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Mandie Lovett of Marlborough holds a quilt made from shirts belonging to her late husband, Jon. The piece is part of a bedroom designed for the Lovetts' one-year-old son, Casey.

Marlborough Dad's Memory Lives On

by Adam Benson

It wasn't hard to find Jon Lovett during his life.

If the 39-year-old Marlborough resident wasn't reading a putt on one of Blackledge Country Club's greens, chances are he was attending a dance recital or coaching one of his girls in a youth sports league.

"He was their rock. Their whole life," Jon's wife Mandie said.

Last April, Mandie gave birth to the couple's fourth child and their first boy, Casey. After winning a five-week battle for his life due to complications at birth, doctors released Casey from UConn Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit in early May.

Three months later, tragedy struck the family — Jon died suddenly at his daughter Hayden's fifth birthday party on Aug. 18, 2008, after suffering an electrical failure in his heart brought on by an enlarged heart muscle that was undetected by doctors.

"Literally he was playing a basketball game at Chuck E. Cheese with my middle daughter and he just fell to the floor. We all were right there with him when he passed away," Mandie said. "If you knew Jon, you would just be blown away at the irony that he died because of his heart being too big, because he just had the biggest heart in the world."

In addition to Mandie, Casey and Hayden, Jon left behind two other daughters, 14-year-old Brittney and Ashley, 17.

But thanks to a heartfelt essay Mandie penned and a contest she discovered after re-

ceiving an online newsletter from the company that provided the special baby formula Casey was on, the beloved father of four is able to live on, in a very unique way.

"Every month I would receive online newsletters from the company, and the heading on one of them was 'Why does your child deserve a dream nursery?' and I thought to myself, 'why doesn't he?'" Mandie said.

In March, Mandie was named one of four national winners in the Similac Custom Nursery Design Contest, sponsored by Abbott Nutrition.

Mandie received \$10,000 and a professional design consultation to help fulfill her wish of creating a golf-themed bedroom for Casey in memory of his father. The final product was unveiled this week during a ceremony at her Fuller Road home.

"I was overjoyed. I thought, 'Oh my gosh, I wish Jon could see,' because he would have been thrilled," Mandie said. "It was beyond what we could have imagined. I was so happy for Casey that he'll have something that will remind him of Jon."

Featuring a wall-length mural of a golf hole with a sign that says "18 with Daddy," and carpeting that included a bunker, water hazard and green, the room has quickly become a living testament to Jon's love of the game and his newborn son.

Mandie said Jon couldn't wait to share his passion for golf with Casey. During his life,

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Andover Town Elections Coming Next Week

by Sarah McCoy

Andover voters will have triple duty at all the polls next week. Not only will there be a vote on the RHAM Board of Education on Tuesday and a town meeting on the local budget on Wednesday, but, on Monday, May 4, voters will elect town officials for some of Andover's most influential boards.

One of those boards, the Board of Finance (BOF), is in the midst of its busiest time of the year. Board members have just concluded putting forth a recommended budget for the 2009-10 and now prepare for new individuals to serve. Six candidates will vie for three openings on the BOF.

Current Chair Bob Carrara and BOF member Will Perez will not seek reelection to their posts.

Democrat Marie Burbank is seeking reelection for her position. Burbank, the wife of current First Selectman Bob Burbank, has served



Burbank

on the BOF for the past four years. She also served for a four-year term about 10 years ago, in addition to serving for one term on the Board of Selectmen and working as the Andover Town Clerk for 12 years. "I think I bring a value perspective in that I have experience and have served the town in multiple roles," Burbank said. "This is not an easy board to serve on but it's an important one."

She also said she is proud of the budget the BOF has put forth this year. "It's an example of cooperation," she said. "We all worked together and realized the importance of keeping the budget down, especially this year."

Burbank is joined on the Democratic ticket by Nancy Chmielewski and James McCann.

Chmielewski has lived in town for the past 22 years. She came to Andover seeking a rural community with an easy commute to Hartford for her job as a nurse. Now that she's recently



Chmielewski

retired, Chmielewski said she has the time to give back to the town.

"I just felt this was a board where you could really make a difference," she said of her reasons for running for the Board of Finance. "As a citizen I'm worried about our taxes, the things that concern our seniors, as well as our schools and our future."

McCann is a 17-year Andover resident. He has served, and continues to serve, on the town's Inland Wetlands and Watercourse commissions. He also presently serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

On the Republican side, Georgette Conrad, Jeanne Gagnon and Alicia Lee are also seeking election to the BOF. Conrad, who attends virtually every BOF meeting, said that she wants to be a part of controlling spending in town. "We can't afford to keep going up and up and up," she said. "Forty years ago my husband and I thought this was where we'd retire to. Now I'm not sure. We need to be cognizant of the



McCann

seniors and others on a fixed income."

Conrad currently serves as the secretary for the Andover Republican Town Committee, on the Board of Assessment Appeals and as treasurer for the Lake Association. Conrad also continues to work with other seniors in town assisting them with their taxes and other financial information. She commended the current BOF on their work on next year's proposed budget but insists that the same level of work must be done each year. "Tax increases are driving residents out of town," she said. "What's going to happen is that families with kids are going to move in which costs residents more in the long run."

With a financial background and a desire to give back to her town, Jeanne Gagnon felt that the BOF was a good fit for her. She has lived in town for the past 14 years and currently

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Conrad

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the entire family would regularly play together, and Jon became known among his friends for organizing weekly gatherings at area courses.

"After he passed away, it was even more important for me to have something like that," Mandie said of the bedroom. "I was going to do it anyway, but this is just a blessing."

Mandie met with designers from Labella Spaidal, a Fairfield-based interior decorating company, in early March to share with them an outline she and Jon had created about how they wanted the room to look.

The couple planned to make the work a family project.

"We probably would have had 15 kids if we would have had enough time and cars and money. We just live and breathe for them. Everything is about creating their life in a way that's happiest for them," Mandie said. "It just was what we were all about together and what he was all about as a dad. Anyone that knew him, you could see it written all over him."

Though work on the room only took about a week, designers left some surprises for the family to discover once it was done, including a quilt they fashioned out of Jon's shirts and pillows – also made from his clothing – in each of the bedrooms, featuring a picture of Jon.

The room also has a silhouette of Jon lining up for a swing based on a photo taken days before his death that reads "I love you Casey James. Love, Daddy."

Mandie said she submitted Casey's story for the contest on a whim, simply to share Jon's love of the son he never got to see grow up.

