by Rushford's story, as his own mother was a breast cancer survivor. These women, along with the many others affected by breast cancer every day, triggered his thoughts on what he could do to help.

So, this past January, Kaye spoke with his good friend Dave Cafro about putting together a music festival that would benefit breast cancer survivors. Music and Miracles became a reality and a board of directors was formed that consisted of Kaye, Steve Harrington and Fred Brown.

The board of directors founded the organization, which is currently applying for nonprofit status, with the purpose of ben-

efiting those who have survived breast cancer surgery, but who still battle the ordeal of post surgical treatment and reconstructive surgery. All proceeds from Music & Miracles events will be donated directly to a breast cancer survivor. The reason for benefiting one survivor rather than many is to provide a greater personal impact on a person's well-being and life.

Music and Miracles held its first annual benefit event at the Manchester Country Club, on Saturday, March 22, from 4 p.m. to midnight, Music and Miracles Public Relations Person Chi LaBossiere said.

"We all know someone with breast cancer," Kaye said. "The unfortunate thing about cancer is that even when it is eradicated from the body, often the survivors still need to go through reconstructive surgery. The proceeds from this event go directly to a survivor to pay for any expenses needed to feel whole again."

The event was a musical festival and fundraiser where 100 percent of the proceeds went directly to Rushford. With eight hours of music, dancing, food and fun, the event was open to the public and over 300 tickets were purchased at \$50 a piece, LaBossiere said. Nat Reeves Trio featur-

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Front Page

ing special guest Eddie Henderson, Cajun Ray and the Steamers, Cashel Rock Irish Music and Eight to the Bar were the four local bands that played live music, LaBossiere said.

Kaye compared the cost of the benefit to the amount it costs these days to go out to dinner on a Saturday night, or to go to the movies and enjoy their concession snacks.

The money raised at the benefit surpassed the original goal of \$10,000, Kaye said.

"This wouldn't have happened without the contributions of people who donated their time and to the cause," Kaye said. "Those that bought tickets, helped us distribute tickets and every-

one who volunteered were very essential to us."

Currently, the Music and Miracles board of directors are reviewing candidates for next year's benefit. Visit www.musicandmiracles.org to nominate someone for consideration. They will also be adding more people to the board of directors this summer.

Last Wednesday, Rushford vowed to help out Music and Miracles in the future.

"I can't tell you what it is yet, but I'm going to do something special for you," Rushford said to Kaye. "The something I'm doing will represent Music and Miracles, but it will take time. I want to help out."

Fireworks Show Will Still Go On, Despite Loss of Key Component

by Michael McCoy

Though longtime fireworks brainchild Mike Dapkus will no longer execute the show, the Portland Fireworks are still a go for 2008.

Each year since the fireworks started in the early 1990s, the program has subsisted solely on donations, and this year is no different. The Portland Fireworks Committee has already held several bake sales and will soon mail out flyers to previous donors. On May 10, committee members will participate in the Town-wide Tag Sale, setting up shop at 392 Main St. They will also sell raffle tickets that day. Committee Chairman John Sobczyk also anticipated another tip-a-cop/tip-a-fireman event at Portland Restaurant, which the committee has done in previous years.

But there is one difference between this year's show and prior years' events – and it's a big one. Portland resident Dapkus won't be a part of it. Dapkus, who has spent more than 30 years in the fireworks industry, performed the show since its inception. While, over the past few years, Dapkus has phased out the showing of fireworks, focusing solely on importing and exporting them, he continued to handle the Portland show. But he announced last year he would no longer put on the show, due to aging equipment, changing regulations, and rising insurance costs. (He does, however, continue to serve on the fireworks committee.)

In addition to losing Dapkus' talents, the town faces another issue: maintaining the quality of the renowned show. Dapkus had provided the fireworks display at the cost he paid for the fireworks. Last year, he estimated that the town paid \$20,000 for a show that would typically cost \$45,000 to provide.

In addition to paying the fireworks contractor, Sobczyk said, there are provisional costs that go along with the show as well. He said

some of these services had been donated by others in the past, but will require funding this year. The committee has set a goal of \$30,000 for the event, with \$20,000 of that allotted for the fireworks contractor.

Earlier this year, the Board of Selectmen earmarked \$3,000 for the fireworks, something that had not been done before. However, this provision was cut during budget deliberations. Sobczyk seemed to understand this, recognizing that there is serious competition for funding in a small town like Portland. Also, he added, "it's the economic times."

Sobczyk estimated this year's show would run about half an hour. Last year's show, meanwhile, ran between 45 minutes and an hour. But, Sobczyk said, "Just because the fireworks goes on for longer, that doesn't mean it's better." He continued, "Anyone can take a 30-minute show, and stretch it to 45 minutes if they drag it out, but people would see that." Still, Sobczyk said, "We wouldn't want to put on a 10-minute show."

"It'll be good," Sobczyk promised of the show, despite the loss of Dapkus.

While a date for this year's fireworks show has yet to be set, the event will take place where it always has – at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds on Route 17A. The fireworks committee will next meet Tuesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. in the Buck Foreman room, located on top of the police station. Sobczyk anticipated the committee would settle on a date for the event by that time.

Anyone wishing to donate to the fireworks show can make checks out to Portland Fireworks Committee and mail them to 265 Main St., Portland, CT 06480, c/o Portland Police Department.

School Board Looking at Possible EH High School Renovation

by Michael McCoy

Representatives from Friar Associates attended Monday evening's Board of Education to preliminarily discuss renovations to the high school.

Every 10 years, the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) visits the high school and issues their evaluation. The most recent evaluation was issued to the school last November.

Though NEASC extensively praised many aspects of the high school, including the curriculum, teaching staff, and the "leadership, vision, and visibility" of principal Linda Berry, it also found some shortcomings including space needs, the need to "modernize and upgrade technology infrastructure, equipment, software, and support services," and "rapidly aging infrastructure and equipment."

Much of the latter two concerns will be addressed with funds for technology improvements in the proposed 2008-09 budget. However, the spatial concerns will need to be addressed on a larger level. This involves issues such as science labs, lightning, and handicapped accessibility.

NEASC had many of the same findings during its 1997 evaluation. Superintendent of Schools Judy Golden said Tuesday that by 2012, NEASC would want to see forward motion to address these concerns. According to Golden, a failure to show significant progress would result in a "stern warning" from NEASC. Concerning last year's study, Golden said, NEASC was "very clear on the need for facilities improvements."

"We're really trying to avoid" a warning from NEASC, Golden said. "There's no reason for that." Golden described East Hampton High School (EHHS) as "a high school for the '70s." She said a renovation project is "the right thing to do."

EHHS was built in 1961. Prior to that, high school students were educated in what is now Center School. An addition to the high school was built in 1975, and a code update was performed in 1981. That was the last time the school saw major building renovations.

"I don't think anyone in the community would say the high school doesn't need improvement," Golden said.

To this end, the Board of Education (BOE) invited Brian Solywoda and Michael Sorano from Friar Associates, an architecture, interior design, and engineering firm from Farmington, to present them with a possible timetable for a renovation project. At Monday's meeting, the duo presented a nine-step plan. After approving BOE educational specifications, the next step would be to draw up a master plan. To accomplish this, Golden said the BOE would eventually have to hire a consulting firm and, she said, "We will work very hard to find the

funds for that study in the Board of Education budget," rather than having to go to the town.

After this step, the designers would decide whether to label the project "renovate as new" or "addition/alteration." This affects the rate of state reimbursement the town will receive. The wealth of the town also has significant bearing on the reimbursement rate.

Golden said the state has a sliding scale that stretches from 100 percent reimbursement down to almost nothing. Generally speaking, the more students per square foot, the higher the reimbursement rate. Golden said, "We historically get something in the" 60-percent range.

