

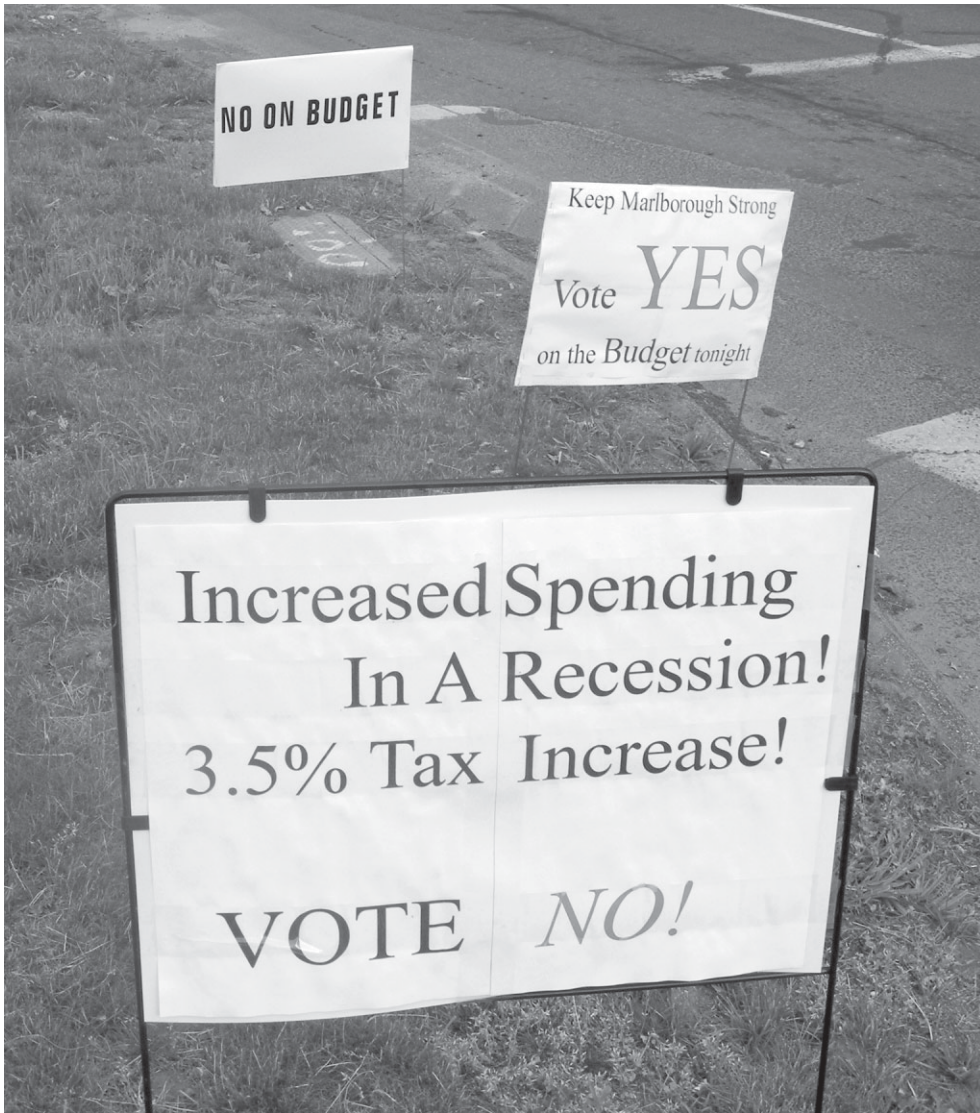
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The 'no's had it in Marlborough Monday night, when taxpayers rejected a proposed 2009-10 budget. It was the second time voters shot down a spending proposal for the upcoming fiscal year.

Marlborough Voters Reject Budget, Again

by Adam Benson

Marlborough's financial fate will remain in limbo at least another few weeks.

For the second time in a month, taxpayers on Monday killed a proposed spending plan for fiscal year 2009-10, forcing Board of Finance (BOF) members back to work to try to craft another budget.

The proposed \$20.98 million budget was defeated by a 281-218 vote, a margin considerably larger than last time; on May 11, a \$20.96 million spending plan died by 17 votes on May 11, 188 to 171.

Despite clear public endorsements this time around by the town boards of education and finance, many voters clearly weren't happy that officials kept the proposed tax increase at 3.56 percent, while making concessions to pro-education residents by funneling \$20,000 from the undesignated fund balance to the local school district. (This shifting from the undesignated fund balance was responsible for the bottom line budget number increasing from the last budget vote to Monday's, though the tax increase remained the same.)

The budget rejection sent town officials into a whirlwind of activity, hosting nearly eight hours of meetings over a two-day period to come up with a third version of the plan highlighted by even deeper cuts to the local Board of Education (BOE) and four voluntary furlough days for all Town Hall employees in the upcoming fiscal year.

The new proposed 2009-10 budget, approved by the BOF Wednesday, comes to \$20.86 million, a total of \$117,000 more in cuts from the plan shot down Monday. It also would drop the

mill rate increase from .92 to .67, shrinking the tax increase from 3.56 percent to 2.59 percent.

But there's still much work to be done, with the BOE tasked to come up with another \$85,000 in cuts after the BOF's decision. The new bottom line for the local school district is \$6.91 million – more than \$320,400 less than what district officials requested ahead of the first budget vote in May.

The BOE is slated to meet Wednesday, June 10, to discuss possible cuts. Superintendent of Schools Sal Menzo said Thursday he'd recommend the cuts come from a list of reductions district officials first presented to the BOF in April including: \$3,200 for the summer literacy program; \$4,000 from the district's contingency fund; \$13,569 for weekend custodial services; and \$13,829 for the district's contribution to AHM Youth Services.

Additionally, Menzo said he'll suggest the BOE eliminate the challenge and enrichment program and a part-time media center paraprofessional.

Menzo said the challenge and enrichment program teacher would be shifted back into a classroom rather than face a layoff.

A complete list of suggested school district cuts is available on the district's Web site at www.marlborough.k12.ct.us.

BOE Chairwoman Maria Grove said the school board will work to bring forward a budget that spreads the reductions across the board – but she warned the final outcome could be grim.

"At this point, nothing is off the table. Any-
 See Budget on Page 2

Portland Selectmen Approve Propane Ordinance

by Michael McCoy

It looks like Portland residents will have to find something other than propane to talk about for the time being.

The town's Board of Selectmen (BOS) Wednesday voted 7-0 to approve an ordinance prohibiting bulk propane storage. The ordinance defines "bulk" as more than 2,000 gallons. However, storage in excess of 2,000 gallons is allowed if the propane is not being distributed or resold. In addition, existing business and motor vehicle filling stations are exempt.

But bulk propane storage, distribution and resale would all be allowed, provided the property hooks into a public water source and does not abut residences.

The meeting followed a heated and lengthy hearing on the issue. Included among the speakers was Paul Decelles, a member of Portland Residents Opposed to Propane (PROP) and perhaps the most vocal opponent of bulk propane storage since the issue bubbled up in town last fall.

