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Paralyzed Teacher Racing in Marathon

by Lindsay Fetzner

When Stephen Emt crosses the finish line at the ING New York City Marathon on Sunday, Nov. 7, it won't be his feet that cross the mark, but rather the wheels of his handcycle.

Fifteen years ago, Emt, an Andover resident, was in a serious automobile accident. As a result, he suffered a spinal cord injury that left him paralyzed from the waist down and confined to a wheelchair.

Despite the struggles he was faced with over the years following his accident, 40-year-old Emt has not let them get him down. This past spring, Emt, who is a teacher at RHAM Middle School, and a boys' varsity basketball coach at RHAM High School, competed in his first race, the five-mile Achilles Hope & Possibility race, put on by Achilles International. The nonprofit group is a track club based in New York, consisting of 11,000 disabled athletes in 42 countries, Emt said.

Dick Traum, the first amputee to run in the New York City Marathon, started the group. It was Traum who gave Emt his handcycle to train on, and set the stage for Emt's journey to the half and full marathon this year.

"When I was done with the [Achilles Hope & Possibility] race, I felt so empowered," Emt said. "I was so honored and privileged to be a part of that day."

Emt said after he finished the race, he "caught the bug." This month, Emt successfully com-

pleted the ING Half Marathon in Hartford. Ironically, Emt said he never thought of running a marathon, and only registered for the half marathon about a week or two before the race. But, it was an experience that he will never forget.

"I learned a lot from that race," Emt said of the half-marathon. "I had the best time of my life."

Emt has spent his free time the past three months training for the full marathon, which he will race as a member of the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation's Team Reeve. Whether it be the high school track, or the local roads, rest assured Emt is out there logging miles. In one week, Emt said he covered 80 miles.

"It's so much fun," he said. "It's independence, it's freedom, it's get on and ride." And, as an athlete and competitor all of his life, Emt says it's getting him back into the competition.

Emt's coach is based in New York, and he said they talk over the phone every other week. The training, coupled with the support and advice from friends and family, Emt said, is "definitely paying off."

"The support is incredible," he said, adding that he is both excited and "a little nervous" about the upcoming race, which is just

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Stephen Emt competed in the ING Half Marathon in Hartford on Oct. 9, and will now bring his talent to the ING New York City Marathon on Nov. 7. Emt is pictured above approximately one quarter-mile from the half marathon finish line.

Referendum to Decide Police Chief's Fate

by Claire Michalewicz

Whether laid-off East Hampton Police Chief Matt Reimondo will get his job back now hinges on the result of a town-wide referendum on Election Day.

On Tuesday, the Town Council voted 5-0 (members Thom Cordeiro and Bill Devine were absent) to send the referendum question, "Shall the Town of East Hampton approve the amendments to Chapter 109 of the Town Ordinances which would abolish the position of Chief of Police and restructure the Police Department?"

The referendum will take place at the same time and place as the general election – Tuesday, Nov. 2, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at East Hampton High School.

On Sept. 28, the Town Council approved the revised Chapter 109 ordinance, eliminating the chief's position, but a grassroots petition drive gathered enough signatures to bring the issue to a vote.

Interim Town Manager Bob Drewry explained that the referendum would happen in a separate room from the general election. Voters would have their identification checked as they entered the gymnasium for the general election and the referendum about the changes to the town's charter, he said, and after voting they would proceed to the cafeteria. Election officials would check their identification for a second

time, and they would then be handed a ballot for the police chief referendum, Drewry said.

Voters who own property in town but are not registered East Hampton voters will fill out their ballots in the auditorium, Drewry said. The council voted to appoint Red McKinney to moderate these votes.

Under the requirements of the town's charter, the vote to overrule the Town Council is technically held at a town meeting, Drewry explained, though town officials agreed a referendum was the most practical way to hold this vote.

Drewry said he expected to have absentee ballots for the referendum sent out by today. Engel told Drewry there would have to be "good signage," directing voters from the gymnasium to the cafeteria, and petition organizer Mary Ann Dostaler pointed out that people would have to allow extra time for voting this year.

After Tuesday's meeting, Engel said that if voters overturned the ordinance, she expected Reimondo would immediately be brought back to work.

"It would make sense, given that he was laid off," Engel said. "It would seem, rightfully to me, that he would come back." She added, however, that there may be some legal technicalities associated with reinstating Reimondo.

On Monday morning, Judge Robert Holzberg declined to rule on a motion for an injunction

that would put Reimondo back to work until after the referendum.

Reimondo's attorney, Leon Rosenblatt, argued that since Reimondo was being paid, he should be brought back to work. Not having a chief was putting East Hampton residents in danger, Rosenblatt said.