Golden said Friar Associates conducted a feasibility study concerning town facilities two years ago. According to that study, the building project would cost between \$30 million and \$35 million. If the project costs \$30 million, and the state reimbursed the town at 60 percent, that would leave the town's share at \$12 million. However, those numbers are merely hypothetical.

Concerning the project, Golden said, "I have no idea what it will cost," and added that she and the BOE would have a better idea of the costs once the initial study has been conducted.

Friar presented what Golden described as a very tight timetable. It showed the renovation proposal being presented to the state by June 30, 2009, which would follow on the heels of a building committee being appointed and the project passing at a town referendum. This would schedule grant approval for July 2010, which is when the town would receive its reimbursement from the state. According to that timetable, construction would start in the fall of 2010.

However, Golden seemed to think this timetable was swifter than reality. She said she would be content with submitting the renovation proposal to the state by June 30, 2012. This would push groundbreaking back to the fall of 2013.

The interim between submitting the project to the state and receiving grant approval would be when the town would hire an architect and construction manager, who would carry out the final project design.

The high school currently serves about 590 students. However, this project would not be based at all on enrollment projections, but rather on facility obsolescence. Because of this, Golden said, there is no chance of the state later asking for money back based on an insufficient number of students, a misfortune that recently befell Portland.

Golden anticipated that the BOE would discuss the matter further at their next meeting on Monday, May 12, in the high school media center.

Marlborough Residents Complain Taxes Too High

by Kristina Histen

According to survey results presented at a public hearing Monday, the majority of Marlborough residents feel their taxes are too high – and some say they are even being driven out of town by the levies.

The Board of Finance (BOF) presented its proposed \$20.68 million 2008-09 budget at the public hearing Monday night where about half the seats were filled in the Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall School Cafeteria.

This figure represents a \$732,525 increase, or 3.67 percent, over the current year's spending, causing a 2.59 percent tax increase, BOF Chair Catherine Gaudinski said. The requested expenditures for the fiscal year include \$7.12 million from the local Board of Education (BOE); \$6.95 million from the RHAM BOE; \$4.39 million from the Town Operations; \$2.05 million from Town Debt; \$114,450 from Reserve for Capital and Non Recurring (CNR) Expenditures; and \$40,000 from Contingency. Anticipated revenue amounts to \$20.68 million; \$15.98 million from property tax levy and the remaining from other sources like income on investments and charges for services.

When creating the proposed 2008-09 budget, the BOF members took into consideration grand list growth, economic factors, anticipated revenues, future debt payments and facility and equipment needs. They also took into account responses to a survey conducted of residents.

There were 86 respondents to the BOF survey, 72 percent of which felt that the taxes in Marlborough are too high, while 57 percent felt they were too high in comparison with other municipalities in the area. Respondents to the survey said comments like "Taxes are going to drive us away when we retire in five years. We will have to sell our home after 37 years of living in Marlborough," and "These taxes are crazy. We'll be selling as soon as market improves."

"As the Board of Finance, you need to balance wants vs. needs," one survey respondent wrote. "Everybody wants, but what can we afford? Be fiscally responsible."

"Where are we supposed to get this money, what do you expect from us?" resident John Stimpson of Saner Road said at the meeting. "Taxes are just too much, we have to stop."

First Selectman Bill Black said he felt the reduction of \$141,965 from the town operations budget recommended by the BOF was below a sustaining budget dollar amount. He said that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) has worked "extremely hard" at balancing expenses including the elimination of two part-time positions and the reducing of a full-time position to part-time. The BOS has made more than a reasonable attempt to balance ever increasing costs for energy, services, contractual obligations, debt and

hold the line on CNR, he said. Therefore, at this time, the BOS was only able to identify \$46,216 of cuts to the BOF. However, throughout the course of the year, the remaining dollar amount recommended by the BOF of the town operations budget will have to be cut, BOF Vice Chair Beth Petroni said.

Respondents to the survey also felt the local BOE was asking for too much and already had more than enough paraprofessionals and clerical administration. Residents in attendance at Monday's meeting, however, disagreed.

"I was disappointed the Board of Education had to cut so much," Siobhan Peng of Lake Ridge Drive said. With three children currently attending local education, she felt it was a very strong school system. It was important to them when they moved into town six years ago and the BOE has continued to do a great job, she said. Russ West, of Cheney Road, echoed her statement.

Superintendent of Schools Sal Menzo explained the efforts the school has made to save money. For example, significant cost savings have occurred in gas and electricity because of the school's involvement in energy consortium programs, he said. Yet, education constantly changes and is not the same as what most attendees on Monday night experienced when they went to school, Menzo said. Despite the

rising costs, the BOE has tried to offer the best education possible to all their students, he said.

"Our teachers are hard-working and dedicated," he said, "and our students do very well, nationally and internationally. Many people move into town because of our school system."

Other concerns brought to attention by residents at Monday's meeting were the limited services for seniors, the unnecessary need for a GPS tracking system in the senior van, the suggestion that some volunteers received a stipend for their dedication to the town and the reoccurring theme that taxes are just too high for the residents of Marlborough.

"Last year I stood in front of that microphone and said 'taxes are too high,'" Resident and alternate for the BOF, Cliff Denniss of Cheney Road said. "Two years ago I stood in front of that microphone and said 'taxes are too high.' Three years ago I stood in front of that microphone and said 'taxes are too high.' So I came on the other side of the table, and I have to say, it's not that easy."

"Taxes are still too high!" a member of the audience shouted.

Today, May 2, the BOF will recommend the proposed annual budget to the town. The annual budget meeting will be held Monday, May 12, at 7 p.m., in the Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall School Cafeteria, 25 School Dr.

East Hampton Town Council Discusses Fertilizer Ordinance

by Michael McCoy

A month after coming within a hair's breadth of passing a fertilizer ordinance, the Town Council hosted a special meeting to discuss the proposed document Tuesday night at the Middle School Media Center.

According to Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (IWWA) chairman Jeff Foran, IWWA members Scott Hill and Josh Wilson started work on the ordinance about two years ago. Hill and Wilson used a similar ordinance in Dane County, WI, as a starting point.

Since then, the ordinance has bounced back and forth several times between the IWWA and the Town Council. During a March 25 meeting, the council seemed poised to adopt an ordinance that would place a town-wide ban on the use of fertilizers containing phosphorous. However, the ordinance also contained language that would regulate the sale of phosphorous containing fertilizers, as it applied to town retailers. It seemed the council would strike that section before approval.

But Paul Peszynski, owner of Paul's and Sandy's Too, told the council he was "amazed" he had never been consulted about the proposed ordinance. He also labeled the proposed ordinance "an exercise in foolishness." Peszynski's comments were enough to convince the town to set up a special meeting to discuss the issue, before proceeding with a vote.

That discussion was held Tuesday. In addition to Town Council members, about 20 people showed up, including representatives from TruGreen, Jessica's Garden, Paul's and Sandy's Too, the Lake Commission, IWWA, as well as members of the public.

Wilson led off the discussion by saying the current draft of the ordinance was probably the seventh or eighth iteration and added, "The goal of the ordinance was ultimately to protect the waters of East Hampton." He later described

"enact, enforce, and educate," as "the three E's of the ordinance."

East Hampton resident Paul Muhlberg, the commercial account manager for TruGreen out of Rocky Hill, also spoke.

"Back in 2002," reported Muhlberg, "we started a lake-friendly effort." He said this involved using non-phosphorous fertilizers on all accounts within the Lake Pocotopaug watershed, an area he estimated included more than 100 TruGreen accounts. He added that such fertilizer bore no extra cost to the customer. Though Muhlberg said fertilizer containing phosphorous is used by default outside of the lake watershed, non-phosphorous options are always available upon request.

He said TruGreen took this measure "without really being asked. We just jumped in and started doing it on our own." He added, "We're on board with this whole non-phosphorous thing in town, and we have been for a number of years now."