"I've crafted my entry different ways trying to get it to 100 words, but I just simply cannot explain all the detail in that little space," Mandie wrote in her contest submission. "I hope to give Casey a golf scene in his room that will help him remember his Daddy every morning, and every night when he goes to sleep."

In addition to wearing his wedding ring, Mandie is planning other ways to honor her husband's memory.

Last October, more than 200 people turned out at Hebron's Blackledge Country Club for the inaugural Jon Lovett Memorial Golf Tournament and dinner. And every April 5 – Jon's birthday – and Father's Day, Mandie said the family plans to play a round of golf for Jon.

"He would never want us to just be sad, not moving forward with our lives. It was so important to him that we were all happy and safe and taken care of," Mandie said. "We always



Jon Lovett is shown here with his son, Casey James, just before Jon passed away last summer.

say when the sun is shining, it's just him totally surrounding us."

This year would have marked the couple's seventh wedding anniversary.

"It's incredibly difficult but we're an extremely close, loving family. This has just made us stronger and you realize strength in places you thought you could never possibly have it," Mandie said. "I feel blessed and happy when positive, happy things are happening but then it kind of creeps in. I look across the room for him to enjoy it, and he's not there, but I know he is. He's everywhere now and that's what helps me get through it."

Ashley, a senior at Edwin O. Smith High School, plans to attend Eastern Connecticut State University in the fall. Brittney will be entering her sophomore year at RHAM High School and Hayden is in kindergarten at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

"We're all just trying to live the way that he would want us to live," Mandie said.

Still, Mandie said the void Jon left with his death is still palpable – especially at public events like soccer games, American Legion functions and other programs he was involved in.

"It's almost reassuring or satisfying in some way to see that people still do feel his absence, which honors him a little bit," Mandie said. "This community was so incredibly supportive that it was breathtaking to see how many lives he touched."

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serves as the chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC).

Alicia Lee is a lifelong resident of Andover. She graduated from RHAM High School in 2002 and has since earned her nursing degree from St. Joseph's College in Hartford. Lee said she understands, and has experienced, the benefits of a strong education yet realizes the need to maintain a balanced budget.

The youngest of the candidates, Lee said she plans to bring positive energy and a fresh look to the present and future budget issues of the town.

Of the six candidates for the BOF, only the top three vote-getters will be elected to serve.



Lee

RHAM BOE. He has served on the local BOE for the past four years, elected as vice chair in 2007.

Holtsclaw is joined on the ballot by fellow Republican Whitney Covell. Covell said that with children currently in elementary school she would, "like to make their education the best it can be in the next six years."

Covell said she understands that this must be done while not over-burdening residents with taxes.

She is a current member of the Fire Department Commission and has lived in town for the past nine years. Covell worked in Andover for the 10 years prior to moving to town. She said loves the community because everyone knows one another and wants to help out.

Also running for the BOE are Democrats Christina Tamburro and Don Keener.

Tamburro said she's had a growing interest in town politics and felt the BOE was a perfect fit as a former teacher. She has three children in the Andover and regional school district and grew up in town before returning 12 years ago.

"It's a great place to grow up," she said. "It's rural. You knew your neighbors. There was open space to run around. That's why we came back to raise our family."

Her father is a previous member of the BOE and her mother was the town's First Selectman in the 1980s. This is Tamburro's first attempt at seeking office in town. If elected she said she like to see, "a continuation of the strong



Gagnon

educational system from the students with special needs to the gifted and talented students."

Keener currently serves as chairman of the Democratic Town Committee. He is currently employed as a personal trainer at Pratt and Whitney. That instructional background, Keener feels, could serve him well if elected to the Board of Education.

Keener moved to Andover 21 years ago and has since seen both of his sons graduate from RHAM High School and move onto the University of Connecticut. If elected he said he's like to see, "quality education at a reasonable cost."

"We don't want to deprive kids of educational opportunities but we can't afford to do it the way the big suburbs do," he said. "The school is doing a good job and we'll need to continue creative thinking to keep it that way without raising taxes too much."

Voters can cast their ballot for two BOE candidates, though the top three vote-getters will be elected to serve.

In addition to the BOF, McCann is also seeking election to the PZC. Also running is Democrat Barbara Rodegher and Republicans Leigh Ann Hutchinson and Robert Russell.

Hutchinson currently serves on the commission while Russell is an alternate looking to become a full member.

Voters will cast ballots for two candidates with the top two vote getters being elected.

Republican Donald Denley and Democrat Eric Anderson are running for a single vacancy as an alternate on the PZC.

Democrats Roberta Dougherty and Walt Weir and Republicans David Gostanian and Michael Palazzi are running for the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Weir currently serves on the board while Gostanian is currently an alternate. Voters will vote for two candidates and two will be elected to serve.

Democrat Patrick Dougherty and Republican Edward Nagy are running for the lone vacancy as an alternate for the ZBA.

Current Fire Commission members Barry Hansen and Peter Yeomans, both Democrats, are seeking reelection. Republican Gregory Vincek is also running for the post. Voters will vote for two candidates with the top two vote getters serving on the commission.

Voting for the municipal elections will take place on Monday, May 4. Polls will be open in the Community Room at the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd., from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.



Holtsclaw



Keener



Covell



Tamburro

Portland Place Discussion on Tap for Next Week

by Michael McCoy

A highly-touted development that could change the face of Portland will go before the public next week.

On Thursday, May 7, the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) will open its public hearing concerning Portland Town Place, a 14.89-acre mixed-use development proposed at the site of the former Elmcrest property.

The project has been brewing for some time and has undergone several name-changes, but the site plan finally hit Town Hall on Feb. 11.

Despite the current moniker, the applicant is actually billed as Portland Town Center, and the 14 lots, which are situated on 14.89 acres, are owned by eight different entities. Though a small piece of the property falls in the B-2, or Central Business District, zone, most of it is zoned B-3, General Business District.

The plan includes 10 buildings, three of which are existing, and the development is said to be a blend of residential, office and

retail space, and the latter would include a 65,000 square-foot grocery store.

Another eye-catching piece of the proposal is billed as the "tower building," a six-story structure that will include office space, a restaurant and 51 residential units.

Though no specific tenants have been disclosed yet, a portion of the plan pertaining to signage mentions Walgreens.

Other specs include the plan's 149,127 square feet of total commercial use, 82 total residential units, and 522 parking spots.

The hearing is slated for the PZC's regular meeting May 7. Once the hearing is opened, the PZC has 35 days to vote on the application. Planning and Land Use Administrator Deanna Rhodes said this week she was confident that the hearing would spill into their June 4 meeting. Though the applicant could grant the PZC an extension, Rhodes said the commission could conceivably rule at that June meeting.