Decelles featured a PowerPoint presentation that featured some visceral footage of pro-

pane explosions, including images from a Toronto explosion last year. He said in the presentation the proposed ordinance would "prevent this nightmare from being our future."

Decelles said of the BOS passing the ordinance, "It's not only your right; it's not only your authority. It's your obligation."

Decelles repeated something he has brought up all along, the inability to prevent human error. "At the worst possible time, at the worst possible moment, something can go wrong," he said. He also counted mechanical failure and terrorism as volatile X-factors. While admitting that the latter notion may sound alarmist, he said, "Propane has been used as a weapon by terrorists in the past, and it's a very potent weapon."

Though the hearing was specifically scheduled to get feedback on the ordinance, much comment was devoted to applications submitted last year – and ultimately withdrawn – by residents Bruce and Ken Woronoff, doing business as Gospel Lane Properties, to construct a bulk propane storage facility. (The proposed facility would not hook into a public water

source and would also abut residences, so the ordinance approved Wednesday would essentially prohibit the project.)

Several residents blasted the PZC for what they perceived was the commission's bias towards Gospel Lane, and also criticized commission chairman Don Bascom for being opposed to the propane ordinance.

Sebastian Amenta said the PZC was "so biased, they looked like consultants for the propane industry." He also admonished Bascom for comments at an earlier public hearing blaming residents for moving next to an industrial zone. Amenta said, "That was one of the most asinine comments I've ever heard from an official or citizen even."

Amenta also said bulk propane storage would adversely affect property values, public safety, traffic congestion and insurance premiums, and also result in overburdened town staff.

Lois Vincelette said she moved to town because "it's beautiful, and I felt safe here." She said when she heard about last year's Gospel Lane application she "almost went berserk" and added, "There's nothing and nobody on this

earth who could show me this could be safe, at all."

"It doesn't belong in Portland at all," she said, and added that it "doesn't belong in any of the towns near Portland."

Resident Bill Caffery said he has been a state firefighter, hazardous materials technician and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) member. He said, "When I make decisions and speak on stuff, I don't make assumptions."

Caffery said if a propane explosion ever occurred and state aid was called in, "You're not going to get anybody here for an hour, and that's optimistic."

Caffery also said that propane's odorless and colorless nature makes it a stealth danger, remarking, "It's by the grace of God more of us don't get hurt, the way we use gas grills."

John Ruscica said he has lived in town for 37 years and, endorsing the ordinance, said, "I want to be here another 37 years just to hang on."

Bruce Tyler, a PZC alternate, said the ordinance would merely regulate bulk propane storage.
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thing that happens is going to be severe. We don't have any wiggle room," she said. "It was already feeling severe to us with the budget we approved."

At a meeting Tuesday, the Board of Selectmen devoted much time to generating a list of suggested cuts that could help generate a more acceptable bottom line.

First Selectman Bill Black said Wednesday that the reason for Monday's budget defeat was clear, and repeatedly told the BOF to take the message from voters.

"It's really a reinforcement of voter opinion that further reductions are absolutely essential," Black said Wednesday, hours before the Board of Finance convened. "We need to get close to zero or 1 percent (overall tax increase) or the budget won't pass."

To present a zero percent tax increase on the ballot, officials would have to slash roughly \$573,000 from an already gutted budget that marked just a 1.43 percent overall spending increase from last year.

On Wednesday night, Black presented the BOF with a new round of suggested town operations cuts that could save hundreds of thousands of dollars, though most of them were killed by finance board members.

However, BOF members carved an additional \$32,000 off the town operations budget, mostly by unanimously accepting an offer from the municipality's three unions to have employees take four voluntary furlough days over the next fiscal year, resulting in a savings of \$25,000.

Board members also voted 5-1 to take another \$1,000 away from the Fife and Drum Corps and implement a salary freeze for part-time van drivers – another \$1,000 in savings.

Finally, the board voted 4-2 to shut the town's transfer station for a half-day each week, for a savings of \$5,000.

Black also suggested re-examining the town's policy of granting tax relief for senior citizens and disabled residents.

"My feeling is that if we can get this budget closer to zero, we have in essence provided tax relief for our seniors, because they aren't going to see any increase and hopefully, those who collect Social Security will continue to do so to operate and fund their expenses," he said at the meeting.

But the BOF stayed away from that issue and other, more drastic cost-cutting measures over the course of its nearly four-hour meeting – including reducing police coverage, taking more money away from Richmond Memorial Library, reducing hours at Town Hall and removing lifeguards from the Lake Terramuggus

beach area.

Wearied from repeated marathon budget sessions and demands to cut deeply across sectors, Wednesday night's meeting was filled with sharp exchanges and clear frustration by some over a perceived lack of desire to make meaningful changes to the budget.

"I hear a lot of from the voters saying they want things cut but at the table here, nobody seems to want to," BOF member Susan Leser said. "I'm a little frustrated."

BOF alternate Lauren Cragg – who had a vote Wednesday as a replacement for Daniel McMahon, urged the body to take more time looking at the numbers before setting a bottom line – especially when it came to proposed local school cuts.

"My frustration all along is we get worn out, come up with a number and shove it back at them," she said.

That drew a blunt response from BOF Vice Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout.

"I don't think anybody on this board just comes up with random numbers. This board has worked very, very hard for many, many hours and I take issue with repeatedly saying we're just picking out numbers and voting on them," she said. "I take offense with that language."

BOF Chairwoman Catherine Gaudinski echoed the sentiment.

"The buck does stop here. We can get all the recommendations we can get from many people, but it is our decision to make a bottom-line number. We've looked at the numbers and they're not random," she said. "We've got documentation and we need to work as a Board of Finance to get this done."

Even so, the board backed off an earlier conversation to slash the local BOE budget by more than \$320,000 – fearing yet another budget defeat if they did so.

"It was clear for six weeks that that kind of cut was unacceptable to the educational community, and we'll be here all summer if we go down that road," BOF member Beth Petroni said.

During a public comment session at Wednesday's BOF meeting, resident Pam Farrington expressed opposition to the idea of a zero-percent tax increase.

"Cutting it to zero percent...irresponsible is not even a word I can use," said resident Pam Farrington. "I think that the Board of Finance needs to make sure that people understand that we cannot take on projects and then not pay the debt or expect the debt to come from services in this town. That's not the way it works."

The next town meeting on the 2009-10 budget is scheduled for June 18 at Elmer Theines-Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Dr.

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age, as opposed to prohibiting it, noting that it exempts existing tanks, and allows bulk storage in business zones. However, Tyler said, "I suggest sale or distribution be limited to industrial zones."

"I'm not a resident but I play one on TV," said Rob Townsend, who owns a business on William Street. He also attacked the PZC, saying the commissioners deserve the "what were we thinking of the year award."

Townsend noted that Ken Woronoff's son Michael was a PZC member, while Daniels Oil employee Peter Samuelson was a PZC alternate. This prompted him to blurt, "Something stinks here; something really stinks. The deck is stacked against the town."