"I'll wait until the citizens speak on the ordinance," Holzberg said. If voters overturned the revised ordinance, he said, "I expect Mr. Reimondo will be reinstated to his position."

Rosenblatt said he expected that if the ordinance was overruled on Nov. 2, Reimondo would be immediately put back to work. If not, Rosenblatt said he would be in court the next day, seeking an order to return Reimondo to his job.

Plans for the referendum had been underway since last Thursday, when petition organizer Bill Marshall submitted the first 1,350 signatures to Town Clerk Sandra Wieleba. Of those signatures, Marshall said, Wieleba only had to reject one, from a Marlborough resident.

On Monday, Marshall announced that the petition had collected 2,380 signatures – over twice the requisite 1,161.

Reimondo said that while he was disappointed Holzberg had not granted the injunction, he expected the decision would "energize the people even more," and encourage them to vote.

"I think in two weeks the people of East

Hampton will have spoken," Reimondo said. "The people will come out to vote for what's right."

Holzberg set a date of Nov. 8 to resume the case with a hearing about the defense's motion for a protective order, which would block former Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe's deposition from being released to the public. O'Keefe began his deposition on Sept. 27, but Rosenblatt said Monday that he and the defense attorneys, Shel Myers and David Monastersky, had not yet set a date to continue it.

"I'm actually much more interested in getting the chief back to work than in litigating the lawsuit," Rosenblatt said.

On Tuesday, a new political group registered with the Town Clerk's office in anticipation of the referendum, Engel said. Called The East Hampton Silent Majority, the group would advocate to uphold the council's revised ordinance at the referendum, Engel said.

Registering with the town would allow the group to publish ads and post signs encouraging voters to vote yes on the referendum, Engel said. She said if the group spends more than \$1,000, it would become a political action committee.

Engel said that along with herself, The Silent Majority included council members Cordeiro and Barbara Moore, and "about 25 or 30 people."

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a little over two weeks away. "I know I'll get through it."

Team Reeve Manager Leigh Alspach said the team has 76 athletes that will compete on Nov. 7, and Emt will be one of seven who are handcycling. The seven athletes train with Achilles International, Alspach said, and form a joint partnership between them and Team Reeve, which has been in existence since 2005.

"It works out wonderfully," Alspach said, "because we funnel everyone in and support them, but then Achilles are the experts in the training and logistical aspects."

Alspach said Emt has been doing "amazing" with his training, and has really improved along the way.

"He's just an amazing, amazing, inspiring guy," she said. "I think he's going to do phenomenally in the marathon."

Athletics have always been a huge part of Emt's life growing up. He was an avid basketball, baseball and soccer player in his days at RHAM.

"It's been in my blood since day one," Emt said. "I love playing the game and teaching the game."

Emt attended West Point and then the University of Connecticut, where he played basketball in the early 90s.

"It was an incredible experience," Emt said of his time at UConn.

And, as this year marks Emt's 15th season as the basketball coach, he is able to pass on those skills and techniques he once used on the court to students who now comb the same school hallways as Emt did in the late '80s.

And it is these same youths from the three communities that have stepped forward to help Emt meet his goal of raising \$10,000 for the foundation.

"I hope the community can rally around us," Emt said. "That's what I want; something the community can root for."

This weekend, Oct. 23 and 24, there will be a bake sale at each of the Church of the Holy

Family Masses, organized by the 2011 confirmation classes.

A car wash and bake sale will also take place this Sunday, Oct. 24 from 12:30-4 p.m. at Church of the Holy Family. Emt said the three towns that comprise the RHAM community have been great to him all of his life, and now, "it's all about being a good person and giving back."

Emt said when he emerged from his two-day coma 15 years ago, he had tons of questions about his future. Unfortunately though, Emt said, "there were no answers." But now, with the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, questions like those Emt had are now closer to being answered with research and fundraising.

"Hopefully someday soon," Emt said, "I can go into a hospital room to someone newly-injured and say 'we've got answers for you.'"

Approximately .4 percent of the US population, or roughly 1.275 million people, have re-

ported being paralyzed as a result of a spinal cord injury, according to the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. Accidents, like the automobile one Emt was involved in, account for the greatest majority of spinal cord injuries. The largest percentage of accidents occur while working, at 28 percent or 362,000 people, followed by motor vehicle accidents, at 24 percent, or 311,000 people, according to the foundation.

To donate online, go to www.teamreeve.org. Under "support a team member," click on the "ING New York City Marathon," then on "sponsor an athlete." From there, type in Stephen Emt, or just Emt in the line designated for last name.

Checks can also be made out to the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation and mailed to the foundation, 636 Morris Tpke., Suite 3A, Short Hills, NJ 07078, Attn: Team Reeve. Include Emt's name and "NYC Marathon" in the memo field of the check.