Due to interest in this application, the May 7 meeting will be held in the auditorium at Brownstone Intermediate School, 314 Main St.

With Reservations, Hebron Finance Board Sends Budget to Referendum

by Sarah McCoy

Despite most members of the Board of Finance (BOF) expressing concern over the proposed level of funding, the board nevertheless unanimously moved a \$33.16 million budget forth to referendum.

The referendum will take place on Tuesday, May 5. Polls will be open at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St., from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

The recommended budget includes a .47 percent decrease in spending for the town government, a 1.96 percent increase to the local Board of Education budget, and a 1.90 percent increase in Hebron's share of the RHAM Board of Education budget. The RHAM budget will be a separate line for voters and is not controlled by the Hebron Board of Finance.

The budget also includes \$626,627 for the Capital Improvement Plan budget. This is down 21 percent from last year.

"We've put together a budget that maintains services while trying to be responsible and cognizant of our current economic times," BOF Chair Mike Hazel said at Monday night's public hearing, which was held at the RHAM High School auditorium. "The danger in this budget is that there's very little for contingency if something were to happen."

Hazel said the tax increase the budget calls for – under the recommended budget the estimated mill rate increase would be 3.58 percent or .97 mills – wasn't a spending issue but a revenue issue. "Even if spending were flat we'd still have almost a 2 percent increase in the mill rate," he said. "Interest is down. Tax collection is down. State funding is down."

The difference, he said, would have to be made up for with property taxes.

At Monday's public hearing there were a few questions from the audience (there were about 35 residents and town officials present) about what services could the town forego in an effort to keep the budget lower. Hazel responded by returning the question, "What would you like us to cut?"

"We want roads plowed, potholes filled, grass mowed, kids educated," he said. "There aren't a whole lot of optional services we provide."

None of the BOF members would say where the board would look to cut if this budget does not pass next Tuesday. However, Hazel did note that with spending down for the town government line item the BOF would have to seriously look at the Board of Education's budget.

On Monday night there were several comments from the public in support of the Board of Education budget. "Our schools are a pretty good value," Hebron resident Maura Baker said. "I'm really scared to what's going to happen if this budget doesn't pass."

Hebron resident David Rose said that, while costs are important, if the BOF cuts too deep, the town is going to lose the things that make it a nice place to live. "If we excessively cut, the quality of life falls, education falls, and property values fall because we haven't funded the necessities," he said.

Immediately after the public hearing, the BOF met at Douglas Library to vote to recommend a budget for next week's referendum.

BOF member Mal Leichter expressed concerns that the Board of Selectmen may have done "too good of a job" keeping the budget down.

Leichter expressed concern that the budget presented wasn't balanced. The proposed budget calls for flat spending in the salaries line item. While town employees have verbally agreed to take furlough days as a cost savings initiative, these agreements are not yet binding. "We have never delivered a budget that wasn't balanced at the basic budgetary concepts like salary," he said. "Yes, I do think [the furlough agreements] are going to come through but, as it stands, this is not a balanced budget."

Hazel responded that the BOF has a tool to use if it needs to – supplemental appropriation. According to town charter, the BOF can approve a transfer of funds from the town's undesignated fund balance to cover shortfalls in the budget.

Leichter responded that supplemental appropriations were intended for salary transfers but, rather, unforeseen emergencies. "Supplemental appropriations don't allow us to tell the public upfront," he said. "We're talking about transparency."

He went on to ask the four Board of Selectmen members present if they planned on asking the BOF for a supplemental appropriation if there came to be a shortage in the salary line item. Board of Selectmen Chair Jeff Watt stopped just short of saying he wouldn't by saying that he's very confident that an agreement will be reached and that he would, "feel very

uncomfortable asking for a supplemental for salaries."

Selectmen Mark Stuart and Gayle Mulligan agreed with Watt. Selectman Brian O'Connell said he definitely would not come to the BOF asking for a supplemental appropriation for salaries.

There was some talk Monday night about adding a contingency line item to this year's budget. This account would allow greater flexibility in the budget and allow for unforeseen expenses. BOF members Donna Ferree and Laurine Bow expressed concern that it was a little late in the process to consider something like that and it could be perceived as a "slush fund."

"Setting aside \$50,000-\$100,000 with no clear definition this late in our budget process doesn't look good to voters," Bow said.

With Leichter satisfied with the selectmen's responses regarding supplemental appropriations, BOF member Dan Larson called for a vote on the \$33.16 million budget. It was unanimously moved to referendum next Tuesday.

On Tuesday voters will have three budgets to vote on. The first is the \$21.34 million town government and local Board of Education budget. The second is the \$626,627 Capital Improvements Plan budget. The third is the \$11.19 million RHAM Board of Education spending plan.

The RHAM middle and high school budget will be determined by a combined total of votes between Hebron, Andover, and Marlborough voters.

Water Problem Short-Lived in Portland

by Michael McCoy

Portland was one of several area towns affected last week by the discovery of organisms in a water treatment plant in Bloomfield.

At around 5 p.m. last Wednesday, April 22, the state Department of Public Health (DPH) advised residents of Portland, Glastonbury, Bloomfield, Hartford, East Hartford, West Hartford, Windsor, East Windsor, South Windsor and parts of East Granby and Windsor Locks – all of which are served by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) – to boil their water before drinking it.

The warning was issued after rotifers and copepods were found in the drinking water distribution system. (The problem apparently emanated from MDC's Reservoir No. 6 Water Treatment Facility in Bloomfield.) Portland sanitarian for the Chatham Health District Don Mitchell explained these are "microscopic aquatic organisms." Though usually found in surface waters, Mitchell said this was the rare occasion that they made it through the MDC's filtering system. However, he said, "Something in the treatment facility wasn't getting the job done."

The organisms were "not considered a health risk," the MDC said, adding that the advisory was "a precautionary measure."

MDC repealed the boiling advisory for Portland, Glastonbury, East Hartford and South Windsor the next day, April 23, after no organisms were found in the towns' distribution systems.

When asked how much of Portland's drinking water was affected, Mitchell responded, "Actually, it probably was not affected." He explained that, shortly after learning of the boiling advisory, Public Works director Rick Kelsey rushed to the town's water department, located on Route 17, and turned off the MDC supply before it made its way into the town's system. Mitchell said Kelsey was able to stop the MDC supply in time because Portland is located at the end of the commission's distribution system.