Bruce and Ken Woronoff was in attendance at the meeting, and neither said a word. (Their attorney was not present.) Similarly, BOS comment during their regular meeting was quite abbreviated. Brian Flood made a motion to accept the ordinance as written, adding, "I don't think this is, perhaps, restrictive enough." He continued, "If and when something goes wrong, the Town of Portland is not equipped to deal with this kind of catastrophe." Virtually the only other comment was selectmen Mark Finkelstein's praise of some of the evening's presentations, calling them "enlightening and interesting."

The selectmen approved the ordinance 7-0. After the meeting, Decelles said, "I think the Board of Selectmen did the right thing and stood up for the safety of the town." He said, "we've been living and breathing this for a year" and hoped to "put this in our rear view mirror."

The Woronoffs appeared quite composed after the meeting, and Ken Woronoff said of the outcome, "I knew that's where it was going." As for where this leaves them, he only added, "We still have options, as does everybody."

Bascom was not present Wednesday night, but had previously made it quite clear that he felt this was a PZC issue and the BOS had no place creating an ordinance in this situation. When reached for comment, he said, "The Planning and Zoning Commission doesn't agree with the way it's written at all" and said this feeling has been relayed to the BOS.

Bascom also said the BOS will have to rewrite the ordinance, so it conforms to current zoning regulations. "There are some real problems with the way it's been worded," he said, explaining that it's actually more permissive toward propane than the current zoning regulations. Bascom also said the new ordinance would allow such facilities to be built in the river overlay zone, where the zoning regulations currently prohibit it. He explained that this means someone could now build a propane facility along Brownstone Avenue, just behind Brownstone Intermediate School.

Bascom said he felt there should be explicit wording in the regulations that propane tanks need to be buried and that there be a limit per acre on the volume on all propane, not just bulk storage.

As for the allegations of the PZC, and specifically himself, being biased toward Gospel Lane, Bascom said, "That's not the case at all." He noted that at a PZC hearing on Gospel Lane last fall, he requested that the town hire a third-party engineer to analyze the proposal.

"I'm not for propane," he said. "What I am for is looking at all the facts."

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said Thursday the new ordinance would not replace propane-related zoning regulations. Instead, she said that any application would need to satisfy the demands of both the ordinance and the zoning regulations.

"This is just another requirement to ensure safety," she said.

Commenting on the outcome, she said, "I think the process worked, and it's a good ordinance."

When asked to respond to allegations that the PZC was biased, she only said that the PZC, including Bascom "take this job very seriously." She also said Bascom puts a lot of time and energy into PZC work and "is very dedicated."

Bransfield said the ordinance would take effect 31 days after it is published in the form of a newspaper legal notice; that could happen within the next week.

Bascom said the PZC will discuss the ordinance at its June 18 meeting.

Colchester Neighbors Not Happy with Resident's Turbine Plan

by Adam Benson

A Colchester man seeking to take his Sashel Lane home completely off the grid will have to go to court over his latest venture.

Late last week, two abutting property owners filed papers in New London Superior Court, challenging a May 6 ruling by the town's Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) that gave Bruce and Patricia Hayn clearance to construct a 100-foot tall wind turbine on their property.

By a 4-3 vote, the PZC granted permission for the Hayns to exceed a town ordinance that limits the structure's height to 35 feet in a residential zone.

Commissioners Jim Ford, David Gesiak, Mark Noniewicz and chairman Joseph Mathieu voted for the application while Stacey Brown, Thomas Kane and John Rosenthal were against it.

"My biggest concerns are that this is a very rural neighborhood, with at least 20 houses in very close proximity to where he wants to build, and our zoning board really took a lot of liberties with their interpretation of the rules," said Mahoney Road resident Jason Tinelle, one of the two area residents whose names are on the appeal filed in court. (Dino Bobbin, also of Mahoney Road, is the other name.)

Tinelle and at least a half-dozen other nearby property owners say the proposed turbine would be a nuisance because of its height, noise and impact on the surrounding wildlife.

They accuse the planning commission of pushing Hayn's request through before adequately reaching out to surrounding property owners and conducting due diligence about the specifications of his proposal.

"When we were notified, we were notified that it was a review of a pending application. We had no idea that we were supposed to come with date to able to fight this," Sashel Lane resident Michael Wolf said. "We were under the impression that the town would probably think about it a little bit, not that they were going to make an actual decision that night."

For his part, Hayn – a certified builder of "green" homes who served as lead contractor during the December construction of a Voluntown house featured on the ABC hit "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," – said the windmill is just another addition to his home energy portfolio.

He said he spent eight years researching the idea, and a federal grant will cover 80 percent of the \$150,000 price tag for the 15-kilowatt turbine.

"My goal, like everybody else's, is to try and make their bills go away, and that's all I'm trying to do," Hayn, also the chairman of the town's Board of Finance, said. "I'm already more efficient than the average home, but my goal is to be completely free of the grid."

Although the U.S. Department of Energy's

National Renewable Energy Laboratory classifies wind power density in central Connecticut as poor, Hayn said his home's proximity to the gusts that come off Norwich Reservoir make a turbine a viable project for his home.

According to projections Hayn submitted to the town, the turbine's blades wouldn't spin faster than 12 miles per hour while still providing more than enough energy to help power his 6,000 square-foot home.

It also would run on a computer-operated, greaseless electromagnetic bearing designed to cut down on noise and prevent harm to birds and other local wildlife, Hayn said.

"I've been studying this thing for eight years now, because it's something I believe in," Hayn said. "The reason that my site works is because we have that 800-acre reservoir right behind us."

In addition to the noise and aesthetic concerns, other opponents say they're worried about ice throws from the 113-foot tall turbine that could harm surrounding homes and people.

"My house is more than close enough to get hit by it," Bobbin said. "I just don't think they thought anyone would be concerned about it."

Hayn said he provided maps to town officials that included a 125-foot ice drop radius.

"If it's dropping from any direction, it would never leave my property," Hayn said.

Kevin McGill, a certified energy manager accredited by the Association of Energy Engi-

neers and another project opponent, also questioned the need for Hayn's turbine.

"There would be no technically reasonable purpose to install something like that. You're not going to get payback on it," said McGill, who lives on Joseph Lane.

Town Planner Adam Turner said PZC members accepted Hayn's application because it met or exceeded all the needed criteria.

"They granted it because, based on the record, it met all of the requirements for approval in terms of noise, in terms of visual profile and based on location," he said.

Turner said town officials are using the incident as a springboard to craft more specific ordinances guiding future requests for wind turbines in residential areas.

"Because of their visual profile and the size, it would definitely have more impact and have to be looked at closely," he said. "I expect we will see more windmills and other kinds of mechanisms as the technology gets more affordable."

Even with court proceedings underway, Hayn said the town's approval will enable him to begin a six-month feasibility study as part of the grant process. Hayn said he is at least nine months away from breaking ground on the project, providing the court okays it.

An initial court date is set for June 15.

Hebron Resident Honored After Years of Volunteering

by Sarah McCoy

Longtime resident – and compulsive volunteer – Mindy Johnston was named Citizen of the Year by the Hebron Women's Club at a ceremony last month.

Johnston, a 29-year resident of Hebron, has volunteered virtually since she arrived in town from Colchester.