Hebron School Board Requesting \$1.386 Million from CIP

by Lindsay Fetzner

The Board of Education (BOE) unanimously approved a \$1.386 million Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the 2011-12 year at its meeting last Thursday, Oct. 14.

All five members of the BOE present at the meeting gave the okay for the \$1,386,100 plan, with board members Brian O'Reilly and Stephanie Raymond absent.

Last year, the board requested \$229,216 for the 1970 portion of the roof at Gilead Hill School (GHS).

The local school board's CIP representative, Kathy Shea, told the board that she, along with Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz and maintenance foreman Wayne Durocher sat down and tried to project what projects would need attention in the next five years.

"The town is in trouble in terms of the outcomes of the facilities study," Shea told the board.

A facilities study report was presented to the boards of selectmen, finance and education, as well as the CIP committee, at a joint meeting on Sept. 22. Silver/Petrucelli & Associates, who were hired in April, gave the presentation, which culminated six months of work on the two elementary schools in town.

For the 2011-12 year, the BOE CIP plan includes 10 projects, with the Hebron Elementary School (HES) parking lot at the top of the list, with an estimated cost of \$150,000.

The next three projects encompass three roofs at HES, one dating back to 1947, another to 1963 and the final one to 1988. Cruz said the roofs are eligible for state reimbursement at a rate of 52.5 percent, but added that the reimbursement rates can change at any time. Each of these three roof projects has a \$300,000 price tag.

At a cost of \$38,000, the BOE wants to replace the student database and the library technology systems.

"We have some severe problems with our technology," Shea said. "We really need to get up to date and not wait much longer."

At GHS, asbestos abatement and new floor tiles in the 1970 wing of the school will cost \$75,600. Like the HES roofs, the asbestos project is eligible for a 52.5 percent reimbursement.

The fifth-grade portables at HES were incorporated into two of the 10 items on the plan. The first area discussed was the portable walk enclosure, at a cost of \$175,000. The fifth-grade portables present a safety issue because they are not currently enclosed, and students exit and enter the building many times throughout the day as they go back and forth to class. The students pass between the school and portables, exposing them to weather and areas outside of the main school building. In addition, at a cost of \$7,500, the board listed improvements to the fifth-grade portable footings on its list.

The final two items listed on the plan are two GHS fire-rated safety doors, at a cost of \$30,000, and one fire rated door at HES, at a cost of \$10,000.

Many of the 10 projects listed on the 2011-12 CIP plan correspond to a page number of the facilities study. A link to the study is available on the district website, www.hebron.k12.ct.us, under "news."

The page numbers are as follows: HES parking lot, Section III, page 41; HES 1963 roof, Roof J, Section IV, page 42, HES 1988 roof, Roof E&F, Section IV, page 42, HES 1947, Roof D, Section IV, page 42, HES fifth-grade

portable walk enclosure, Section IV, page 46, GHS fire rated doors, Section IV, page A5, and HES fire rated door, Section IV, page A8. Section V also has pictures of the three HES roofs and the portable walk enclosure.

Shea also added that since there are so many projects in the next year, the school board should propose to the Board of Selectmen that bonding be "seriously considered," as interest rates are currently down. The projects marked for consideration for bonding are the three HES roofs.

Also at the meeting, the board reviewed the first of three roundtable discussions, held on Oct. 13 at Hebron Elementary School. Dube said she felt the discussion was "really beneficial" and a good opportunity for residents to share their input with the board members. Dube added that after the three discussions are completed, the board will examine the public's comments and identify the recurring themes, which will be used during the BOE budget deliberations.

Cruz noted that a total of six people attended the first discussion, and said she was pleased with attendance and thought it was "extremely productive."

"It's challenging," Cruz said. "People have busy lives."

The final roundtable discussion will take place on Oct. 27 from 7-9 p.m. in the GHS activity room.

Cruz also gave an update on the Education Foundation that the board is looking to get up and running. So far, Cruz said, two people are interested in serving as directors of the foundation.

"It's a matter of finding two to three more people to get it launched and off the ground," Cruz said, "and we'll be ready to go."

For those interested in serving as a director on the foundation, a link to the informational page and application is available on the district homepage under "news."

A draft of a community budget survey was also distributed to board members at the meeting, and Cruz looked to them for input and suggestions on the survey. The survey will be another tool the BOE will use to look for feedback from the public on the programs and resources the district offers, in addition to the roundtable discussions and e-mail address (BOE@hebron.k12.ct.us) the board has provided for comments.

"I tried to combine what seemed to be fairly recurring themes last year when [we were] talking about the budget," Cruz said.

The survey asks participants to prioritize various items from top/high priority to the lowest priority. Areas such as technology, maintenance, class sizes and the challenge & enrichment program are among those highlighted in the survey.