"It was pretty quick work of Mr. Kelsey to

get this shut down," Mitchell said.

When asked what measures he needed to take to shut off the MDC feed, Kelsey said, "Not much," elaborating that after he arrived at the water department he "basically flipped a switch."

Around 8 p.m. April 23, Kelsey was notified that the alert had been lifted and immediately reopened the valve.

Kelsey said that the department also slightly upped the level of chlorine treating the water and commented, "We were in communication with both the MDC and the State Department of Health through this whole thing."

According to Kelsey, the Town of Portland can receive water from its well, the MDC or both. The town also has two water tanks that, when full, carry a combined total of two million gallons. In addition, the well produces about 350,000 gallons of water each day. With an average demand of 750,000 gallons per day, Kelsey said the town could only operate for about two days without the MDC feed. In this case, obviously, the tanks and well were enough.

Kelsey estimated that about 800,000 gallons of the reserve water was used in the period that the alert was in effect. Fortunately, Kelsey said the system replenishes those reserves between six and 12 hours after the MDC line is reestablished.

Mitchell later chuckled, "This [problem] got in the rear view mirror quickly," figuring that the public's attention quickly shifted to swine flu.

Still, Mitchell admitted this was a serious issue, and said, "For food establishments, it's kind of tricky." He figured restaurants that make money off of fountain soda sales were temporarily forced to convert to bottles. "That's a big hit to them," he said.

Kelsey said that he and First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield received some complaints, chiefly concerning the inconvenience this warning imposed. But, he added, complaints totaled "no more than half a dozen."

East Hampton Officials Say No Need for Swine Flu Panic

by Michael McCoy

Concerns over swine flu have reached East Hampton, though officials do not sound alarmed.

Eyebrows were raised a bit in the wake of a trip to Mexico, the hotbed of the much publicized outbreak. According to Superintendent of Schools Judy Golden, 12 East Hampton High School students and two adults spent their April vacation in Mexico, including a stop in Mexico City. However, there have been no reports of complications stemming from this trip.

"The state Health Department has done follow-up of suspicious cases," Chatham Health District Director Thad King said, and added, "The students who went to Mexico from East

Hampton were assessed. There are not suspected cases at this time."

King also said many area students most likely traveled to locations that have been susceptible to swine flu during April vacation, so East Hampton's trip is not an exceptional case. Furthermore, he said "existing seasonal flu" as well as allergies are liable to lead to "a little bit of confusion" concerning the likelihood of swine flu.

King directed residents to follow the information and directions issued by the State Department of Health. The Chatham Health District's website, www.chathamhealth.org, contains a link that directs people to information provided on swine flu provided by stated and federal authorities.

Man Charged With Stealing Guns from Residence

by Michael McCoy

East Hampton Police arrested a Middletown man last Friday after six pistols were stolen from an East Hampton residence.

Michael Cann, 23, of 120 Knox Blvd., Middletown, was arrested April 24 and charged with third-degree burglary, third-degree larceny and six counts of theft of firearms, police said.

According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, police received a call of a break-in Thursday, April 23, at 3:15 p.m. (Kelly would not say where in town the reported break-in occurred.) Apparently, someone had "kicked in the basement door," said Kelly, and made off with "six revolver-type pistols." Police later determined that the burglary happened between 1 and 3 p.m. that day.

According to a press release from Kelly, "The investigation proceeded throughout the night," and he later reported that it led to the arrest of Cann Friday evening.

Kelly said that though police acquired a confession from Cann, they could not manage a motive behind the alleged theft. "The thrill of the chase, I guess," commented Kelly.

According to Kelly, Cann is an acquaintance of the alleged victim, so "he knew there were guns in the house." Kelly said the vic-

tim had a hunch that Cann was responsible, and this led to police tracking him down and securing a confession.

However, there is still one snag. As of Tuesday, Kelly said Cann is still keeping mum over the current location of the guns. "He actually lied to us," Kelly said, explaining that Cann said they were hidden along the Connecticut River in Middletown, but police found no trace of them there. "What it seems," said Kelly, "is he's looking to protect someone else."

As a result of this, Kelly said, Cann could eventually be charged further with "giving a false statement."

Cann was held on a \$100,000 bond, police said, which was reduced to \$35,000 after his April 27 arraignment at Middletown Superior Court in Middletown. Cann is being held at Hartford Correctional Center, and is scheduled to appear in court next on May 18, Kelly said.

In the meantime, Kelly said, "We continue to interview people who are affiliated with him."

In the press release, Kelly recognized the Portland and Middletown Police Departments' aiding of East Hampton in the case, and he asked anyone with information on the whereabouts of the pistols to call police at 267-9922.

Marlborough BOF Goes Ahead With School Budget Cut

by Adam Benson

Despite pleas from dozens of residents and school board officials over the past weeks, the Board of Finance (BOF) Monday night voted to cut more than \$256,000 from the Board of Education's proposed 2009-10 spending plan.

The move – which amounts to a 2.15 percent overall reduction from the Board of Education's current budget – means several programs and funding to community organizations like AHM are set to be eliminated, the school board said.

The 4-2 vote in favor of the deep cuts came on the heels of a two-hour public hearing hosted by the Board of Finance that gave residents a chance to sound off on a proposed \$20.97 million budget that includes a 3.56 percent tax increase and a mill rate hike of .92.

The mill rate change means yearly increases of between \$72 and \$358, depending on individual assessments.

BOF Chairwoman Catherine Gaudinski said her board met about 10 times to work through a budget that was crafted in some of the most difficult economic times ever to hit the town.

As a result, Gaudinski said, no clear vision emerged as to where cuts should be made to bring voters a budget that offered the least impact to services and personnel.

"Because of the situation we're facing, there was not 100 percent consensus this year by the Board of Finance, so we worked as best we can to move forward with this budget," she said.

Residents will go the polls May 11 to vote on the 2009-10 proposed budget.

In addition to setting aside \$6.97 million for the local Board of Education, the proposed plan

would increase town operations by 1.68 percent to \$4.46 million and Marlborough's portion of RHAM dollars by 2.52 percent to \$7.13 million.

But the future of local education in town emerged as a major concern for several residents who spoke up at the meeting.

"It seems to me for the amount of money we have spent on the children in this town, we have gotten an incredible return on our investment, and I am unalterably opposed to any cuts in the education budget," resident Russ West said.

BOF member Beth Petroni offered a last-minute compromise that would have set school district cuts at \$225,000 – presumably giving educators enough money to preserve the town's summer reading program and its contribution to AHM Youth Services.