"No one knows just how much she does because she reaches out to so many different groups," resident Joleen Yorio said of her friend. "Once you put it all together, her commitment to helping others is overwhelming."

Johnston, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing, first started volunteering as an emergency medical technician (EMT), and has been doing that for 33 years.

For the past 23 years, Johnston has been a member of the State Police Auxiliary and acts as an advisor for the Troop K Police Explorers, an organization for individuals 14-21 years old who want to get involved in a law enforcement career.

Once her children were born, Johnston found a host of activities to give her time to. She volunteered at Hebron Center Nursery School, serving as a board member for six years. She was also a room mother at Hebron Elementary School and volunteered on the PTA, chairing the school's first Fun Fair.

When her children got a little older Johnston took over as Coordinator for the RHAM Youth Football and Cheerleading club. She was prepared to hold the position for two years but was talked into a third year when John Cavaliere, who at the time operated Cavaliere's Bakery in Marlborough, bribed her with baked goodies. "The way to convince me to do anything is with food," Johnston explained.

Cavaliere offered Johnston a cake a month

to continue as coordinator for the club. She wanted a cake a week. Cavaliere agreed and every Thursday Johnston would bring her fork to practice to enjoy a freshly baked, hand delivered cake. "By Sunday it was always gone," she said. "And, it was always me who ate it all. I figured if I was doing the work I was the one who could enjoy the cake."

For 27 years, Johnston has also taught babysitting instruction courses in Hebron, Andover, Marlborough, Colchester, Columbia and Lebanon. She's currently working on a book for parents on what to look for in a babysitter and how to prepare for a child staying home alone.

All this is in addition to her nearly 26 years as a member of the Women's Club. While a member of the group she spearheaded a number of fundraisers. In 1986, she helped bring local television personalities Gayle King, Gerry Brooks, Bruce DePrest and more to town to wait on people at a local restaurant for tips, with the tips going to support a scholarship for a graduating RHAM High School student. She also co-chaired a walk-a-thon that raised money for the purchase and installation of the gazebo that now sits next to the Town Office Building.

Johnston even served on the committee that selected past Citizen of the Year recipients. The main criteria committee members look for is a strong sense of volunteerism and an impact on many individuals in the community.

It was in the Women's Club that Johnston met Yorio, Linda Quinn and Diane Aubin. The four became friends and have had a standing dinner date each month for the past 25 years. Yorio, Quinn and Aubin were the ones to nominate their friend for the Citizen of the Year award this year.

The Women's Club has a rule that says you can't nominate a member of the club for the Citizen of the Year award. "We waited and waited for Johnston to resign so we could nominate her," Quinn said.

In the meantime each of the women kept a secret list of Johnston's involvements so, when the time came, they could provide a clear picture of just how far their friend's reach has been over the years. "She's just so good," Quinn said. "She's stayed committed to community service over the years."

Yorio added, "She always puts everything into everything she does. She doesn't stop when she's reached her goals."

In 2005, after a friend had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, Johnston decided to complete a 50-mile walk to raise money for research. She raised \$10,000 that year. Never satisfied, Johnston signed up again in 2006. This time she raised \$22,000. And, she didn't just walk the 50 miles; she led the pack of over 600 participants. "That's just who I am," Johnston said. "I'm very competitive."

And not only competitive; her friends describe her as tenacious, motivated, compassionate and energetic.

Last fall, Johnston retired from the Women's Club, opting to pursue other endeavors. At that time, Yorio, Quinn and Aubin put those secret lists together, to form a nomination letter for their friend. She was notified earlier this spring of winning Citizen of the Year.

"It was such an honor to be recognized in that way," Johnston said. "Everything I've done I've always done because I've wanted to. I never expected anything like this. I've met some wonderful people and I love being involved."

Clearly, volunteering is nothing new for



Mindy Johnston

Johnston but her desire to contribute to her community started before coming to Connecticut. Raised in Highland Park, NJ, Johnston began candy striping at a local hospital while she was in high school. She attended the University of Bridgeport for nursing and remained in Connecticut after meeting and marrying her husband, Brian Johnston.

The couple have three children Brian Jr., 31, Kiley, 22, and Becky, 19. They also have two grandchildren, Brielle, 2, and Bryce, 9 months.

On Second Try, Belltown Gets a Budget

by Michael McCoy

It wasn't exactly an overwhelming 'yes,' but East Hampton voters on Tuesday approved a \$37.23 million budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year by a vote of 1,026-948.

The budget is an increase of \$286,590, or .78 percent, over current year spending. It also features a 24.01 mill rate, an increase of .2 mills. This translates to a .84 percent uptick in taxes. (The Board of Finance met immediately following the budget approval Tuesday and okayed the mill rate.)

Tuesday's vote was the town's second attempt to get a spending plan passed. A proposed \$37.43 million budget failed by a 775-671 vote on May 5. Town officials at the time called it a scant margin. But on Tuesday, while the outcome was different, the vote was even closer.

"Well, I think it's important to note that it wasn't passed by a huge amount," Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said, adding, "All elected officials need to keep in mind there was not overwhelming support." When asked to explain, she said, "People are having a difficult time; we need to be mindful of that." Engel said that, despite an approved budget, town officials still need to be especially prudent with people's money.

Still, Engel said she was pleased the budget passed, as well as happy in the turnout bump. (On Tuesday, 23 percent of voters flocked to the polls, a decided increase over the 17 percent who showed up four weeks ago.)

Town Council member John Tuttle said he was "very pleased" by the budget passing, and said it frees the council and BOF to "get down to bigger and better things."

He said the spending plan passed Tuesday is "a good budget." Three weeks ago, Tuttle was one of three council members who opposed sending the budget to referendum. At that time, he explicitly said the proposal cut too much.

However, Tuttle explained this week that his pleasure over the budget passing is a result of his certainty that a rejection would only lead to further cuts, in an attempt to get the mill rate increase down to zero percent.

Tuttle chalked many of the 355 new 'yes' votes up to better publicity. This included many more signs around town reminding residents to vote, as well as the Democrats handing flyers out at Shaw's on Monday and Tuesday. "It was more of a grassroots effort," Tuttle said.

Board of Finance (BOF) Chairman Ted Hintz said he was "very happy" the budget passed, but added, "With the slight majority, I'm not convinced everyone was thrilled with the budget." Like Engel, he said the low margin of victory means "the town in general better be careful with their spending."

Hintz also voiced his pleasure over not having to resort to a zero percent mill increase, figuring, "That was definitely the next step."

When asked what the BOF will do now, Hintz laughed, "Enjoy the summer." He went on to explain the board will continue to work on their guidelines, and their next course of action will be appointing auditors in October.

Superintendent of Schools Judy Golden said, "Of course, I was extremely pleased" by the budget approval. "I was feeling very positive it would pass this time."

As for the more than 500 extra voters who came to the polls this time, Golden figured, "I think that more parents turned out to vote this time."

If the referendum was a squeaker, the sentiments of voters leaving the polls were also divided. "I voted 'no,'" said Chris Burt. "All numbers in the economic climate have adjusted," he added, declaring, "This is a new economy, and it's a harsh experience." He concluded, "I feel like everyone has to live on less and work

harder now."