Matt and Jessica Carroll of Jessica's Garden, a landscaping and lawncare business in Marlborough, were also present. While, Matt Carroll said, the proposed ordinance would not affect them as their business is in Marlborough, he said "there are unintended consequences... that should be considered."

Matt Carroll said there are "a lot of people in the residential end who maybe don't have the same scruples" as those who care about Lake Pocotopaug, and suggested that the ordinance would drive many to shop at big-box stores. He said that not only would this take customers away from local businesses but put residents in the hands of those who care much less about the welfare of Lake Pocotopaug.

Peszynski said, "If we pass an ordinance, it's a nice feel-good thing." But, he added, "I personally think the stopping of phosphorous in

fertilizer is going to be no significant change in the water."

Peszynski said the high phosphorous levels in the lake come not from fertilizers, but from erosion, "caused by soil that is unprotected by growth." Also, he added, "a lot of people think fertilizer is a chemical. It's not. It's an element." He explained that fertilizer is made of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium.

"What a lot of people don't know," Peszynski continued, "is that there's phosphorous in everything. If there wasn't... there'd be no trees."

"The reason I would hate to ban 100 percent phosphorous is that phosphorous is what a plant uses to reproduce with," Peszynski said. He said that different lawns naturally maintain varying levels of phosphorous, and said some lawns need the boost. "Sooner or later," he said, "plants are going to use that up, and you're gonna have lawns that are deteriorating. It's like Vitamin C in your body."

Also, Peszynski added, "Three states have passed no-phosphorous ordinances. It's overkill is what it is." He said East Hampton would be the first town in Connecticut to enact such an ordinance. Seeming to show doubt that the town knew something that others didn't, he asked, "Are we that smart?"

This last comment stood in stark contrast from a scene two months ago. At that Town Council meeting, Jeff Foran also declared that East Hampton would be the first town in the state with such an ordinance. This remark was met with a round of applause from the audience.

Driving home his sentiments that an ordinance is not the way to go, Peszynski said, "The most important thing we can do is education... The people want to do it; they just need to know what to do."

During public comments, Lake Commission

member John Ciriello, while speaking on the dangers of phosphorous, also said, "Education is really the most important thing."

Lake Commission Chairman Bob Hart also spoke. "We are suffering from increasing algae blooms in the lake," he said, and added that reducing the amount of phosphorous going to the lake would reduce the amount of algae blooms. To this end, Hart said, "The control of lawn fertilizer is an important step."

In response to Peszynski's erosion theory, Hart said, "Reduce silt: yes, we must do that too. In fact, everyone's right. We've got phosphorous coming in from multiple sources, and we've got to attack it in multiple ways." Hart also said that the lake "is more sensitive to phosphorous and other nutrients than many other lakes are."

Hart continued, "Zero percent fertilizer is available, and it's cost-effective."

Hart also pointed to a survey sent to 1,600 residents in the lake watershed last year. Of these, more than 400 responded, and of respondents, 97 percent supported a non-phosphorous ordinance.

Though no one else seemed to get behind the regulation of sale in town, Wilson said he felt removing the section of the ordinance regulates the sale of phosphorous-containing fertilizer "weakens the balance of equally sharing responsibility."

Resident Patience Anderson said, "I beg you to do this thing. It does no harm, and it has the potential to do great good."

Kyle Dostaler figured, "I think the lowest-hanging fruit here is with the fertilizer ordinance."

Town Council Chairman Melissa Engel anticipated the council would vote on the matter during its next regular meeting on May 13.

Elderly Hebron Man Charged with Attacking Wife

by Sarah McCoy

An elderly Hebron man has been charged with attempted murder after allegedly attacking his wife last Friday.

Francoise Genesse, 80, was transported to Hartford Hospital early Friday morning, April 25, after state police responded to a call at 10 Senate Brook Dr. According to police, Clermont Genesse, 85, assaulted his wife a day after the pair had signed paperwork to move into an elderly home.

Later that morning, state police charged Clermont Genesse with criminal attempt to commit murder, second-degree assault and assault of an elderly person. He is being held on a \$1 million bond, police said.

The couple lives with their daughter, Monique Gonsalves and her husband, George Gonsalves. Monique Gonsalves told police that Clermont was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in March and is now in stage 2 of the disease, according to an affidavit on file at Rockville Superior Court.

According to the affidavit, the Genesses went to sleep in separate bedrooms at around 9:30 p.m. on Thursday night. Just before midnight Monique Gonsalves woke to her mother's screaming, the affidavit said. When she got to her mother's bedroom she saw her father standing over her, swinging his arms with a knife in his hand. Francoise Genesse lay on the floor covered in blood, the affidavit said.

As she attempted to subdue her father, the affidavit said, Monique sustained a cut on her neck.

George Gonsalves soon responded to the commotion and was able to take the knife from Clermont Genesse, the affidavit said. He then secured the elderly man with a rope and called 911. In addition to the knife, the Gonsalveses found a hammer in Francoise Genesse's bed, according to the affidavit.

State police arrived at the house just before 1 a.m. and immediately transported Francoise Genesse to Hartford Hospital via Life Star helicopter.

Clermont Genesse was transported to the State Police Troop K barracks in Colchester for processing. While there, he told police he had intended to kill himself after he killed his wife, because he didn't want them to live a miserable life. According to police reports Clermont showed signs of memory problems as he recounted the night's events.

He was arraigned at Rockville Superior Court on Monday. According to court documents, his public defender, David Channing, told Judge Carl Schuman that Genesse did not know his age or residence. Schuman ordered a competency evaluation be administered to Genesse and that he be placed under suicide watch, the court documents said.

Clermont Genesse is due back in court May 14.

As of press time, Francoise Genesse remains in critical condition at Hartford Hospital. A hospital spokesman reported that she is being treated for a fractured skull, a broken palate, a blood clot on her brain and blunt trauma to her head and shoulder area.

EHHS Grad Running for Breast Cancer Research

Middletown resident Lindsay Holmes, a graduate of East Hampton High School, is running in the 15th annual Komen CT Race for the Cure, which takes place Saturday, June 7, at Bushnell Park in Hartford.

"At first, I thought it was just a great cause and would be fun, but after my experiences in last year's race, I cannot wait for this year's. I am already training for it," said Holmes, a physical therapist who was not only the women's division winner but placed 30th overall in the June 2007 Komen CT Race for the Cure. The Connecticut event has raised more than \$17 million into breast cancer projects, causes and research since it began.

Originally recruited by several friends who are nurses at Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH), Holmes, 27, joined the YNHH team shortly before the 2007 Komen Connecticut Race. She was surprised and pleased to come away as the winner of the women's division during her first year competing.

Holmes' achievement comes as part of a long line of race accomplishments tallied since high school. In high school, she was part of the state championship team for the 4x8 relay, twice made the All-New England team, and won All-State honors throughout her four years at East Hampton High School. She is a graduate of Quinnipiac University, and coaches the track team at Daniel Hand High School in Madison.

Holmes has multiple marathons under her belt, including last month's Boston Marathon. An avid Boston Red Sox fan and a novice on the guitar, she hopes to begin competing in triathlons. And, for the Komen CT Race, she is striving to again finish better than her high school-age brother, David Fitol of East Hampton, who also runs in the Komen CT Race for the Cure.

"He's fantastic!" Holmes says about brother. "Last year, I ran the last quarter-mile with him but then pulled ahead. This year, he's been training and is a lot stronger, so I don't know if I'll win again."

Holmes said this year's race "will mean more to me personally because I am running for a close friend who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and is now undergoing chemotherapy."

"Nearly 3,000 people in Connecticut are



Lindsay Holmes

diagnosed with breast cancer each year," New Britain resident Ann Hogan, 2008 race chairperson, said.

Registration fees for the race are, for kids 13 and under, \$15 through June 5 and \$20 after. Regular registration is \$30 through June 5, \$35 thereafter. "Sleep in for the Cure" is \$35. Events begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 7, and include a 5K co-ed run, 4K walk, 1.5K walk, Kids' K and Kids' short race.