"I really want to recommend a budget to the town that doesn't reduce services," Petroni said. "I can't consciously vote for a cut to the summer reading program."

Her proposal died on a 2-2 vote, with BOF member Dan McMahon also supporting the idea.

"I think it's in the spirit of moving forward and putting some of this disagreement behind us," McMahon said, referring to simmering tensions between the BOF and BOE over the level of cuts the school district should absorb.

Initially, the BOF tasked Board of Education members to slice \$335,000 from its bottom line, but moved the figure back to \$256,445 following discussions with Superintendent of Schools Sal Menzo and the Board of Educa-

tion.

Several finance board members said that stance marked a fair approach since education accounts for such a large portion of the town's overall budget.

"I think at that number (\$256,445), we responded. Something else is always going to come up," BOF member Pasquale Amodeo said. "I'd like to see the board work hard to get to that number. If it's not to be, I'd like for the town to say it."

The other problem, BOF members said, was the BOE only presented it with a list of possible cuts that could be made should the \$256,445 number stay intact.

BOF Vice Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout said she would have preferred more specifics about any potential line item cuts in the school budget.

"If we had a clear picture about what was being cut, I think it would be easier to vote," she said.

Board of Education chairwoman Maria Grove, Menzo and several other members of the school board left the meeting following the vote on school spending, visibly frustrated.

"We felt at various points during this process we were not heard and we were not worked with, and we wanted to make sure everyone who attended this meeting would understand the true costs of these cuts," Grove said Monday night at the meeting. "The Board of Education is very committed to being a part of this community, but we also feel as if the process this year was not the best, and we are very concerned with

the outcome."

But Gaudinski said the BOF had to balance bigger challenges when crafting its budget this year, including a rapidly swelling debt load, a 100 percent uptick in unemployment and minimal revenues.

In its 2009-10 budget, the town expects to see a 13.6 percent increase in its debt, and the town could absorb as much as 42 percent more debt over the next two years, Gaudinski said. Currently, Marlborough is carrying \$30 million in debt, Gaudinski said.

Coupled with a \$1.4 billion drop-off in state revenue and near-zero percent gains on the Grand List, Gaudinski said the town is struggling desperately to make money.

"This is really why we're having some difficulties this year," she said. Still, town leaders are putting forward a \$1.64 million resolution that if approved by voters would cover the second phase of a two-year road improvement project.

Several people said Monday they feared officials were pricing residents out of town.

"Our boards and elected officials need to maintain their perspective and keep in mind they have a responsibility to a broad base of taxpayers in this town," said Carole Shea, who has been out of a job since February. "The rate of tax increases in our town over the past several years cannot be sustained for those of limited means."

Resident Bob Clarke agreed.

"At some point, I would just like to see government live within my means," he said.

Hodge Bewildered By Comments Against Her in Colchester

by Adam Benson

A Democratic Town Committee (DTC) official said this week the committee's April interview with First Selectman Linda Hodge should not be viewed as a vote of no confidence.

"We have interviewed incumbents and anyone who has expressed a desire to run for a position," Dot Mrowka, chairwoman of the group's nominating committee, said. "At this time we have not made any recommendations and are still interviewing candidates."

Mrowka said the DTC hopes to have candidates for all positions in place by the end of May.

Still, there's at least one high-ranking town leader who is openly pushing for Hodge's removal ahead of this summer's caucuses. Board of Finance Chairman Bruce Hayn said he told the DTC last month he'd like to see Hodge replaced, citing concerns over her leadership and willingness to work with other boards and commissions in town.

"The First Selectman has to be the CEO of the town, and that means from managing people

to managing a budget to all of that," Hayn said last week. "The truth be told, she has a hard time with that concept."

But Hodge said she's bewildered by such criticism, and has never spoken with DTC leaders about the direction she has taken the town over the course of her administration, which began in November 2007.

"Over the past year, the party has not come in to advise me or counsel me or tell me what they'd like to see be done differently," she said. "I respond to what's said and what is sent to me. So as far as whether the party is going to support me, that's a decision for the party to make."

DTC Chairman John Malsbenden was unavailable for comment, and it was not immediately known who else the group interviewed as a potential First Selectman.

But one person not in consideration for the job is incumbent selectwoman Rosemary Coyle.

"I am not running for First Selectman. I never

have been, and I was interviewed to run for the Board of Selectmen seat again that I am sitting in now," Coyle said. "I had been canceled twice [for earlier meetings with the DTC] and I just happened to wind up there the same time as Linda."

The DTC's interviews were conducted in the midst of one of the municipality's most bruising budget sessions ever, with unprecedented cuts coming on both the town and school sides.

Hodge said the negotiations have led to at times strained feelings between her administration and colleagues in town, but added she works hard to maintain harmony.

"I feel I have a strong and healthy relationship with the majority of boards and committees, but there are always areas for improvement," she said. "One of the things people don't remember is I've been here for 16 months."

But Hayn said Hodge has shown through her actions that she prefers to work by herself.

"One of the things that I told the people doing the interviews is we need a person who is a

team player, and currently Linda is not," he said. "For whatever reason, she feels the need to do things herself and doesn't ask for assistance."

Throughout her tenure, Hodge has regularly met with residents through monthly coffee sessions, weekly newsletters and other open-door programs. That, Hodge said, is an effort she plans to continue if she's reelected.

"I think that this job should be greater than the parties," she said. "It's about getting out because I really care about what our residents are doing. Most nights, I don't get home before 9 or 10 at night because I'm at something."

Coyle said she's focusing her efforts now on getting a budget through, but remaining on the Board of Selectmen is important to her.

"I got into this just to use my skills to make good government. That's the reason I participate," she said. "I think I contribute a perspective and look at things in a very global manner. I don't think we should just take things that we get and automatically rubber-stamp them. That's not why we're there."

Colchester Police News

4/21 - Kyle Czapliski, 19, no address given, was charged with third-degree burglary, third-degree larceny and sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

4/23 - David Vertefuille, 52, of 465 N. Windham Rd., was charged with making a false statement in the second degree and operating a motor vehicle under a suspended license, State Police said.

4/23 - Faith Maura, 42, of 53 Lebanon Rd., was charged with risk of injury, State Police said.

4/24 - Patrick Omarra, 29, of 44 Macklynn Dr., was charged with third-degree assault, threatening and breach of peace, State Police said.