A link to the survey can be found on the district homepage under "news" or directly at www.surveymonkey.com/s/QML33SW.

The results from the survey will be used by school board members as they begin to put together their 2011-12 budget.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BOE will be Thursday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m., at Douglas Library. A presentation will be given on the district's Connecticut Mastery Test results.

Hebron Receives \$120,000 for Open Space

by Lindsay Fetzner

Gov. M. Jodi Rell announced last Thursday, Oct. 14 that Hebron was the recipient of a \$120,000 open space grant for the Kinney Road land parcel.

The 18-acre parcel is adjacent to the town-owned Johnson Farm and is comprised of wetlands, forests and agricultural fields. A total of 4.5 acres are located at the corner of Church Street and Kinney Road, and are home to a watercourse that flows into the Raymond Brook and Raymond Brook Marsh. Another 13.5 acres are located along Kinney Road and consist of cornfields. According to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the land has the potential for the observation and study of wildlife and/or nature, cross-country skiing and trails.

Grant applications were due in May, and Town Planner Mike O'Leary said the \$480,000 property was purchased with funds from the open space account shortly after that time. O'Leary said the town was in the process of discussing the purchase of the land with the property owners when the grant opportunity became available.

According to the grant application, O'Leary said the town could not seek reimbursement if they owned the property at the time of the grant deadline. But, if the property was purchased thereafter, the town could use the grant money for reimbursement from the purchase of the land.

The Kinney Road parcel is a total of 32 acres,

O'Leary said. However, the grant only applies to 18 out of the 32 acres. The purchased land that is reimbursed from the state is set aside for conservation purposes, and therefore cannot be used to construct areas such as ballfields, for example. O'Leary said the town might want to use part of the property for other purposes in the future, and therefore the remaining 14 acres were set aside for this reason.

"There are a lot of interesting aspects to the property," O'Leary said, adding that the \$120,000 grant is greatly appreciated. "It will help to replenish the open space account. It is very exciting."

Open Space Land Acquisition Committee member Claudia Naturski said she is happy to receive the grant, and thinks that Hebron is ahead of the surrounding communities in terms of acquiring open space.

"We are kind of lucky," she said.

Naturski commended O'Leary for his active efforts in acquiring pieces of land, such as the Kinney Road parcel.

"He has been going after properties that serve the purpose of protecting natural resources and protecting the farming community we value so much," she said.

Brian O'Connell, chairman of the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee, said the committee looked at the piece of land as both a buffer to the center of town and to the Village Green district, which could be built up in the

future. O'Connell was pleased to receive the grant, and said open space is something he firmly believes in.

"I've been on Open Space for a long time," O'Connell said. "We are buying land with a specific purpose or goal in mind, whether it's adding on to another piece of open space, joining [another piece of land] or using it as a buffer, in this case."

A total of 35 cities and towns in the state received \$10.4 million in state grants, which will preserve more than 2,700 acres of open space across the state, according to a press release from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Forty-two projects will be funded by the grant money, which are part of Connecticut's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisitions Grant Program. The program is administered by the DEP and funds are provided through state bonding and the 2005 Community Investment Act.

"By preserving open space and forests we safeguard the natural beauty of our state, support habitat for wildlife and provide greater opportunities for families to get out and enjoy the great outdoors," Rell said in the press release. "The communities that will benefit from this round of funding are enhancing the quality of life for their residents and visitors."

Rell noted that the partnership between local and state governments, as well as land trusts, has preserved more than 24,000 acres in the

last 12 years.

Since 1998, the grant program has awarded \$101,910,065, which has supported the purchase of 380 properties, for a total of 24,352 acres in 120 communities, according to the DEP.

Connecticut's open space goal is to protect 21 percent of the state's land, which equals 673,210 acres, by 2023. Currently, the state is 73 percent of the way in achieving that goal. A total of 488,822 have either been designated as local open space lands or state open space lands, the press release states.

Typically, the grant the towns and cities are awarded covers about 50-65 percent of the purchase price. Land supported includes property purchased by municipalities, water companies and nonprofit land conservation organizations.

The other 34 cities and towns that received grant funds are: Berlin, Bloomfield, Branford, Canton, Coventry, Danbury, East Haddam, Ellington, Farmington, Glastonbury, Goshen, Granby, Groton, Lyme, Madison, Meriden, Middletown, New Fairfield, North Stonington, Old Lyme, Oxford, Plymouth, Preston, Salem, Simsbury, Somers, Sprague/Franklin, Stratford, Thompson, Tolland, Washington, Waterbury, Watertown and Woodbury.

More information on the Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Grant Program is available on the DEP website, www.ct.gov/dep, under "Latest News."