For more information on how you can become involved with the Race for the Cure or to register, visit www.komenct.org or call the Komen CT Race hotline, 860-728-5500. The Komen for the Cure Connecticut Affiliate and Race offices are located in Hartford at Metro Center, 350 Church St., Lobby Level, Hartford, CT 06103.

East Hampton Streetscape Project Raises Ire of Local Business Owner

by Michael McCoy

The streetscape project planned for the Route 66 corridor in East Hampton has ruffled the feathers of some local businesses.

In 2006, the town was awarded \$500,000 from the state for a streetscape renovation project and, the following January, the Town Council formed the Streetscape Steering Committee, which would oversee the project, along with New Haven-based TPA Design Group.

Though it had originally aimed to improve sidewalks from Main Street to Town Hall, the SSC was able to extend the project all the way down to Lakeview Street. This was a result of the town being able to dovetail on the DOT's efforts to improve the intersection of Route 66 and Main Street. Eventually, the project is to proceed up Lakeview, down Summit Street and back up Main Street, to form a triangle that would frame much of the village district.

The effort will include improved curbing, widened and scored sidewalks, greenery, and conduits. The plan is for the latter to eventually connect with pedestrian lighting. Trash cans and benches are also anticipated.

But, during an April 21 Town Council meeting, Bob Kilpatrick voiced concern over parking spaces in front of Lake Shore Package Store. Kilpatrick spoke on behalf of his wife, Rosemary, who purchased the Governor's Tavern/Lakeshore Package Store property in December. She leases the Governor's Tavern property to their son, Colin, who owns the business, and leases the Lake Shore property to Francis D'Mello, who owns that business.

According to Kilpatrick, the streetscape project would take away the four parking spaces, perpendicular to Route 66, in front of the Lakeshore Package Store, and replace them with two spots parallel to the road.

"If he loses those spots," said Kilpatrick, "he's in trouble." He continued, "I was under the impression that this [project] was supposed to help us."

According to Kilpatrick, former Governor's

Tavern owner Carl Shillo received a letter in early December, alerting him of the situation. This was just before the Kilpatricks were to purchase the property.

"So Carl and I went to see the TPA people," Kilpatrick said, referring to the New Haven design firm that drew up the project. "That's when they told me they were going to take two of the four parking spaces."

"It will absolutely kill the package store," Kilpatrick said. "There's really no reason to take them other than that they can."

No one is disputing the fact that the Lake Shore parking area encroaches on the state's right of way. Kilpatrick simply does not seem to understand why, after what he said has been 40, 60, or even 80 years, the state would take the spaces away. "The fact that they can do it doesn't mean they should," he said Monday. In his letter to the Town Council, Kilpatrick claimed this amounted to "government brutality" and said, "The streetscape project's mission should be to enhance the value of the properties it affects, not the reverse."

Kilpatrick also said the same thing is being done to Subway and Classic Auto.

Kilpatrick said TPA offered to work with him to find more parking options in back of the store. However, he said that nature of a package store is one of convenience and high turnaround. Concerning the customers, he figured, "If they have to walk, they'll go somewhere else." In an April 15 letter to the Town Council, Kilpatrick said, "Speed and convenience are paramount."

Referring to the December meeting with TPA, Kilpatrick wrote, "The TPA representatives assured us that they would do what they could for us. We took them at their word, in retrospect, a mistake."

According to Kilpatrick, the state Department of Transportation (DOT) said it would entertain the idea of leasing back some of the space. However, Kilpatrick seemed not to think much of the offer, saying that the leasing of

one-space would require a \$500 application fee, as well as providing for an appraisal. On top of the actual rent, the Kilpatricks would also have to acquire \$2 million worth of insurance for the space.

"The whole thing is wrong," said Kilpatrick. "No one will take responsibility for the design." He also said that at a March 19 SSC meeting his wife was "flatly told that the issue was closed, the parking spaces would be taken, and that was the end of it." He said that the minutes of that meeting read, "Ms. Kilpatrick was reminded that the spaces are located in the right-of-way, owned by the state; her concerns will be forwarded to Heidi Hajna of TPA."

Toward the close of his letter to Town Council, Kilpatrick wrote, "It is also extremely disappointing to me, because I believe that our town government is on our side, not against us. I personally consider this to be such a grievous wrong, such an arrogant misuse of power that, although I sincerely do not want to do so, if it becomes necessary I am fully prepared to commit to the time and expense of any legal remedies available to me to prevent this injustice from coming to pass."

"I think [the whole streetscape renovation project] has been a very open process," Mary Ann Dostaler said Tuesday. Dostaler is former chairman of the Economic Development Commission – of which the SSC is an offshoot – and was very instrumental in securing the grant money for the project from the state. "I take objection with [Kilpatrick] saying that there's been no public disclosure, because there certainly has been."

She added, "The fact of the matter is that he has parking spaces that aren't his."

She expressed consternation over this recent controversy, and said the project "is a positive thing for the town of East Hampton."

Former Town Council member Kyle Dostaler added that two handicapped parking spaces, as

well as the front deck at the Governor's Tavern, also encroach on the state right of way, but the state will not be taking these away.

DOT spokesman Kevin Nursick said this week, "This is the town's plan," pointing out that the state does not proactively seek encroachments onto their rights-of-way. He instead said this was brought to their attention because the town was to incorporate the space into their plan.

However, Nursick did express concern over the nature of the Lake Shore parking spots, saying, "I do think it's an issue backing up into traffic on a busy Route 66." Kilpatrick said during the April 21 council meeting that there was currently ample room for vehicles to back up within the parking area and pull forward straight out into Route 66. But Nursick said, "That's not something we allow to take place when we can avoid it."

Town Council member and SSC member Susan Weintraub said, "It's the DOT who is really now in the driver's seat." She later added, "This is state-owned property. [The businesses] were really trespassing on state property." Weintraub continued, "In no way is this the town trying to negatively impact the property owners."

She also said this was "the eleventh hour," as far as the project goes. Originally, construction was to begin in April. On Wednesday, Weintraub estimated that it would begin in May or June and finish up by the fall. According to her, TPA is currently in the process of bidding the job out.

Weintraub said that TPA, Peter Palazzi of DOT, and acting Town Manager Bob Drewry were to meet separately with representatives from Lakeshore Package Store and Subway on Thursday, after press time, to discuss the situation. "This meeting [Thursday] will hopefully shed some light on the options the property owner has," Weintraub said.

New Pizza Place Comes to Hebron

by Sarah McCoy

When you think Da Vinci do you think of the Mona Lisa? Jim and Lisa Donahue are hoping you'll soon think of pizza.

Last week, the couple opened Pizzeria Da Vinci, a new take-out option for hungry residents.

It was 2005 when Jim Donahue's co-worker at Aetna, Scott Nelson, left the insurance world to open a restaurant. Pizzeria Da Vinci in Cobalt became the seventh in the growing group of restaurants. Donahue decided to pitch in and help his friend get off the ground.

Little did he know it would soon become much more than a part-time job.

By October 2005, Donahue was managing Pizzeria Da Vinci in Higganum with hopes of opening his own place. With the help of Nelson, his hopes have become a reality.

Donahue quickly decided on Hebron for his future restaurant, but struggled to find an open location. For a year and a half Donahue called Brain Reed, owner of the commercial space along Route 66 near the intersection of 316, every week. "And, for a year and a half, he told me to call him next week," Donahue said.

His determination paid off late last year when he and his wife, Lisa, signed a lease to open Pizzeria Da Vinci. For the past six months they've worked to transform the former Elaine's Bakery into an inviting pizza option. The olive green walls and Italian décor welcome eaters into the lobby of Pizzeria Da Vinci. Once there, diners can watch as the chefs prepare the perfect pie.