4/25 - Samantha Moore, 22, of Vernon, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

Salem Police News

4/25 - William Mello, 35, of Hamden, was charged with criminal mischief, interfering with an arrest and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

Portland Police News

4/21 — Peter Cotrona, 44, of 1093 North Farms Rd., Wallingford, was charged with disorderly conduct, risk of injury to a minor and fourth-degree sexual assault, Portland Police said.

4/22 — John Holland, 42, of 42 Bartlett St., was charged with second-degree unlawful restraint, disorderly conduct and criminal violation of protective order, police said.

4/22 — Ricardo Diaz, 25, of 360 Dayton Rd., Bridgeport, was charged with criminal violation of protective order, police said.

Hebron Police News

4/24 - Teresa Boucher, 24, of Hampton, was charged with failure to drive upon the right, driving while intoxicated and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, State Police said.

4/25 - James Oechsler, 20, of Lebanon, was charged with driving under the influence, possession of alcohol by a minor and traveling too fast for conditions, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

4/15 — A 15-year-old male juvenile was arrested for third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, East Hampton Police said.

4/16 — A 15-year-old male juvenile was arrested for fifth-degree larceny, police said.

4/17 — Ona M. Fantasia, 39, of 143 East High St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for three counts of issuing a bad check and three counts of sixth-degree larceny, police said.

4/18 — Matthew J. Schonvisky, 24, of 13 Country Ln., was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol, failure to drive right and traveling unreasonable fast, police said.

4/18 — Christopher J. Laurito Jr., 85 North Main St., was arrested for first-degree criminal trespass and resisting arrest, police said.

4/20 — Judith Turck, 70, of 6 Berkshire Dr., and Dawn Skrupsky, 33, of 64S North Main St., were involved in a two-vehicle accident on Rt. 66, one tenth of a mile from Rt. 196, police

said. Skrupsky was arrested for having no insurance, police added, Turck was issued a written warning for making an improper turn.

4/20 — Robert T. Rudnick, 53, of 10 Forest St., was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol, operating under suspension and failure to drive right, police said.

4/20 — Frank C. Johnson, 25, of 41 Stage Coach Rd., was arrested for speeding, operating without insurance and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

4/20 — Robert Mitchell, 76, of 9 Cherry Swamp Rd., East Haddam, and Kathleen L. Scheinberg, 25, of 57 Westwood Dr., Wethersfield, were issued tickets for traveling too fast, police said.

4/20 — Michael J. Veseskis, 19, of 162 Falls Rd., Moodus, was issued a ticket for traveling unreasonably fast, police said.

Andover Finance Board Sends Budget to Town Meeting

by Sarah McCoy

With little discussion, the Board of Finance (BOF) moved a budget to town meeting after holding a public hearing on the matter Wednesday.

Roughly three dozen residents were in attendance as Board of Finance members presented and answered questions on the proposed 2009-10 budget. The spending plan currently stands at \$10.41 million, an increase in spending of 1.35 percent.

At their April 22 meeting the BOF recommended a budget \$95,000 less than was presented on Wednesday. However, finance board members met for a special meeting Monday to correct two oversights typically included in the town's budget — \$80,000 for road repair and \$15,000 for severance.

"These are things that we typically fund and through an oversight they were left off our recommended budget," BOF Vice Chair Cathy Desrosiers explained at Wednesday night's public hearing.

Even with the \$95,000 put back into the budget, Andover residents can expect the same tax bill they saw last year.

Last year, due to time constraints in getting tax bills printed, the Andover Board of Selectmen approved a 27.6 mill rate prior to the budget being passed. Voters went on to approve the budget, however, at a rate of 27.3 mills.

Rather than refunding the \$83,000 over-collected last year the Board of Selectmen voted to apply this money to the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget. This, coupled with over \$102,000 returned from the local Board of Education and RHAM Board of Education budgets, helped Andover stave off a greater tax increase.

Without the reimbursements, taxpayers would be looking at a 28.3 mill rate.

"If the current budget is passed voters will see the same tax bill," Board of Finance member Marie Burbank explained after the April 22 meeting. "The only difference is that we won't have an \$83,000 over-collection at the end of the year."

The proposed budget includes a 2.02 percent increase to Andover's share of the RHAM Board of Education budget and a 1.90 percent increase to the local Board of Education's budget.

At Wednesday night's meeting, BOF Chair Bob Carrara called the proposed budget "politically responsive and, perhaps, fiscally too conservative."

A handful of residents stood up to speak about specific items regarding the budget.

Mark Brown expressed concern over the state of Burnap Brook Road. He questioned

whether the town had prioritized town roads to repair. First Selectman Bob Burbank said the town did have a list of priorities but a lack of funding has prevented Andover from being able to pave Burnap Brook, which is currently a gravel road.

There was also some discussion regarding the wages line item for the Transfer Station. Currently \$24,500 is budgeted for two part-time employees at the Transfer Station. However, earlier this year, one of those employees left and the position has gone unfilled.

Burbank said the town is trying to go as long as possible before filling that vacancy as a way to cut costs. Some in attendance questioned whether the line item should be cut to reflect the change in staffing. Burbank responded it was the intention of the town to fill the position at a later date.

Resident Debbie Scanlon questioned why there was a hike in the unemployment line item for the local Board of Education. Superintendent of Schools Andy Maneggia responded that the school district won two cases during this past school year but were expecting two additional cases to be heard during the next fiscal year. The jump in the line item was a precautionary measure in case the district needed to pay unemployment costs.

Included in the proposed budget is \$25,000 for a state-mandated revaluation scheduled for next year. This process costs Andover \$100,000 and, currently, only \$7,500 has been put aside. Georgette Conrad questioned whether the town could seek to postpone the revaluation. Bob Burbank responded that this measure is currently being considered by the state legislature but, he said, "until that bill is passed we need to plan for it."

Even with the \$25,000 earmarked in the 2009-10 budget, an additional \$67,500 would need to be included in next year's budget to pay for the revaluation.

After Wednesday night's public hearing, Desrosiers said she is confident that this budget will pass the first time around. "I think that people understand that the Board of Finance tried to hold the line," she said.

Desrosiers couldn't say where the BOF would look to cut if it turns out she's wrong. "In the past we've cut 1 percent across the board," she said. "I don't know if we can do that this year because most departments came in with a flat budget or a negative increase."

The annual town meeting will be held Wednesday, May 6, at 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Andover Elementary School, 35 School Rd. If voters approve the budget it will be moved to referendum scheduled for Tuesday, May 13.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Tuesday brought word that the New York Yankees are lowering the prices of some of the most expensive seats at their new stadium. As you may have noticed if you've seen a home Yankees game on TV this season, the majority of the super-premium seats in the rows immediately behind home plate and the first- and third-base dugouts have gone unoccupied. The reason for this was that the Yankees were charging absurdly high prices for those seats.