David Wylie said he voted against the budget, explaining concisely, "It's too high," and singled out education. Wylie said he wanted a zero percent tax increase, and thought \$21 million on salaries was excessive.

One resident who wished not to be named said he voted 'no' because he didn't want to see taxes "any higher than they are." When asked if he wished for no tax increase, he chuckled, "I'd like to see a decrease."

"Times are tough," said Marty Cannata, who opposed the budget. Though he specified no certain number he thought the budget should be, he said, "It needs to be looked over real well."

One unidentified 'no' voter said, "I'd like to see more concessions, especially from the teachers." He continued, "Education's certainly got a priority, but it's got to be balanced against other needs."

Those who got behind the budget singled out education as their motivation. "I'm just performing my civic duty," said Rev. Charles LeBlanc, as he exited the gym. LeBlanc, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, said he voted 'yes,' explaining, "It's a very minimal increase." He also said the budget "continues to be pro-education."

One 'yes' voter promoted the continuation of town services, commenting, "You can't keep going negative and move forward."

Clive Tucceri teaches eighth-grade science at East Hampton Middle School. She said she voted 'yes' Tuesday as well as four weeks earlier. "Our students deserve more than the price of a cup of coffee a day," she said, alluding to the per capita daily tax increase.

Natalie Hurt said she voted 'yes' but admitted it took a lot of thought. "I'm sure they worked very hard," she said of the BOF and

Town Council. "I trust in them."

Kim Collins, who works in the town's Board of Education (BOE) office, voted 'yes,' figuring education was paramount and admitted her own personal interest. Anticipating BOE cuts if the budget failed, she said, "Mine might be one of the first [positions] to go."

Moderator Dave Simko and his band of poll workers showed up to the high school at 5:30 Tuesday morning, preparing for the 6 a.m. opening. By 8 p.m., the turnout was not a huge surprise, considering that by 11 a.m., the polls had been averaging a little over 100 people an hour. The pace sped up over the course of the day.

Simko also credited increased signage for the bump, and seemed hopeful that the budget would pass. "A zero percent increase is gonna kill this town," he said.

He also pointed out the vast difference between Tuesday's turnout and the 81 percent who came out for last November's presidential race. "This, to me, is a lot more important," Simko said, surmising, "If you don't come out and vote, I don't want to hear it from you."

Broken down, the spending plan features \$25.11 million for education, \$9.16 million for general government, and \$1.97 million by way of debt service.

While Tuesday's vote meant the BOF can rest easy for now, BOE members still have work to do. The school board has seen its proposed 2009-10 spending plan slashed by \$452,000 since submitting it to the town in January. Board members have yet to tackle the cuts, opting to wait until voters passed the budget. Though Golden wouldn't speculate as to what form these cuts would take, she said the decision would be made during the board's June 22 meeting, which is slated for 7 p.m. at the library at the high school, 15 North Maple St.

Despite Loss of the Barn, Plaza Continues to Thrive in Marlborough

by Adam Benson

Marlborough Barn may be gone, but the plaza that housed the iconic furniture store is still going strong.

Last summer, Deborah Leonard closed the Marlborough Country Barn, after nearly 50 years in existence. It was the anchor store of The Village Shoppes of Marlborough, a plaza located on North Main Street, near the Town Hall.

However, nearly a year later, the plaza is enjoying a resurgence that its owner and new tenants hope will inject a new sense of vibrancy into the historic site.

"We just had a sense that this was going to be very successful, and that we'll be able to bring it back, so we're just trying to breathe new life into it," said Linda Shevchenko, co-owner of one of the new tenants, a furniture and home furnishings store named New England Home. "We're hopeful that we would all be able to work together and bring the whole complex back, and that's what has happened."

For more than 20 years, Shevchenko worked as visual director at Marlborough Barn, cultivating a base of loyal customers and deep community ties that she didn't want to see dry up due to the store closing.

"I think a lot of our customers over the years came to know us well, and there's that personal connection," she said over lunch at Sadler's Ordinary, which is also located at the plaza. "I just had such strong feelings about it."

After 48 years of continual business, Marlborough Barn fell victim last August to the nation's economic downturn.

Unable to compete with larger box stores, Company President Deborah Leonard opted to close the furniture business and home accessories store her father, Carl Zirkenbach Sr., started in 1960.

"For me, this marks the end of a dynamic era," Leonard told the *RiverEast* at the time. "We made a little history and feel very proud of what we've done."

But Leonard's brother, Carl Zirkenbach Jr., refused to watch the property fall into disrepair – at least without putting up a fight.

So he began to search for new tenants in an effort to re-brand the store and re-establish the vision his father had for the site when he decided to open it.

"I grew up here, it was in the family, my own business was here and there wasn't a lot of choice," Zirkenbach Jr. said. "It wasn't an option to not try."

Over the past year, Zirkenbach has filled the complex with all-new tenants and left two stores in place, Sadler's and his own business, New

England Traditions.

New England Home is located in the store that used to house Marlborough Barn. Shevchenko operates it with her partner, Chris Sapia of Glastonbury. Friends for more than a decade, the pair have established themselves around the state, thanks in large part to their work in designing Gov. M. Jodi Rell's study at the governor's mansion every year for the holidays.

In a down economy and with heavy competition from online retailers, major box stores and TV shopping networks, opening a rustic furniture store in an outlying community might seem like a risky proposition.

But Sapia said the Marlborough Barn's history of success in that location inspired them to give the business a shot.

"The reason why we did it is because the barn had great longevity. The name meant everything," he said. "Our vision was to kind of re-create it with a fresh perspective on what the Barn is and bring it up a couple of notches."

New England Home opened for business late last November, and former Marlborough Barn customers gradually started to show up.

Shevchenko and Sapia are also enjoying many new faces, like Colchester's Cathy Solis. Solis said she drove by the site one day in December and finally decided to stop in Wednesday to take a look inside.

"Oh my God, I could spend a fortune in here," she said. "I'm so glad I stopped. I'd much rather come to a place like this than a mall."

Solis said she has family visiting from Georgia next week, and she's going to add The Village Shoppes of Marlborough to the sightseeing itinerary.

"This is a great treat for anybody," she said. Another new business in the complex is The Barkery, a dog bakery and boutique owned and operated by Glastonbury resident Jan Horahan.

She said she was drawn to the plaza because of its rural charm – and also enjoys the cheaper rent than what's available in major urban commercial areas.

"We're dealing with a tough economy, but people are slowly finding us," said Horahan, who opened her shop Dec. 1.

With more than 35,000 square feet of shopping space and land that sprawls over 10 acres, Zirkenbach Jr. said the grounds could become a premier destination for shoppers across the region.

He said he signed a new tenant for another spot in the plaza just this week and has plans to expand the site's offerings – with variety being



The Village Shoppes of Marlborough property owner Carl Zirkenbach Jr., left, with New England Home co-owners Chris Sapia, center, and Linda Shevchenko. New England Home moved into the former site of Marlborough Barn last November.

a key aspect.

"In this economy, we're working very loosely," he said. "What's good today might not be good for somebody tomorrow."

He even has long-term plans to incorporate residential properties into the mix.