"We knew we wanted to be in Hebron," Jim Donahue said. "We want to be a part of a community. In Higganum I knew most people's names, their pizza order and the last four digits

of their phone number by heart. To me, it's the relationships you develop that make the job special."

Whether it's over pizza toppings, music or baseball, the Donahues relish the opportunity to get to know their customers. "We take suggestions and give the customer what they want," Da Vinci manager Matt Sypher said.

So far their recipe for success has worked. Business has been steady this first week and every day that goes by the staff are feeling more and more comfortable with what to expect.

The menu at Da Vinci's is full of traditional options as well as specialty pizzas for the more adventurous eater. In their first week of business the Donahues said it's the Baked Potato Pizza that has Hebron residents coming back for more. It's a red pizza heaped with red potatoes, bacon, sour cream, garlic and spices. Another signature item has been The Da Vinci, a vegetarian option with fresh spinach, sun-dried tomatoes, roasted garlic and feta cheese.

Pizza at Da Vinci's can be bought by the pie or by the slice. Each day the restaurant offers slices of cheese, pepperoni, and a rotating Slice of the Day.

Donahue calls the pizza at Da Vinci's New Haven style and stresses that is always made with fresh ingredients. In fact, assuring quality is one reason the Donahue's opted not to offer delivery. "I know how the pizza will be out of the oven," he explained. "I don't know how it will be at your door. I like to say that it's pizza worth picking up."

For those not in the mood for pizza, Pizzeria Da Vinci offers a wide variety of sandwiches, calzones and salads. They also carry Foxon Park soda out of East Haven. This old-fashioned soda is hand crafted and comes in an assortment of



Lisa Donahue, left, and Jim Donahue, right, opened Pizzeria Da Vinci last week in the center of Hebron. The restaurant features an array of traditional and specialty pizza options, salads, and sandwiches. In the center is the restaurant manager, Matt Sypher.

flavors from birch beer to strawberry.

Even though there are now eight Da Vinci restaurants, Donahue stresses that it is not a chain. The restaurants began in Killingworth with Drew and Carrie Sassi. From there, friends and family have helped carry the Da Vinci name

throughout the area. Now the Donahues are rolling up their sleeves and diving in.

Pizzeria Da Vinci is located at 55 Main St., next to the Hebron Laundry. It is open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sundays 3-9 p.m. To reach the restaurant, call 228-1242.

Andover Residents Sound Off at Budget Presentation

by Sarah McCoy

Little was said about the actual dollar amount in Andover's proposed 2008-09 budget. Instead, residents at a public hearing Wednesday sounded off at the way the budget presentation was handled by town officials.

About 25 residents gathered at the Town Hall Wednesday, most to question what was included in the budget. Other than a brief comment that it would be nice for the town to one year have a zero percent increase, the Board of Finance (BOF) heard little about the overall budget number put forth.

The BOF recommended a \$10.31 million budget, or a 4.6 percent increase in spending, at its meeting last week. This includes a 3.75 percent increase for the local Board of Education and a 4.6 percent increase to the RHAM Board of Education.

The budget, as it's proposed, equates to a 1.34 increase to the town's mill rate.

It wasn't these numbers that had some residents up in arms, but the way the numbers were presented to the public. The BOF provided residents a one-sheet document outlining the budgets for each town department. Finance board members fielded a slew of questions from residents regarding what went into each line item.

"I have to say I'm a little disappointed," Andover resident Joanne Hebert said. "I've called all week down to the Town Clerk's office to see if I could get the additions and subtractions made to this budget."

BOF Chair Cathleen Desrosiers said it would take 10 pages of information to provide the detail Hebert requested.

"If that's what it takes, we need to see 10 sheets to be intelligent people at this meeting," Hebert said.

Desrosiers later recanted, saying the budget document was 63 pages, not 10 as she initially estimated. Nevertheless, BOF member Ginny Kuhn was sent to make copies of the more extensive document.

First Selectman Bob Burbank reported that the town is working towards providing more detailed financial data for residents through

the Phoenix software system. The software was installed about four years ago but the previous administration never got it operating correctly, according to Burbank. "Now it accurately tracks expenses," Burbank said. "However, we'd like to make further modifications to the system to streamline the process and give more extensive financial data."

Money is included in the proposed budget for the coming year to update the Phoenix software.

Another concern voiced on Wednesday night was the assessor's salary. John Chaponis, who works as the assessor in Colchester, also works in the same capacity in Andover. His office hours are 5-7 p.m. on Monday and 9 a.m.- noon on Thursday; for this, Chaponis receives a salary of \$25,000. There is also an assistant assessor, who receives a salary of \$27,000.

"He is the most under-worked overpaid person in this town," Andover resident Don Denley said. "John Chaponis has pulled a fast one on this town."

Andover resident Danny Holtsclaw asked the BOF to reduce the overall line item for the assessor's office from \$65,000 to \$50,000. Burbank said the town doesn't have the ability to do this as the salaries are negotiated as part of the union contract. The two members of the assessor's office unionized soon after the town hired Chaponis in 2004.

Burbank added that the salaries were "about the norm for a town of this size in the state."

At the conclusion of the public hearing the BOF made a few minor adjustments to the budget, which Burbank called, "mostly clerical in nature." The budget still stands at \$10.31 million, and will be brought forth to a town meeting later this month.

At the town meeting, to be held Tuesday, May 13, at 7 p.m., at Andover Elementary School, residents will have two options: they can vote the budget down or they can send the proposed spending plan to referendum for a formal vote. If residents send it to referendum, that vote would take place Tuesday, May 27.

Middle School Students Raise Money for Parkinson's

by Sarah McCoy

Each year RHAM Middle School social studies teacher Jim McGee asks his students to complete a large-scale project to raise money for a nonprofit organization. This year was no different, as the school's 110 blue team students raised almost \$2,000 for the Connecticut chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA).

The project coincided with the students' studies of the Revolutionary War. Each student performed a song reminiscent of colonial times as part of a 2-hour presentation, entitled *1776*. The performances were recorded and sold to raise money for Parkinson's research.

Between sales of the DVD and other donations the students collected \$1,776, coinciding with the project's theme.

The inspiration for donating the money to the APDA came from an unlikely place: Rachael Ray. Kaitlin Martin, a member of the blue team at RHAM Middle School, was watching the cooking guru's talk show when she had Michael J. Fox on as a guest. Struck by the actor's quest for finding a cure, Kaitlin suggested the money they raised go to supporting

Parkinson's research.

McGee and the other students loved this idea especially considering the school's beloved science teacher, Gary Oberlin, was forced to retire last year because of the disease. "He has always been, and will continue to be, a friend to the school," McGee said of his former colleague. "We wanted to dedicate this project to him."

Joan Gilbert, a support services teacher on the blue team, lost her father, Raymond Dwyer nine years ago to Parkinson's disease. Her mother, Marcie Dwyer, now serves as a board member on the Connecticut chapter of American Parkinson Disease Association. Marcie was on hand at RHAM last Monday to accept a check from the students. "It seems that everyone knows someone affected by Parkinson's," she said. "We are so grateful to these students and their hard work."

The Community Voice Channel will air *1776* on Saturday, May 3, at 10 a.m.; Wednesday, May 7, at 4 p.m.; Tuesday, May 13, at 8 p.m.; Thursday, May 22, at 2:30 p.m.; and Friday, May 30, at 7 p.m.

Weekend Fire Leaves Hebron Family Homeless

by Sarah McCoy

A Hebron family is now homeless after a fire ripped through their home last Saturday.

Firefighters responded to a passerby's call at 12:01 a.m. Saturday morning, April 26, reporting a fire at 384 Gilead St. Within four minutes the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department was on scene, but at that point there was little they could do to save the structure.

"The house was already two-thirds involved by the time we got there," Second Assistant Fire Chief Greg Long said.