RHAM School Board Reviews CMT, CAPT Results

by Lindsay Fetzner

The RHAM Board of Education (BOE) heard from high and middle school administrators on the strides students have made on the Connecticut Mastery and Connecticut Academic Performance tests at their meeting Monday evening.

Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski opened the presentation with the No Child Left Behind Act requirements for both the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and for the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT).

The CMTs are administered to students in grades three to eight and cover the areas of math, reading, writing and, in fifth and eighth grades, science. The test is scored in five categories: below basic, basic, proficient, goal and advanced.

The CAPT follows the same scoring categories as the CMT, and is administered to 10th-graders across the state. The test focuses on the areas of math, science, reading and writing. Both tests are given in March each year.

At the middle school, where students took the CMT, all No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements were met for math and reading. In math, the target score is 82 percent proficient, and RHAM students scored 97.8 percent proficient. Reading showed similar achievements, with students achieving a score of 95.1 percent proficient. The target score is 79 percent proficient.

"You can see how favorable we compare to the No Child Left Behind requirements,"

Siminski pointed out.

At the high school, the CAPT requirements are 81 percent proficient in reading, and 80 percent proficient in math. Students scored 95.1 percent and 96.3 percent proficient respectively at the high school, well over the target scores.

Last November, the BOE voted 5-4 to raise the CAPT score requirement for graduation from proficient to goal, beginning with the Class of 2013, which is this year's sophomore class.

"The goal is consistently to move students up through the ranks," RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie said.

Leslie drew attention to the percentage of students who scored in the advanced criteria in all of the subject areas for this year. Each area showed an increase in percentage points. In math, 35 percent of students scored at the advanced level, whereas last year, that figure was 29 percent. In science, there was an 11 percent change, from 29 percent last year to 40 percent this year. Reading showed a 4 percent increase, from 25 percent of students scoring advanced last year to 29 percent this year. Lastly, in writing, scores jumped from 34 percent to 48 percent this year.

"I'm very pleased with these scores," Leslie said. He added that the writing growth demonstrates that if the school focuses its energies in a particular area, "it will see results." Writing, Leslie said, "is one area I'm the most pleased with."

Highlighting academic support at the high

school, Leslie said the guidance counselors work to identify incoming freshman who may require academic support down the road. The counselors at the high school also meet with those at the middle school to review student learning needs as well. And, specifically, the advisors to the sophomore class discuss the CAPT test with the students, stressing both its importance and purpose.

Although the sophomores are the ones who officially take the CAPT test, the freshman class complete a practice CAPT as well, and receive feedback from the sessions through peer editing and teacher evaluation, Leslie said.

RHAM Middle School Principal Mike Seroussi shared student trends with the board, and pointed out where students made both gains and decreases in the core subject areas.

There were small gains made in math in both grade levels, fluctuations both up and down in writing, and consistent, level scores in science. One of the most noticeable changes in all the areas, Seroussi said, was in the area of reading.

"Last year, we focused on reading more," Seroussi said. And, as a result, "we see some significant increases."

Last year, of the students in the seventh grade, 86 percent scored at the goal level. This year that number jumped to 89.5 percent. At the eighth-grade level, there was an 8.9 point jump, from 79.7 percent scoring at goal last year, to 88.6 percent this year.

Seroussi also highlighted the middle school academic supports, ranging from co-taught classes, to silent sustained reading twice a week, to a core group of teachers who monitor student data and achievements.

Title math and writing/organization classes are also offered, which are support classes for the identified subject area. Seroussi said students either go over homework assignments, are re-taught a subject area, or more recently, are pre-taught a subject area.

In the title writing and organization class, for example, Seroussi said if students have problems in writing, they work daily on organizational skills and basic paragraph and/or essay writing. The class, he said, targets specific goals in that particular subject area.

Other academic supports include afterschool programs like p.m. study, math labs, writing labs and peer tutoring with high school students. During the summer months, Seroussi said summer school and summer reading/math packets provide support in an effort to continue building necessary skills when school is no longer in session.

"We have different types of strategies to help our students," he said.

The next meeting of the BOE will take place Monday, Nov. 15, at 6:30 p.m., in the chorus room at RHAM High School. A presentation on benchmark assessments is planned.

Pedestrian Killed in Colchester When Struck By Car

by Katy Nally

A 58-year-old Colchester woman was killed last Friday, Oct. 15, when she was hit by a car traveling on Westchester Road near Loomis Road, State Police said.

Carolyn (Markham) Champagne, known by many as "Cookie," was walking in the area and was struck by a 22-year-old driver, David Cummings of Colchester, State Police said.

Cummings was driving a 2007 Toyota Camry, State Police said, and had two passengers – Michael Cummings, 25, of Moodus, and Derek Tromza, 22, of East Hampton. The day of the accident was also Michael Cummings' birthday.