And every Sunday, from June 21 through Nov. 1, the site will host a farmers' market featuring fresh produce, meats, seafood, cheeses, flowers, handcrafted jewelry and art, live entertainment and of course, shopping.

Admission and parking is free and the events are slated to run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Shevchenko said the concept was born out of Zirkenbach Sr.'s original vision and family-friendly atmosphere The Village Shoppes of Marlborough was known for throughout its life.

"We had gotten away from thinking in terms of families, and now we're going back to that and working on how we can get people to come here and spend the day and have a great time,"

she said.

First Selectman Bill Black said he was thrilled to see the shops thriving again.

"I think it's a good commentary on the community. It represents our values and who we are," he said. "You see more and more traffic over there and more and more signs going up, and that's exciting. It's us coming back as a community."

Kevin Haggerty, chef and owner of Sadler's, said he was proud to be part of the success story that is playing out on the plaza around him.

"People were wishing me good luck last year [after the Marlborough Barn closing was announced] and wondering how we were going to make it, but we turned it the other way and kicked it into gear," he said. "It's the place where everybody wants to live."

Most stores at The Village Shoppes of Marlborough are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

Swine Flu Case Confirmed in Andover

by Sarah McCoy

Earlier this week, Andover town officials received word of the first confirmed case of H1N1 influenza (swine flu) among its residents.

The swine flu has made international headlines this spring as the new form of the illness affected 48 different countries, according to the Center for Disease Control. There have been over 8,500 cases of the swine flu in the United States with at least 13 resulting in fatalities (including one Connecticut case, in New Haven County).

First Selectman Bob Burbank reported that the individual in town with the illness is an adult with no connection to the school system or town government. "Obviously we don't know the individual's name [because of privacy regulations] but we have been told that school and other town operations should go on as scheduled," he said.

Andover Elementary School Principal David Griffin reported that school officials have not been notified of any cases of the

swine flu virus amongst the students or faculty. When the swine flu outbreak first hit, he said, letters were sent home to parents and a staff meeting was held to provide information regarding the symptoms and procedures for suspected cases of the virus.

"We have instructed our students to be vigilant with covering their mouths when they cough and sneeze and have emphasized the importance of washing hands," Griffin said. "These are things we want them to do anyways to stay healthy."

On Monday the State Department of Public Health confirmed five new cases of the swine flu in Connecticut. In addition to the case in Andover, two cases have been confirmed in Bolton, one in Ridgefield, and one in Waterbury. Just over 200 cases of the swine flu have been confirmed throughout the state.

Information regarding the symptoms and transmission of the H1N1 virus can be found through the Department of Public Health's website at www.ct.gov/dph.

Portland Police News

5/26 — Denise Walsh, 38, of 43 High St., was charged with failure to respond to an infraction, Portland Police said.

5/26 — Susan Randall, 37, of 341 Main St., was charged with DUI, failure to drive right and failure to obey stop sign, police said.

5/26 — A 17-year-old was arrested on charges of weapons in a motor vehicle and possession of alcohol by a minor, police said.

5/27 — Fred Rossitto, 50, of 19 Commerce St., was charged with second-degree larceny, police said.

5/28 — Joseph Kerrick, 62, of 25 Prospect St., was charged with first-degree failure to appear and two counts of second-degree failure to appear, police said.

East Hampton Police News

5/3 — Matthew Barnett, 22, of 85 North Main St., Christopher Day, 22, of 75 West Rd., Colchester, and Brandon Sharpe, 21, of 96 Clark Rd., Colchester, were issued tickets for creating a public disturbance, East Hampton Police said.

5/19 — Eric P. Shumbo, 38, of 9 Old Young St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of third-degree larceny, and aiding third-degree larceny, police said.

5/20 — A 17-year-old male juvenile was issued a ticket for a minor operating a motorcycle and operating on public property, police said.

5/20 — A 17-year-old male juvenile was issued a ticket for operating a mini motorcycle "pocket bike" on a public roadway and interfering with a police office, police said.

5/21 — Heath R. Galvin, 19, of 61 North Main St., was issued a ticket for failure to wear a seatbelt, towing an unregistered motor vehicle and failure to have brake lights, police said.

5/22 — Michael Sentell, 24, of 10 Colchester Ave., and Raymond A. Gudat, 29, of 29

Middletown Ave, were issued tickets for using a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle, police said.

5/22 — Seth W. Hall, 19, of 126 Bear Swamp Rd., was issued a ticket for failure to wear a seatbelt, police said.

5/23 — Daniel Cook, 41, of 16 East High St., was issued a ticket for allowing a dog to roam, police said.

5/23 — Judy Burg, of 157 Daly Rd., was issued a ticket for having a nuisance dog, police said.

5/25 — Raymond Kegley, 47, of 1 Anderson Way, was issued a ticket for failure to wear a seatbelt, police said.

5/27 — Arlene L. Knott, 34, of 25 Pleasant St., Ansonia, was arrested pursuant to a court-ordered warrant on charges of fifth-degree larceny, issuing a bad check and second-degree failure to appear, police said.

5/28 — Kathleen F. Standish, 53, of 11 Flannery Row, was issued a ticket for failure to obey a traffic signal, police said.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Regular readers of my column will not be shocked by this declaration: I am a Democrat.

I didn't officially become one until last year, when I switched my registration from independent so I could participate in the Democratic presidential primary (I voted for Hillary). But even as an independent, I voted for Democrats more often than not, casting ballots for Gore in 2000 and Kerry in 2004. I even voted for John DiStefano for governor in 2006. Over the years, I've noticed I tend to agree with the Democrats' position on many issues.

But this week I found myself siding with state Republicans, on an issue that's very near and dear to my heart: food.

I read in the *Journal Inquirer* Monday that the state House of Representatives had voted 89-60 in favor of a bill that would require restaurant chains to post the calorie content of food items right there on the menu. Several Republicans criticized the legislation, and for good reason – it's severely flawed.

First of all, you can't just look at a food's calories when deciding whether you should eat it. Yes, calories are important, but so is fat, saturated fat (the stuff that clogs your arteries) and cholesterol, and the bill doesn't address these. I know, obviously, you can't expect the restaurant to list five or six or seven different nutritional facts for each item on their menu. Practically speaking, it just wouldn't work. The menu boards at fast-food places would be enormous. But listing just the calories of a product is a little misleading. And, in advocating the bill, State Rep. Michael P. Lawlor of East Haven kind of proves my point.

Lawlor told his colleagues about a recent trip to Yankee Stadium – New York has had a similar law in place for several months – where he saw a soft pretzel listed as having 630 calories, whereas a slice of pepperoni pizza had 270. “When you look at the menu, it's not what you think,” he was quoted as saying. “The things you think are relatively healthy turn out to be worse.”

Well, sorry, but....that's not true. Yes, that pretzel may be loaded with calories, but that's about all it's loaded with. When it comes to fat and saturated fat, a soft pretzel – even a giant soft pretzel like they sell at baseball stadiums – has hardly any. Whereas that slice of pepperoni pizza Lawlor was practically making sound like diet food brings a lot more to the table than just calories. I'm not exactly sure what kind of pizza they sell at Yankee Stadium, but a quick look at the Pizza Hut website shows that a slice of its pepperoni pan pizza contains just 250 calories, but it also has 11 grams of fat, including a hefty 4.5 grams of saturated fat.