It took crews an hour to bring the blaze under control. In addition to Hebron, firefighters responded from Colchester, Marlborough, Andover and Glastonbury.

Long suspected that the fire originated in the lower level of the home, possibly in the family room. The exact cause of the blaze is

still being investigated by the town's Fire Marshal Randy Blais. The house has since been condemned. However, Long was happy to report that crews were able to salvage some of the family's personal items from the bedrooms and garage.

Homeowners Gavin and Linda Murphy were out of town at the time of the fire. One firefighter sustained a minor injury fighting the blaze on Saturday morning, but he did not require medical attention.

Long commended the firefighters for their prompt response and diligent work in containing the blaze. He estimated that fires of this magnitude only happen in Hebron once or twice a year and require careful work from the emergency responders.

East Hampton Police News

4/18 — John W. Boyce Jr., 31, of 44 Ridgefield Dr., Middletown, was issued a ticket for failure to obey a control signal, East Hampton Police said.

4/19 — Abel G. Centino, 22, of 36 Eastham Bridge Rd., was issued a ticket for unnecessary noise, police said.

4/22 — Martin V. Valencia, 39, of 28 Colchester Ave., was arrested for disorderly conduct second-degree strangulation, unlawful restraint and second-degree assault, police said.

4/23 — Carol Perkins, 58, of 9 West High St., was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

4/23 — Tasha Saltus, 23, of 24 Middletown Ave., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for sixth-degree larceny and third-degree identity theft, police said.

4/24 — A 17-year-old male juvenile was issued a ticket for smoking in a prohibited location, police said.

4/24 — James Burger, 49, of an unknown residence, was arrested for third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

4/29 — Alan Useforge, 49, of 87 Carli Blvd., Colchester, was arrested for speeding, police said.

Portland Police News

4/14 — Jimmielee Shuler, 36, of 56 Rapallo Ave., Middletown, was charged with first-degree robbery and fifth-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

4/14 — John Foster, 47, of 46 Hillside Ave., Middletown, was charged with first-degree conspiracy to commit robbery, first-degree robbery, fifth-degree conspiracy to commit larceny and fifth-degree larceny, police said.

4/15 — Thomas Westlake, 50, of 8 Raccoon Ridge, Woodbury, was charged with DUE and following too close with intent to intimidate, police said.

4/17 — Eileen Clark, 39, of 75 East Main St., was charged with misuse of plates, operating unregistered motor vehicle, operating motor vehicle without insurance and operating motor vehicle without a license, police said.

4/18 — Melissa Swan, 26, of 19 Main St., was charged with failure to respond to infrac-

tion, police said.

4/18 — Heath Galvin, 18, of 61 N. Main St., was charged with misuse of plates, failure to display plate, operating unregistered motor vehicle and with insufficient insurance, police said.

4/19 — Samantha Clark, 18, of 70 Grove Hill Rd., was charged with reckless burning and third-degree damage to railroad property, police said.

4/19 — Gary Latham, 38, of 250 Stoneycrest Dr., Middletown, was charged with first-degree failure to appear, police said.

4/22 — Montrel Holley, 21, of 57 Military Rd., Middletown, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

4/25 — Tasha Saltus, 23, of 24 Middletown Ave., East Hampton, was charged with sixth-degree larceny, police said.

Marlborough Public Works Employees Allege Threats Made By Supervisors

by Kristina Histen

Most people can find something to complain about at their job, like whether the coffee tastes bad or a co-worker talks too loud, but as soon as the day is over it is quickly forgotten.

When one's own personal safety is in jeopardy because of violence in the workplace, though, it's a different story.

Marlborough Public Works Department employees allege they have been continuously threatened at their job, and nothing has been done to address the situation.

The eight men that work for the local Public Works Department have come together to raise concerns about the way they say their two supervisors, Dean Hunniford and Chris Corsa, are treating them. They claim that the two supervisors spend too much of their time harassing and bullying them, rather than focusing on the upkeep of the town. Due to their fear of retaliation and physical harm proven in past experiences, the workers have been reluctant to publicly address the issues they constantly deal with and wish to remain anonymous.

"This is a labor relation issue and I wouldn't discuss it with the press," First Selectman Bill Black said Monday. He added that if the workers are having problems they should try to resolve it with their supervisors or turn to the local Teamster that represents them.

Over the past three or four years, however, the Public Works employees have already tried to work it out with their supervisors and the first selectman, but feel as though their complaints have fallen on deaf ears, despite the town's "Workplace Violence Prevention" policy, Teamster Local 559 Representative John Lupacchino said.

The employees therefore turned to Teamster Local 559, which has also tried to resolve problems with the town, but to no avail, Lupacchino said.

The union has encouraged workers to publicize to the community the injustices and unfairness going on in the Marlborough Public Works Department, Lupacchino said.

The workers said they felt feel as though Hunniford and Corsa are not qualified for their positions as supervisors because of no previ-

ous experience in management and the inability to do their jobs effectively. They also find it odd that for such a small town they have two foremen for only eight men, when at much bigger towns with larger departments, there is typically only one supervisor with salary. The workers also allege that, since Hunniford and Corsa are paid hourly and write in their own hours, they were both each making more than the first selectman because of overtime, although recently that has supposedly stopped.

The Public Works Department employees have also made some disturbing claims about their work environment involving physical threats made by supervision. It seems to have stemmed from an incident that allegedly occurred sometime in June 2005, when one worker accused Corsa of abusing his truck privileges. That same day, the worker said, his truck had been keyed, the tires slashed and drinks he had inside a cooler stabbed. Although the worker said he didn't know exactly who did it, the timing looked like it was retaliation.

Also in 2005, another worker claimed, when Hunniford was still fairly new, he approached him and threatened to have one of his co-worker's legs broken with a bat if he did not change his attitude. Hunniford then allegedly flashed a \$100 bill and said he knew people he could pay to do just that.

Another incident in July 2006 involved Hunniford at a group meeting. He allegedly said that he would jump across the table to grab one of the workers and punch him out because he didn't like a remark he made. When he was questioned by a co-worker about the comment, Hunniford allegedly said that he would have done it "if he was younger."

Other workers said that they had been approached by friends and relatives that heard from Hunniford or Corsa that they were going to be fired or "to watch their backs," even though they hadn't been talked to personally by their supervisors.

"They don't really communicate to us at all from day to day," one worker said. "Maybe they don't want to talk so they can have time to flex their muscles and retaliate against us. I don't

know. It's just too bad because it is a small town and a small garage and we never had issues before them."

In July, August and September 2006, Black was "enjoyable" to talk with about issues, the workers said, and many of the Public Works Department employees felt confident that they were going to get somewhere. However, at a meeting in February 2007, Black's involvement apparently changed. One worker brought up during the discussion with Black that his wife was upset about the violence going on in the workplace and that she shouldn't have to worry at home. He told Black that there is a violence in the workplace policy and it has zero tolerance, yet it was constantly being violated. When Black was directly asked by the worker if someone had to get hurt in order for him to do something about it, he became upset and has since then chosen a side whether right or wrong, and made his own attempt to retaliate, another worker said.

On March 2, 2007, that same worker who had questioned Black said he was personally told by the first selectman "with a smile on his face" that he was being laid off. When Black was confronted by another worker who said he was laying his co-worker off because of retribution, the first selectman allegedly claimed it was for budgetary reasons.

However, the worker who Black had told would be laid off couldn't be laid off, due to contractual reasons, because of seniority; instead, it could be someone under him. But on March 5, 2007, the position was restored, because the money had "been found" over the weekend, the workers said.

Fifty percent of the workers have at one point or another been suspended or written up, yet nothing has remained on file, the workers said.

The alleged incidents of violence have continued. Just recently, a worker said, Hunniford was in a town truck, with Corsa in the passenger seat, and ran over the worker's foot. When the worker yelled to them about the incident, he allegedly saw Hunniford and Corsa smile before they sped off without an apology. However, because of the worker's safety boot, there

was no injury, Lupacchino said.