All three men were listed as not injured, and no airbags were deployed in the Camry, according to a State Police news release. The vehicle sustained front-end damage and was towed from the area.

Champagne was pronounced dead at the

scene and her next of kin was notified, State Police said.

The office of the chief state medical examiner said Champagne's death was an accident and caused by "multiple blunt traumatic injuries."

Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department officers were dispatched to the scene at 7:53 p.m., and arrived three minutes later, Fire Department Lieutenant Don Lee said.

Route 149 was shut down, and the scene was cleared by 11:06 p.m., Lee said.

A total of 25 firefighters came out to assist with the accident.

Resident Trooper Supervisor Sergeant John Thompson said the investigation into the accident will continue for "a while," given the nature of the incident.

A full obituary for Champagne appears on page 11.

Colchester Accidents Send Two to Hospital

by Katy Nally

Three accidents in the past two weeks sent two to the hospital and left an area teen with a summons for evading, State and Colchester Police said.

A two-car accident near the intersection of routes 16 and 149 sent a Colchester woman to the Marlborough Clinic with possibly head, neck and back injuries on Oct. 7, Colchester Police said.

Gloria Purdy, 27, of Colchester, was transported via Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department after her 2006 Saturn Ion was struck by a 2009 Nissan Xterra that was attempting to turn left into a gas station at around 7:15 a.m.

Purdy was traveling westbound on Route 16 and Christian Decarlo, 30, of Wallingford, was traveling eastbound on Route 16. He not injured and was issued an infraction for failure to grant right of way. His Xterra sustained front, driver's-side damage.

The investigation is closed, Colchester Police said.

On Tuesday, Oct. 12, a 17-year-old Colchester man was issued a summons for evading, State Police said, after he left the scene of an accident around noon.

The teen hit a 1997 Mercury Mountaineer that was parked on Halls Hill Road, causing left-side damage to the Mountaineer, which is registered to a Colchester resident.

State Police said the teen left the scene

without contacting the Mountaineer's owner and a witness copied down his license plate number.

The teen is due in Norwich Superior Court on Oct. 26.

In Salem, a three-car accident Monday, Oct. 18, sent one person to the hospital with "non-incapacitating" injuries, State Police said.

Shortly after 7 p.m., Kenneth Kristopik, 51, of South Lyme, swerved into oncoming traffic as he was traveling northbound on Route 85 near the intersection of Horse Pond Road, State Police said.

He struck a vehicle that was traveling southbound on Route 85, which caused it to flip over several times. The operator, a 16-year-old Salem resident, was transported to Backus Hospital for "non-life threatening" injuries, State Police said.

Kristopik continued traveling in the wrong lane and struck another oncoming vehicle head-on. The operator, a 17-year-old Salem resident, was not injured; however, his 1993 Jeep Grand Cherokee was totaled.

Kristopik's 1997 Ford Ranger was also totaled, and came to an "uncontrolled final rest against the dirt embankment off the road and shoulder of the northbound lane," State Police said. He sustained minor lacerations, but refused medical treatment.

The accident is under investigation by State Police.

Armed Robbery at Andover Convenience Store Parking Lot

by Lindsay Fetzner

An armed robber held up two women Tuesday evening in the parking lot of the 7-Eleven on Route 6 in Andover, State Police said.

State Police Troop K in Colchester reported receiving the call at about 9 p.m. Tuesday.

Upon exiting the 7-Eleven, State Police said, two women were approached while seated in their car by a person wearing a ski-type mask, black gloves and dark clothing. The subject opened the vehicle's driver side door and placed "what was reported to be a hand gun" against one of the females in the car, State Police said.

The robber told the females to "give me all you got" multiple times. After the subject took a purse off of one of the female's laps,

he or she fled into a nearby wooded area, State Police said.

State Police from Troop K responded to the scene and searched the area for the subject. K-9 teams also searched for the suspect. State Police Eastern District Major Crime Squad detectives have assumed the criminal investigation.

Anyone with further information on the incident is asked to contact the Eastern District Major Crime Squad at Troop K at 860-537-7524. State Police said all calls will be kept confidential. As of Thursday morning, Lt. J Paul Vance said the case was still under investigation.

LifeStar Lands on David Drive in Colchester

A woman falling down a flight of stairs led to LifeStar touching down on David Drive Tuesday, fire officials said.

Shortly before 4 p.m. Tuesday, the Colchester-Hayward Volunteer Fire Department received a report of a woman injured after falling down a flight of stairs, Fire Department Lieutenant Don Lee said. When firefighters arrived, the woman was unconscious and unresponsive, so they requested the LifeStar medical helicopter, Lee said.