While the economy went into the toilet over the winter, the Yankees continued to live in their Fantasyland in the Bronx. The team has long thought of money as nothing more than green-colored pieces of paper (how else to explain a \$200 million-plus payroll?), and evidently they believed the rest of us took the same approach. So when time came to announce ticket prices, the Yanks served up a doozy: \$2,625 a seat — yes, *one* ticket to *one* game — for seats in the first row behind home plate and around the dugouts. The other prices for seats closest to the field weren't much better, with seats in the first nine rows of 25 field-level sections going for at least \$500 apiece.

The season started and, surprise, surprise, it turned out people didn't live in the Yankees' same Fantasyland. Most of those uber-expensive seats went unfilled. Fans were still going to games; they were just opting to buy tickets on the second and third decks of the stadium, where the seats are more affordable. Of course, when you watch a game on TV, you don't see the upper decks. You see the seats behind home plate. As a result, watching home Yankees games took on something of a surreal feel. There were so many empty seats, you'd think you were watching a Royals game, or a Marlins game. For years, the Yankees have never had trouble putting fan-nies in the seats. And yet, there they were, rows upon rows of empty seats, right there in living color on your TV screen.

Apparently realizing it's not a good thing to make it seem like the Yankees would be outdrawn by the New Britain Rock Cats, Hank Steinbrenner and Co. this week decided to lower prices, for some seats, anyway. For example, the \$2,500 front-row seats in four sections around the outer half of the dugouts and the photo cages have been cut to \$1,250. And the \$1,000 seats in the front row of the final three sections down each foul line have been reduced to \$650.

Of course, even at these "bargain basement" prices, it's still an awful lot of money to see a baseball game, and the average baseball fan will still be priced out. But at least they're not quite as absurdly high as they once

were.

By the way, the Yankees, in their infinite wisdom, also announced Tuesday that these slashed ticket prices will be good this season only. I guess they figure the economy will bounce back by 2010 and they can charge what they initially wanted to. Well, sorry Hank: Even if everybody got 50 percent pay raises and gas dropped to 50 cents a gallon, I don't see too many people willing to shell out \$2,500 for a seat at a ballgame. But I guess in your Fantasyland, you do.

* * *

If you've watched TV at all in the past few weeks, you've probably seen commercials touting the new grilled chicken at KFC. I was intrigued, and when I saw the intro deal KFC was offering (a two-piece meal — complete with two sides and a biscuit — for just \$3.99), I decided to give it a try. And you know what? It's pretty good chicken. The marinade that the chicken is brushed with is quite tasty; there are some real spices at work there, not just salt. Also, sometimes when you get fried chicken from a fast food place, once you get past the coating, the chicken can be kinda bland inside, and getting through it is something of a chore; you wish you had the fried coating back. That wasn't the case with the grilled chicken. The chicken itself was juicy and flavorful.

Another appealing aspect of the grilled chicken? While it's not exactly diet food — especially when you combo it up with mashed potatoes, cole slaw and a biscuit, as I did — it's still significantly better for you than the fried chicken KFC offers (a breast of the grilled chicken has 180 calories and four grams of fat, compared to 370 calories and 21 grams of fat in the fried chicken).

Bottom line: It was a very satisfying meal, and I see myself going back for their grilled chicken again. I'd recommend giving it a try, and right now, when the combo's only \$3.99 (you know it won't stay that price forever), is as good a time as any.

* * *

As we all know, gay marriage is now legal in Connecticut. But not so in New York, and I recently read former New York City mayor (and Presidential candidate) Rudy Giuliani is one of those aiming to keep it that way, telling the New York Post that marriage "should remain between a man and a woman." I don't know about you, but something about Giuliani — who's currently on Wife No. 3 — speaking out about the sanctity of marriage strikes me as awfully amusing.

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

Hebron

Frederic Latimer Way II

Frederic Latimer Way II, 52, formerly of Hebron, died unexpectedly in Philadelphia Tuesday, April 21. Born on March 3, 1957, in Hartford, Frederic "Ric" was the beloved son of Virginia (Scripture) Way of Hebron and the late John Latimer Way.

He was a graduate of The University of Connecticut (School of Engineering), Westminster School, and Renbrook School. Ric grew up in West Hartford and pursued business opportunities, which brought he and his family to Maine, New Hampshire, and Switzerland. Over the last few years, he resided at his ancestral home, "The Farm", in Gilead.

He was in the manufacturing industry for many years, having held executive positions at New Britain Machine, Lund Manufacturing, Schneeberger AG (Switzerland), and Gangloff Industries (Switzerland). A very active man with many interests and an entrepreneurial spirit, Ric started his own machine tool operation, Applied Concepts, and was particularly proud of working closely with his father, who served in an advisory capacity. More recently he succeeded in founding and developing Thrillsleds Inc., a performance sledding company that caters to ski resorts.

Ric's business and cultural interests had him traveling extensively in the U.S. and abroad, and whenever possible he included his boys on his trips. While business interests were extremely important to him Ric's biggest, most passionate love was people; his sons Frederic "Ricky" and Brewster, his family, his friends, business associates, and all those with whom he came in contact. Well-read and well-educated, Ric could converse on any subject with a focused interest for the facts and always welcomed a lively debate. A very caring soul who had a passion for life and will be missed dearly.

Ric always welcomed learning something new, his varied interests and hobbies included a passion for cars, love of books, cooking, cutting edge technology, and the German language in which he was fluent. He also enjoyed many sports including skiing and hockey. He played hockey throughout his youth and took pride in coaching his son in West Hartford hockey.

Ric is survived by his sons, Frederic Latimer Way III (mother Catherine G. Way of West Hartford) and Brewster John Way (mother Caroline P. Way of Wilmington, NC); two brothers, John L. Way of Paris, France, and Chester S. Way and his wife Mary B. of West Hartford; a sister, Ruth A. Way of Hebron; and two beloved nieces, Catherine M. Way and Madeline S. Way both of West Hartford. Ric also leaves behind some very special people in his numerous cousins, extended family and wonderful friendships, including Steven K. Walton and Sandra van Essche.

Ric's family would like to extend their appreciation and thanks for the efforts and kindness of the staff of Rittenhouse Hotel, Hahnemann University Hospital and the emergency responders of the city of Philadelphia.