Despite there being two foremen for only eight guys, earlier this year GPS tracking systems were put in the department vehicles without the workers' awareness; but not in the supervisors' vehicles, the workers said. Many of the Public Works Department employees feel as though it is a waste of tax dollars because they have radios in the trucks to communicate and it takes extra time for someone to go through all the tracking data.

Also, because Hunniford has allegedly made previous threats about "knowing people that can break legs," the workers said they can't imagine what could happen if it was late at night and they were alone on a deserted road now that they can be tracked. Hunniford allegedly admitted to everyone that the GPS tracking system was only put in the senior van to make it look like the Public Works Department wasn't being discriminated against, the workers said. Supposedly, Hunniford also told the workers that Black was willing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in attorneys' fees to get rid of employees, they said.

"We are definitely tired of it," one worker said, "and hopefully things will change. We are good guys and many of us have worked for the town for years. I don't understand why we have to put up with this stuff. It's understandable if it was just one guy, but it's all of us down there having problems. What do you do when eight people don't want to work with the same two supervisors? There needs to be a change. We tried everything we could to work for these guys but it's just not happening."

The union is now weighing all its legal options against the town and its supervisors to change the current atmosphere, Lupacchino said. These allegations, as well as many others, are in clear violation of the "Workplace Violence Prevention" Policy, he said.

"These workers need to be treated with respect and dignity in a civilized society," Lupacchino said. "That is our goal and we're prepared to see this through."

Neither Hunniford nor Corsa returned calls seeking comment before press time.

Silent Auction to Benefit MS Society Grows in Marlborough

The list of contributors to the May 10 Silent Auction at Thatcher's Art Alcove and Lily's Frame & Art continues to grow.

The auction will be held Saturday, May 10, from 1-4 p.m. at the Marlborough businesses located at 6 Independence Dr., adjacent to Thatcher's Pharmacy in the center of town.

In a week, the event has more than doubled its contributor list. Now the auction offers over 50 items from 45 international, national and local artists and businesses stepping up to help multiple sclerosis (MS) walk team 100 Strong raise funds for multiple sclerosis research.

100 Strong is the brainchild of Marlborough resident Cassandra Hamilton, who is also the team captain. Hamilton was diagnosed with MS in 2006.

"The items for bid are so interesting and the response has been incredibly positive," Hamilton said. "I'm pleased there's something for everyone."

For example, one team member, a former resident of Connecticut now living in Vermont, was thrilled to learn about Mary Horrigan's item to paint a watercolor of a person's home or animal. The Vermont resident just bought a cow. "She really wants a painting of that cow!" Hamilton grinned. "So much so, she convinced me to open the auction to pre-bidding for those that can not attend."

People who pre-bid, Hamilton said, "risk the chance of being out-bid by an attendee, but by us allowing pre-bids, they can still throw their hat in the ring." Everyone can view the growing list of auction items posted on www.nationalmssociety.com/goto/100Strong. Those interested in pre-bidding may send an e-mail to captain100strong@mac.com with their contact information, auction item number and bid. 100 Strong will post the pre-bids on each bid sheet at the auction. It will be in the attendees' hands as to whether or not they want to exceed pre-bids.

The auction's list of contributors includes donations such as a weekend get-away to holistic health spa Omega Institute, a one-hour reading from psychic Jackie Barrett from "America's Psychic Challenge," and two three-month online health club memberships. Artists who have contributed include: Brian Andres (creator of *StoryPeople*), shamanic artist Balam Soto and author and visionary artist Alex Grey. Potter Chris London, leads the local support followed by watercolor artist Mary Horrigan, potter Michele Sinkez of Blissmeadow Arts, painter Irene Laime, artist Barbara Gish, painter Lesley Braren and yoga-instructor-paint-brushwielding Temple Symonds.

Other contributions include: a cut and blow dry from Headworks Salon and Day Spa, two yoga classes from Sacred Rivers Yoga, a massage by Lori Brown, a private drawing or watercolor lesson from Kathy Berlin, a plant from Paul & Sandy's Too, Inc., a private yoga class with Gabriel London, a watch from Thatcher's Pharmacy, a gift basket from KristenLaura Makeup Artistry & Cosmetics, journals and Feng Shui consultations from Cassandra Made It, a silk flower arrangement from It's So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe, and a table runner by Romina Italia. Jewelry will be provided by Stone Age, Dynamite Dangles and Lynn Warner.

Also, BJ's, Stop & Shop, Marlborough Arts Center, Connecticut Culinary Institute, Paul & Sandy's too, Inc., Central K-9, ArtFARM, Marlborough Pizza, Along Party Lines, Sadler's Ordinary, Marlborough Bakery, Country Roads, Frank Corbo's Marlborough Marital Arts and the Marlborough Barn are all offering gift certificates.

Mambo Sprouts, a marketer of organic and natural products, is providing coupon booklets to everyone that attends. Sadler's Ordinary is providing appetizers. Honest Teas is supplying tea from their new tea, Jamine Green Energy



Artist Mary Horrigan will provide a watercolor of a home or pet to her top bidder. Horrigan is one of several artists whose works will be up for bid at a silent auction coming up May 10.

Tea. Along Party Lines, Target, Paul & Sandy's too, Inc., Stop & Shop, BJ's, and Family Dollar in Portland also contributed goods and financial support for the event decorations.

"The response to the auction has been incredibly positive," said Hamilton, who will be sitting at a table at the Marlborough Barn Warehouse Sale on Saturday, to promote the auction, accept team donations and accept auction item donations. "We want to encourage the momentum of support."

At the auction, products, services, art and

gift certificates will be waiting for bid from 1-3 p.m. The highest bids, who will take home the prizes, will be announced during the last hour of the event.

Attendees will help 100 Strong raise funds for MS research. The team seeks to raise \$10,000 this year.

To learn more about 100 Strong, or donate to the team, visit www.nationalmssociety.com/goto/100Strong. To view team videos, visit www.youtube.com/user/CassandraMadeIt. And to reach Thatcher's Art Alcove, call 295-1252.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Mike Stark

LTC Mike Stark, US Army (Ret.), died April 4. He was born July 31, 1946. He was a resident of East Hampton and Tucson, AZ. Mike was known by his friends as "The Colonel" or "Falcon 6." Mike was a man with an insatiable curiosity and a man with a passion for life.

He was an active member of East Hampton's VFW Post 5095 Color Guard. His spirit lives on in the efforts he put into the acquisition and restoration of the Cobra Helicopter on display at the Post Home and into the construction of the Garden of Honor in which the helicopter is now located. (We all remember him driving around in his truck with the two dummy pilots that are now in the cockpit while they were restoring the helicopter.)

A patriot and a warrior, Mike was a man who knew firsthand the true cost of freedom; he was proud to have served his country as a United States Army Aviator. A highly-decorated professional soldier, he saw combat as helicopter gunnery pilot in Vietnam and went on to a distinguished military career as a Lieutenant Colonel.

He was predeceased in death by the love of his life, Carole Lavoie, Adams, Stark, March 21, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Cindy; his son John Stark and wife Liza of Tucson, AZ and Jason Stark of Columbia, MD; his sister Susie and brother-in-law Steve Young of California; his brother Robert and sister Jayne; stepsons Christopher Adams and wife Nicole of Essex Junction, VT; Derek Adams and wife Jennifer of Vershire, VT; his beloved step-grandchildren Kate and Jakob Adams who were the lights of his life.

Mike's remarkable life will be remembered by everyone who knew him across the USA. He will be greatly missed by his two sisters-in-law, Patricia Dominski of East Hampton and her husband Mitch, also Barbara Hill of Yarmouthport, MA.

A service will be held May 25, around noon, at the VFW in East Hampton, Post 5095. Donations may be made to The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5095, Cobra Fund, North Maple Street, East Hampton, CT 06424.