Lee said that, because of the woman's injury, she needed to go to a trauma center, per

fire department protocol. The closest one is at Hartford Hospital, Lee said, and at that time of day, with rush hour traffic just underway, he said the quickest way to get the woman to the hospital was by helicopter. He said the flight time from Colchester to Hartford Hospital is about eight minutes.

LifeStar landed on David Drive at 4:16 p.m., Lee said, and departed for Hartford Hospital at 4:33 p.m.

Lee would not release the identity of the injured woman, but said she was an "older individual."

Complaints Received About Burning Brush in Portland

by Claire Michalewicz

The smell of smoke from brush burning at the town's transfer station may soon be a thing of the past, as Director of Public Works Rick Kelsey asked the Board of Selectmen (BOS) Wednesday to consider providing money for a grinding service.

Since burning started on Tuesday, Kelsey explained, Town Hall had received several calls from residents concerned about the smoke. One such call came from Thad King, director of the Chatham Health District, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield added. King did not return a call for comment.

Kelsey explained that the rules concerning brush burning were strict. The town was allowed to burn brush six times a year, but burning required permission from the Department of Environmental Protection, the town fire marshal and the First Selectwoman, and a fire truck needed to be onsite. Kelsey said these requirements were not a problem, but brush could only be burned when the wind was blowing from the northwest, and only between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Starting the fire and putting it out within such

a short period of time was difficult, he said, especially since when the brush piles were large. This week, he said, the two piles were about 50 feet in diameter and over 20 feet high, and difficult to extinguish quickly.

"You're gonna get complaints every time I burn," Kelsey said. Grinding the brush, he said, would require extra money – approximately \$10,000 a year. He explained that an outside company could come in with a large tub grinder to dispose of the brush and make mulch. To offset the cost, Kelsey suggested charging residents who brought in brush, weighing it and charging it by the ton.

Kelsey said the town also had the option of continuing burning, but he expected to continue receiving complaints.

"I personally didn't think we had a problem," Kelsey said. Several selectmen agreed, including Kathleen Richards, who said it "smelled like winter."

The BOS agreed to discuss the item further at a meeting in November.

Also at Wednesday's BOS meeting, the board voted to reappoint Lincoln White as the town's

building official for another four-year term. Before the selectmen agreed unanimously to appoint him, White gave a brief update on what had been happening with his department. One of the biggest changes, he said, was to streamline paperwork between his department and others in Town Hall, including the health, planning and land use departments.

In addition, White said, he was "keeping us out of court," explaining that Portland had avoided many foreclosures. Several abandoned or run-down houses had been successfully renovated and sold, he said.

White said that when residents came into his office for permits, they often ended up learning something about building.

"We're a real public service," White said. "We're always teaching something. Stop in, say 'hi.' We're there."

In other business at the meeting, Director of Finance Tom Robinson asked for a waiver of bids for an \$11,000 water chlorinator for the Portland Cobalt Road pump station. Robinson said he could only find one company in the area,

Delmar Services, which provides chlorinators, and the BOS approved the waiver unanimously.

Robinson also explained that the town's Youth Services Fund had lost about \$27,000 in the previous year, due to lower-than-expected enrollment in the town's afterschool programs. Robinson said he would prepare for a fund transfer, and then come to the BOS for final approval in November.

The BOS also voted unanimously to remove the town's Planning and Zoning Regulations from the book of ordinances. The regulations, Bransfield explained, were contained in another book and did not belong with the town's ordinances, since they were approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and not by the BOS. Bransfield said she thought the Planning and Zoning regulations had been added to the ordinance book as a convenience, but Town Clerk Bernadette Dillon wanted them removed.

The next BOS meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at Portland Library.

Dance and Fitness Center Moves to Tavern Plaza in Marlborough

by Katy Nally

When Bodyworks left the Marlborough Tavern shopping plaza in May, business owners in the plaza said they were worried about losing foot traffic the gym brought in.

However, that traffic has begun to return, now that Jacqueline Roach School of Dance has filled the space.

"We really wanted to make it work for the community," Shannon Yager, Roach's daughter and co-owner of the studio, said.

"They're so glad we came in," Roach added.

The day the dance school put up its sign, Roach said one business owner approached her and said she had "really made his day."

"It trickles down; everybody helps each other," Roach said. "People will come back."

The Jacqueline Roach School of Dance studio offers both dance classes, including ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop, and fitness courses such as kickboxing, boot camp, yoga and Zumba, but, Yager noted "we are not a gym."

For a complete listing and schedule of classes visit dance-elite.us.

Because the fitness courses are a new addition for the dance school, Yager said "we need more people to know we offer these classes."

Currently, the studio offers an "insane" deal for fitness classes, Yager said, which is \$40 for one month of up to 16 sessions. This works out to \$2.50 per class. But, Yager added, "To make it work we need the clientele."