Donations in Ric's memory can be made to: Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Ave., Hartford, CT 06105, Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248 or to the Hebron Historical Society, P.O. Box 43, Hebron, CT 06248-0043.

There was a memorial service Sunday, April 26, at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford. The James T. Pratt Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit www.desopo.com.

Andover

Valerie S. Jacobs

Valerie S. Nesbitt (Veve) Jacobs, 89, wife of the late Benjamin Austin Jacobs, died Saturday, April 18. Born in Berwick, PA on May 24, 1920, she was the daughter of the late Justin and Evalyn (Nesbitt) Shultz and had lived in Andover for much of the last 28 years. She was the grand-niece of the late Jacob Tome of Rising Sun, MD.

Valerie was the former Andover Municipal Agent for the Elderly and co-wrote the senior newsletter for years. She loved ballet and enjoyed numerous seasons of the opera, symphony and dance at the Bushnell. Valerie painted, worked diligently at French lessons and played piano. She retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft.

Valerie is predeceased by her brothers, Judson Jr. (Buddy); Bernard and Donald. She leaves her daughter and son-in-law, Valerie (Val Jean) and Robert Chase of Coventry; a brother, Robert Schultz of Brewster, NY; a sister, Iona Scanlon of Pinehurst, NC; two grandchildren, Jilian and Alexis and many nieces and nephews. She was especially close to Karen and Midge Scanlon.

Interment will be private and at the convenience of the family in Raymond Hill Cemetery, Carmel, NY. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Andover Public Library.

Colchester

Josephine Kessler

Josephine Kessler, 93, of Lebanon and Hartford, passed away Thursday, April 23, at the St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford. Born Aug. 29, 1915 in Colchester, she was a daughter of the late Mary (Kessler) Okonuk and Peter Okonuk.

She attended Colchester schools and went on to study at both Bacon Academy and Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon. Early on, she worked for Schwartz & Schwartz (now S&S) and the former Cohen Dress Factory, both in Colchester. Then, she started as a key punch operator for The Hartford and worked her way up the ladder to become cashier supervisor during her 40+ years there. In her spare time, she enjoying sewing, gardening and being active with the West Hartford seniors in later years.

She is survived by her sister, Helen Russo of Lebanon; eight nieces and nephews, Roland, Robert and Richard Russo, Patricia Botticello, Debra Pearsall and John and Michael Okonuk, all of Lebanon, and Thomas Okonuk of Colchester; 15 great nieces and nephews; 13 great-great nieces and nephews; and a host of friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a brother, John Okonuk; a nephew, Kenneth Russo; and a great nephew, Peter Okonuk.

Friends called Monday, April 27, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, April 28, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, with Fr. Michael C. Giannitelli, officiating. Interment followed in the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Salvation Army, 217 Washington St., Hartford 06106 or to the CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111.

For online condolences, visit www.aurora-mccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

John C. Cannata

John C. Cannata, 77, of Glastonbury, beloved husband of Antoinette (Aparo) Cannata, died Tuesday, April 28, at Marlborough Health Care Center after a short illness. Born June 24, 1931 in New Britain son of the late Dominic and Zinna (Zappula) Cannata he had lived in Glastonbury for 40 years.

Prior to his retirement in 1992 he had worked for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for 32 years. John had served in the army during the Korean War. He was a member of the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association, the Farmington River Anglers, and the Housatonic River Association. John was an avid fly fisherman, he tied his own flies and had taught fly fishing.

Besides his wife he is survived by his son, John D. Cannata of Marlborough; a nephew, Charles Lana of Berlin; brother-in-law, Robert Aparo and his wife, Beverly, of Glastonbury; brother-in-law, Ronald Aparo and his wife Patricia of Denton, TX; niece, Karen Aparo; and nephew, Roger Aparo, both of Florida.

Funeral service was today, Friday, May 1, at 9:15 a.m., from the Mulryan Funeral Home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. Dunstan Church, Glastonbury. Burial followed in Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury. Friends called at the funeral home Thursday, April 30.

Memorial donations may be made to the Glastonbury Volunteer Ambulance, P.O. Box 453, Glastonbury or to the Glastonbury VNA, 969 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, CT 06033.

Marlborough

Stephen H. Mondrach Jr.

Stephen H. Mondrach Jr., 88, of Marlborough and formerly of Lake Placid, FL, widower of the late Emily (West) Mondrach, passed away Monday, April 27, at the Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Born Nov. 12, 1920, in St. Louis, MO, he was a son of the late Stephen and Bessie (Barnes) Mondrach Sr.

He proudly served with the Army Air Corps 1034 Air Material Squadron during World War II. On July 16, 1956, he wed the former Emily Louise West in Miami Beach, FL. She predeceased him on Dec. 13, 2000. Mr. Mondrach was a credit manager in the wholesale grocery and fabric markets for many years before his retirement.

He is survived by two children, Stephen Mondrach III and his wife Barbara of Marlborough and Stephanie Cook of Port Charlotte, FL; three grandchildren, Linda Cook of Port Charlotte, FL, Hannah and Hillary Mondrach of Marlborough; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends may call Saturday, May 2, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. with a funeral service immediately following at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery, Lake Placid, FL.

Donations in his memory may be made to The Nature Conservancy, 4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203-1606. Acctn # 1902556.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit www.aurora-mccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Claude Wellington Price Jr.

Claude Wellington Price Jr., 78 of Dunnellon, FL, and formerly of Portland and East Hampton, died Friday, March 13, in Ocala, FL. He was born June 24, 1930, in Portland.

Claude spent his childhood in East Hampton, and graduated from East Hampton High School as part of the Class of 1948. After graduation he served in the U.S. Air Force before settling in East Granby for 25 years. He had resided in Dunnellon, FL, since 1974, moving from East Granby. Claude was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon.

Survivors include his wife, Alice Carole Price of Dunnellon, FL; son, Scott Edward Price of Middleburg, FL; daughters, Laurie Edwards and husband Micheal of Hobe Sound, FL, Diane Chancy and husband John of Tallahassee, FL; sister, Frances Guillemin of East Hampton; grandchildren, Lee, Ryan and Matt Edwards, Sarah Lubinski, Tanner Chancy, Taylor and Bryn Price; great-grandson, Hunter Lubinski.

Funeral services were Monday, March 16, at the First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon, with Rev. Eddie Fulford officiating. Graveside services followed in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL, with military honors.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Marion County, P.O. Box 4860, Ocala, FL, 34478-4860, in memory of Mr. Price. Roberts Funeral Home of Dunnellon.