East Hampton

Mary H. Koss

Mary H. Koss, 95, of East Hampton, died Saturday, April 26, at Cobalt Lodge. Born Jan. 1, 1913, in Westchester, she was a daughter of the late Michael and Rozalia (Kobylarz) Koss, Sr. She had lived in Hartford for 50 years and in the East Hampton area for the last 10 years.

During WWII, Mary worked as a machine operator for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and after the war, she became the head cook for many Hartford area restaurants. Mary was a member of the Polish Alliance and a member of the Polish National Home Society in Hartford.

She is survived by a brother, Walter Koss of Colchester; a sister, Stella Golnik of East Hampton; several nieces and nephews and several great-nieces and nephews. Mary was predeceased by three brothers, Adam Koss, Joseph Koss and Michael Koss, Jr. and two sisters, Anna Woyнар and Victoria Koss.

Services were held Thursday, May 1, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery, Colchester. Calling hours were Thursday morning in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Andrew's Church Memorial Fund, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415, CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111 or to the ASPCA at www.aspc.org Family and friends are invited to send a condolence message at www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com



Marlborough

Arlene Salvador

Arlene "Dee Dee" Salvador, 46, of Long Beach, LI, NY, and Marlborough, passed away Friday, April 25, at the North Shore Medical Center in Manhasset, LI. Born April 28, 1961, in Englewood, NJ, she was a daughter of Richard Devine of Sammamish, WA and Linda (Freet) Lang of Falmouth, MA.

She was a 1979 graduate of Ridgefield (CT) High School. Ms. Salvador was Marketing Director for Computer Associates in Hauppauge, LI. In her spare time, she loved the outdoors, be it at the beach, mountain biking, skiing or golfing; as well as time spent traveling, reading or enjoying a concert or movie.

She is survived by her mother, Linda, and husband, William Lang; her father, Richard and wife, Nancy Devine; her 101-year-old grandmother, Mary Devine of Sammamish, WA; two sisters, Patti Devine of Bellport, LI and Wendy and husband, Paul Canale of Bethel; three brothers and their spouses, Russell and Brenda Salvador of Marlborough, Richard and AnnMarie Devine of Kent, WA and Jeffrey and Laurel Devine of Hackettstown, NJ; and numerous extended family members and friends. She was predeceased by her adoptive father, Dino Salvador, in September of 1990.

Friends called Tuesday, April 29, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd. The funeral assembled Wednesday, April 30, at the funeral home before processing to the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., (Rte. 85), Hebron, for the celebration of the Funeral Liturgy. Father Michael S. Smith officiated. Interment followed in the Marlborough Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the New York Organ Donor Network, 132 W 31st St., 11th Fl., New York, NY 10001-3406.

East Hampton

David Louis Fournier

David Louis Fournier, 49, of Middle Haddam, died at home on Saturday, April 26. He was born in Hartford, the son of Roy E. and Marion E. (Evans) Fournier. David grew up in Newington, graduated from Newington High School, and attended the Connecticut School of Broadcasting. He had been employed by Northeast Utilities for many years. He was a member of the Capitol City Rifle and Pistol Club and the Glastonbury Elks No. 2202. He was an avid baseball fan, loved music, the outdoors and wildlife, especially the birds.

David is survived by his devoted wife, Sharon (Duhamel), an employee of the *Hartford Courant*, his parents of Newington, his sister Katherine and her husband, Paul Williams, mother-in-law Lucy Duhamel of Hartford, sisters and brothers-in-law John Duhamel of Hartford, Paul and Ann Duhamel of Columbia, Paulette and Glenn Lagoy of Torrington, and Kathy Hunt of East Hartford, six nephews and three nieces.

Visitation is at noon on Saturday, May 3, followed by a memorial service at 1 p.m., at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 306 Industrial Park Rd., Suite 105, Middletown, CT 06457. Family and friends are invited to send a condolence message at www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Hebron

Edward A. Pellizari

Edward A. Pellizari, 87, of Mill Landing, Hebron, and formerly of Stafford Springs, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, April 25, at Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven. He was born in Stafford Springs, son of the late Angelo and Josephine (Cini) Pellizari. Edward retired as a Supervisor from the United States Postal Service in Stafford Springs. He was also a veteran of the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Edward is survived by his wife, Marie (Pasquinelli) Pellizari of Hebron; a sister, Evelyn Hood of Stafford Springs; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by four brothers, Renato Pellizari, Albert Pellizari, Oscar Pellizari, and James Pellizari; and two sisters, Jeannette Rossi, and Alyce Lorenzetti.

Funeral services with burial in Stafford Springs Cemetery, Stafford Springs, will be private and at the convenience of the family. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Edward School Memorial Fund, 6 Benton St., Stafford Springs, CT 06076. Introigne Funeral Home, Inc., 51 East Main St., Stafford Springs, has care of the arrangements. For online condolences, visit: www.introignefuneralhome.com.

Portland

Constance Lastrina Markowski

Constance Lastrina Markowski, 82, of Joelle Dr., Portland, died Saturday, April 26, in her home. She was the wife of the late Edward J. Markowski. Born in Middletown, March 11, 1926, a daughter of the late Salvatore and Angelina Gallitto Lastrina, she was a Portland resident for many years. She had been employed by EIS Automotive for many years until her retirement. She was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary, in Portland, and had been a member of the Altar Society.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Lisa and Brian Keereweer of Middletown; her granddaughters Heather Keereweer of Charlestown, NH, Lauren Keereweer and Molly Keereweer both of Middletown; her sisters Sandy Carta of Portland, Josephine Lipka of New Britain, and Joan Magnano of Coconut Creek, FL; her sisters-in-law Eleanor Lastrina of Portland, and Pearl Lastrina of Arkansas. She was predeceased by her sister Mary Custy and her brothers Andrew and Sebastian Lastrina.

Her family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Tuesday, April 29. Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 30, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home and at noon at the Church of Saint Mary where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Rev. John F. Ashe. Interment followed in St. Mary Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Stephen Crouch, Tim Maher, Peter Custy, Richard Magnano, Paul Beach, and Cheyne McCormick. In lieu of flowers, gifts in her memory may be sent to Mercy High School, 1740 Randolph Rd., Middletown, CT 06457.

East Hampton

Dorothy M. Peterman

Dorothy M. (Coe) Peterman, 92, of East Hampton, widow of William Peterman, Jr. died Tuesday, April 22, at Manchester Memorial Hospital. Born Sept. 24, 1915, in Middletown, she was a daughter of the late John F. and Hazel (Markham) Coe. Dorothy was a loving homemaker for her husband and children.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, William III and Jean Peterman of East Hampton; one daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Buddy Fatscher also of East Hampton; two sisters, Marion Roberts of Farmington and Helen Condon of East Hampton; seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Dorothy was predeceased by her daughter Claire Parisi.

Her funeral was held Thursday, April 24, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours. Friends may leave an online condolence at www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Lorraine M. Milardo

Lorraine M. (Miano) Milardo, 68, of Michael Drive, Portland, wife of the late Anthony J. Milardo, died Friday, April 25, at the Middlesex Hospital. She was born in Middletown the daughter of the late Salvatore F. and Nellie C. (Mozdzierz) Miano, and lived in Portland most her life. Lorraine is survived by a son, Ronald J. Milardo of Portland; three daughters, Linda M. Milardo of Portland, Debra A. Crompton of Middlefield, Karen E. Milardo of Portland; two sons-in-law, Carl Milardo, and Kenneth Crompton; two sisters, Marlene Judkins, Linda Keany both of Middletown; five grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 30, from the Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by a Funeral Liturgy in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial was in Saint Mary Cemetery. Friends called at the Biega Funeral Home Tuesday, April 29. Memorial contributions may be sent to Saint Mary Church, Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480, or to Portland Fire Department EMS, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.