Another good example of this can be found right down the street at your neighborhood Dunkin' Donuts. A cinnamon raisin bagel – my favorite type of bagel, by the way – has 370 calories. A French cruller doughnut, meanwhile, has 250 calories. If you go by Lawlor's line of thinking, choosing the doughnut over the bagel would be a no-brainer, right? Not exactly. That bagel has four grams of fat, whereas the French cruller packs 20 grams of fat, with a whopping nine of those grams being saturated. (In case you're wondering, the FDA recommends consuming no more than 20 grams of saturated fat per day.) Call it a hunch, but I think your body would prefer you stick with the bagel.

The bottom line is, just because something's high in calories doesn't necessarily mean it's high in fat. And just because something's (relatively) low in calories doesn't mean it's low in fat. Calories don't tell the whole story, and for legislators to act like they do is misleading.

Another big flaw with the bill: only chain restaurants would be required to post the calorie content of their items. Mom-and-pop places would be off the hook. So would grocery store delis, the places that sell those fat-laden, mayonnaise-based salads by the pound and heavy, meaty grinders that are just as bad, if not worse, as anything you'd find at Subway.

Not only is the exclusion of independently-owned places and grocery store delis unfair, it also doesn't make sense. Many chain restaurants already have nutritional information easily accessible on their corporate websites. (And it's info that tells the whole story, not just the one-dimensional calorie content.) Want to find out the nutritional facts of that

potato salad you just got at the deli, or that greasy chicken cutlet sub you got from the hole-in-the-wall pizza joint down the street? Good luck.

You'd think the places that *don't* already have the information out there would be the ones required to post it. But instead, they get a pass.

It's just flawed legislation and, moreover, it's needless. I think that people generally know what they're getting themselves (and their waistlines) into when they walk into a McDonald's or an Outback. They don't need the government holding their hands and telling them what they should and should not eat. And if politicians insist on going that route, then why, again, limit the information to the misleading calorie content?

The Republicans were right to oppose this bill, and I hope Gov. Rell opposes it too. There are other, more pressing needs legislators can be dealing with.

* * *

Quinnipiac University this week released the results of its annual polling of Connecticut residents to see what the state's favorite baseball team is. There is no easy answer to this one, Connecticut being located where it is, smack in between New York and Massachusetts, with the Yankees and Red Sox typically being fierce division rivals each season.

So every year, Quinnipiac surveys various Nutmeggers, and usually the results are very close. They were close again this year, although the outcome was different than last year. This time, the Yankees won.

I know, I know. It disgusts me too.

Quinnipiac polled 1,743 adults, and of those, 42 percent favored the Yankees and 38 percent favored the Red Sox (and 9 percent favored the Mets; yeah, yeah, let's not dwell on that). Last year, the Sox – who were coming off a World Series win in 2007 – eked out a narrow, 41 percent-40 percent win.

So why the shift over to the Evil Empire this year? Darned if I know. If anything, you'd think the Red Sox would have more of an edge than they did last year. True, neither team won (or even made it to) the World Series, but the Red Sox at least came closer than the Yankees did. And the Yankees have had to deal with the whole Alex “Don't call me ‘A-Roid,’ unless you're Madonna” Rodriguez scandal. You'd think that might turn some casual fans off the Bronx Bombers, but evidently not.

True, the Yankees have a shiny new ballpark. Fenway's anything but shiny and new, but it does offer “Sweet Caroline” and the world's largest Citgo sign, so I'd say that makes things about even.

While I can't quite get why the state as a whole favors the Yankees, at least the breakdown by county makes sense. The Yankees took 52 percent of the fans in Fairfield County, while the Red Sox took 13 percent. (Actually, the Mets topped the Sox in Fairfield County too, as 21 percent of survey respondents said they favored the boys in blue and orange.) The Yankees also took Middlesex and New Haven Counties, collecting 48 percent of the fans to 31 percent for the Red Sox.

The Red Sox dominated in Tolland, Windham and New London counties, with 59 percent of the fans, compared to just 28 for the Yankees. Things are a tad closer in Hartford County, although Boston's still the clear winner, by a 53 percent to 37 percent margin over the Yanks.

I shouldn't be all that surprised Connecticut went to the Yankees, considering last year was the first time the Red Sox had won in the poll since Quinnipiac started conducting it in 2001. But it still boggles the mind a little. The Yankees haven't won a World Series since 2000; the Red Sox have won it twice since then. The Yankees have had more big-name players connected with the steroid scandal (A-Rod, Clemens, Giambi) than the Red Sox (Manny's the only big one I can think of, and besides, he and his locks were safely across the country when news of his performance-enhancement-usage dropped). Plus, as I wrote last week, the Red Sox and NESN have Heidi Watney. The Yankees and YES...don't.

It just doesn't make sense to me. However, the Mets' poor showing in the poll doesn't surprise me one bit. I've always known I'm in the minority. It's not really all that bad. It's like I'm part of an elite group: The few, the proud....the long-suffering Mets fans.

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

Andover

Sedzel A. Goodman

Sedzel A. (Peterson) Goodman, 89, of Andover, loving wife of A. Tomlin Goodman Jr., died Monday, May 25, at her home in Andover. Mrs. Goodman was born in Manchester on Sept. 21, 1919, the daughter of Gustaf Einer Peterson and Ida Esther (Magnhild) Peterson.

She was raised in Manchester, resided in Vernon, and became a resident of Andover in 1970. She was a graduate of Manchester High School, Class of 1938, was active on many reunion committees and enjoyed hooking rugs.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Walter and Terry Clark of Andover; six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, her brother, Roy Peterson of Baltimore, MD, a sister-in-law, Julie Fallon of Williamsburg, VA, and seven nieces and nephews. She also leaves her loving canine companion Scooter.

Funeral services and burial in the East Cemetery in Manchester was private. Memorial contributions may be made to The American Cancer Society. The Watkins Funeral Home in Manchester had care of arrangements. To sign the online guestbook, visit www.holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Colchester

Henry Carl Setterstrom

Henry Carl Setterstrom, "Hank," 84, of Colchester and formerly of Norwich, widower of the late Arlene (Yerrington) Setterstrom, passed away Saturday, May 30, at Greentree Manor in Waterford. Born April 12, 1925 in Norwich, he was a son of the late C. Arthur and Lilly (Andersson) Setterstrom.



In January of 1943, he enlisted in the Connecticut State Guard and later transferred to the U.S. Navy, proudly serving during World War II on the Pacific front. Mr. Setterstrom earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Bryant College and went on to work in the advertising directory department for SNET for many years before his retirement.

He was a founding member of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Norwich and was a 55+ year member of the Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34 A.F. & A.M. in Norwich. Mr. Setterstrom was also a life member of the Adler-Boluck Post 6990 VFW in Colchester and had served on the Colchester Republican Town Committee and was a Charter Member of the town Recreation Committee. Over the years, he enjoyed traveling extensively throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico with his beloved wife of 54 years. He also was a ham radio operator.

He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Gail and Joseph Churney of East Haddam; two sons and daughters-in-law, Barry and Ciel Setterstrom of Andover and Paul and Joyce Setterstrom of Colchester; two grandchildren, Brian and Jenna; four great grandchildren, Phoebe, Parker, Kaleigh and Mackenzie and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by three siblings, Ruth Freyer and Elmer and Raymond Setterstrom.

A memorial service will be observed at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 6, at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 248 Broadway, Norwich. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mark Lutheran Church.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

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

Colchester

Spencer Wilson Jr.

Spencer Lee Wilson Jr., 77, husband of the late Natalie Gagne Wilson of Colchester, passed away Friday, May 29, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on Jan. 7, 1932, in Elizabethton, TN, son of the late Spencer Lee Wilson Sr. and Merle Townsend Wilson. Spencer was a U.S. Navy Korean veteran and was employed as a supervisor for Pratt & Whitney Corporation.

Surviving is his son, Kevin Wilson of Colchester; two daughters, Cynthia Langworthy-Wilson of Gales Ferry and Susan Parrock of Central Village; seven grandchildren, Kyle, Rachel, Shauna, Jessica, Alysia, Cole and Cody; two great-grandsons, Jeremy and Lucas.

Funeral service was held Tuesday, June 2, at the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Andrew's Church on Norwich Avenue., Colchester. Interment with full military honors in New St. Andrew's Cemetery. Visitation was held Monday evening, June 1, at the funeral home.

East Hampton

Lorenzo Garneau

Lorenzo Garneau, 81, beloved husband of 59 years to Rollande (Champagne) Garneau, died Saturday, May 30, in Fort Lauderdale FL. Born Sept. 19, 1927 in Ham Nord, Quebec, Canada, he was the son of the late Albert and Alice (Brulotte) Garneau. He had lived in East Hartford and summered in East Hampton before moving to Florida in 1987. Lorenzo had retired from General Roofing Co., where he had worked as the General Foreman.

Besides his wife he is survived by his three sons and their wives, Donald Garneau and Theresa LeGeyt-Garneau of Winsted, Norman and Sally Garneau of Colorado, Michael and Tina Garneau of South Windsor; two daughters, Johane Torrant of Andover and Linda and her husband Curtis Wood of Portland; a step-daughter, Lise Tremblay of Montreal, Canada; two brothers, Bernard Garneau and Michel Garneau; a sister, Jeanne Howard; eight grandchildren, Rachael, Nicholas, Carey, Emily, Dylan, Luke, Matthew and Kyle.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Alban and Felix Garneau.

Lorenzo was a loving dad who would do anything to help his kids. He loved to sit by the lake and observe everything that was going on around him. He also loved to watch hockey; if there was a game on TV, you know he would be watching it. He also loved planting flowers around his cottage and condo. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

The funeral procession will leave the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Saturday, June 6, at 9:15 a.m., followed by the funeral liturgy at 10 a.m. in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton. Burial will follow in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home today, Friday, June 5, from 6-9 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Hospice, 14875 NW 77 Avenue, Suite 100, Miami Lakes, FL 33014.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Helen K. Hart

Helen K. (Zenowitz) Hart, 99, of Glastonbury, widow of the late Robert M. Hart, passed away Friday morning, May 29, at the Cobalt Lodge. Born Feb. 11, 1910, in New York City, she was a daughter of the late Michael and Katherine (Baranska) Zenowitz.

Mrs. Hart was a supervisor for the State of CT Welfare Dept. for many years before her retirement. In her spare time, she was an avid reader and also enjoyed crossword puzzles and knitting.

The last surviving of six children, she was predeceased by two sisters, Elsie Gregory and Anne Campbell, and three brothers, William, John and Alex Zenowitz, and she is survived by their families.

Graveside services were observed Monday, June 1, at Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, 1 Cottage Grove Rd., Bloomfield. There were no calling hours.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

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

Andover

Mary Johnson

Mary (Misovich) Johnson, 84, beloved wife of the late Raymond A. Johnson, passed away peacefully on June 2, at the Fenwood Manor nursing care facility in Manchester.

Mary was born Feb. 24, 1925, on a farm in Andover, the youngest daughter of Michael and Sedonia (Simovic) Misovich, proud immigrants from Slovakia. Mary lived in Manchester for all of her married life before moving to East Hartford following Raymond's death to share a home with her only son, Craig and his family. Prior to her retirement, Mary was employed by Pratt and Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford for over 25 years.

Mary is survived by her son, Craig R. Johnson and his wife Mary A. Johnson and by three grandchildren, Drew Johnson of East Hartford, Matthew Becker of Manchester and Kerry Becker of Glastonbury. Mary is survived by a sister, Ernestine Yaworski and her husband Stephen of Manchester and another sister, Ann Hanko of Manchester, and eight nieces and nephews. She is also survived by a beloved brother-in-law, Harold K. Johnson of Bonita Springs, FL.

Besides her husband, Mary was predeceased by two sisters, Amelia Misovich and Irene Boscher, a brother, Michael Misovich Jr., and one nephew.

Funeral services and burial in Manchester's East Cemetery are private. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Emanuel Lutheran Church, 60 Church St., Manchester, CT 06040.

Holmes Funeral Home, Manchester, has care of the arrangements.

Portland

George A. Wilson

George A. Wilson, 90, of Covell Hill Road, Portland, died Tuesday, June 2, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the husband of Leora Johnson Wilson. Born in Chester, PA, Nov. 22, 1918, the son of the late George A. and Annetta Miller Wilson, he was a Portland resident for 59 years.

He had been employed by Bristol Sheet Metal Co., for 35 years until his retirement and was a member of the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local No. 40. He was a veteran of World War II having served in the U.S. Navy followed by serving 12 years in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge No. 2 of Middletown, and the Portland Historical Society. He was one of the original organizers of Boy Scout Troop No. 49 of Portland.

George was known for his compassion and thoughtfulness as well as his sense of humor. He had used his extensive handicraft skills to help various organizations such as the Zion Lutheran Church and the Historical Society. His love of woodcarving and fishing was imparted to his children and grandchildren and he was always delighted when he caught his limit of trout on opening day.

Besides his wife Leora, George is survived by his daughters, Susan Rodden and her husband Tom of East Hartford, Judith Wilson of Eaton Center, NH; his son, Richard Wilson M.D. and his wife Karen of Lake Oswego, OR; his grandchildren, Robert Wilson, Daniel Wilson, Alex Wilson, and Emily Wilson, Brett Guerringue and Lee Guerringue.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend George's funeral service today, Friday, June 5, at 11 a.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church. The Rev. William Hodge will officiate. Calling hours will be from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. Interment with Military Honors will follow in the Swedish Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in his memory may be sent to the Middlesex Hospital Weiss Hospice Unit, c/o Office of Philanthropy 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 or to the Zion Lutheran Church Memorial Fund 183 William St., P.O. Box 202, Portland, CT 06480.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, CT 06480. For directions, or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit www.portlandmemorialfh.net.