The studio might increase this price by \$5 or \$10 in the coming months, Yager said.

There are other packages available, including \$70 for 10 classes, which last for three months, \$130 for 20 classes, which also last for three months, and walk-ins are welcome for \$10 per class.

The dance school, which is celebrating its

35th anniversary, moved into the new space over the summer and opened its doors last month, Roach said.

Roach began teaching dance out of her home 35 years ago, and later moved from Sarah Lane to Finley Hill Road into a space above another business. Unfortunately, Roach and Yager agreed, a downside to that space was that there was no restroom.

"We're really grateful to the students who were loyal and stayed with us," Roach said.

But now, not having a restroom is a distant thought for the two women, who are psyched about the new, more-than 1,500 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility, they said. Now there is twice the space than before, an office and, yes, a bathroom, Roach said. With all the room, Roach and Yager are now looking to sell dance and exercise apparel in the waiting room.

"A lot of hard work and dedication has gone into making this happen and this has been a long time coming," Yager said.

"We just love it," Roach added.

And it seems the community is excited as well. Roach said since the September opening, the studio has already accepted more dance students.

Besides the 35th anniversary, this year also marks Yager's 20th year of teaching dance classes, and she continues to instruct fitness classes.

Throughout their combined 55 years of teaching dance, Roach and Yager have learned a thing or two about showing students the proper form and technique.

The two women remembered one student who came to them after practicing dance for several years, but still had not mastered the basics. Roach and Yager said they worked with the student and brought up her skills.



Jacqueline Roach School of Dance moved into the former Bodyworks gym and is once again open for business. The studio, which offers dance and fitness classes, is located at 5 East Hampton Rd., in the Marlborough Tavern Plaza.

Another time, a mother watched as her daughter went through a few sessions at the Jacqueline Roach School of Dance, and quickly improved. The mother later told Roach her daughter had only practiced the Hokey Pokey at her old dance studio.

Watching that student learn to practice dance,

and not simply "shakin' it all about," Roach said, "made me feel really good."

The Jacqueline Roach School of Dance is located at 5 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough, in the former Bodyworks gym.

For more information visit dance-elite.us, call 860-878-8157 or 860-430-9626.

Council Exploring Options for East Hampton Annex Offices

by Claire Michalewicz

The search for a new location for the offices in the Town Hall Annex is continuing, as the town considers space in several other buildings throughout town.

The town's lease on the annex building expires on Oct. 31, after which the owner, Connecticut Light & Power, hopes to reclaim the town's office space. Interim Town Manager Bob Drewry said Monday the town could stay in the building for an extra month before being evicted, due to a holdover clause in the lease.

The Town Council is considering relocating the annex offices, which include Parks and Recreation, Social Services, Youth and Family Services and the Food Bank, to the Goff House Museum on Barton Hill Road. (The Probate Court, also housed in the building, will move to Marlborough when the court district changes in January.) Last Friday, Oct. 14, the council toured the Goff House, where they are considering installing offices on the lower level.

Drewry said it was unlikely the state would allow the town to purchase the property, as it had received grants intended for nonprofit organizations, which would have to be refunded to the state if the property was sold before 2011. However, he said, the town could work out a lease or lease-purchase agreement with the museum.

The council is also considering an industrial building at 11 Skinner St., and empty office space in two medical office buildings. On Tuesday morning, several Town Council members and other town officials and employees toured the Skinner Street building, an unoccupied warehouse across the street from the Board of Education offices.

Realtor James Stanulis explained that 15,592 square feet (about half the building's total area) are available for lease. The property contains a large storage space, and several offices at the front of the building. The listed purchase price of the building is \$1.15 million, he said.

After touring the building, Facilities Manager Frank Grzyb said that while the building would provide plenty of space for the town's offices, the building would require too much renovation.

"The space is large and it could be divided

and used, but it would be cost-prohibitive," Grzyb said. "It has potential but it's gonna take money."

Grzyb said the renovations would be extensive, as the building currently has no heat, no insulation and no water connection. In addition, he said, electric, cable and phone wiring would have to be installed, along with other necessities like exit signs and fire alarms.

Grzyb said he also had environmental concerns, including the possibility that mold was growing in the building's ducts. In addition, Drewry provided an e-mail from Scott Bristol, an environmental consultant from the firm Milone and MacBroom, who serves as vice chairman of the town's Brownfields Committee. Bristol said he would review previous environmental studies of the property, and possibly conduct further studies. If the town buys or leases space, he said, it may assume liability for any environmental problems on the property.

Council member Sue Weintraub said that while the initial cost of the Skinner Street building might be high, it might be a good long-term location for a community center and possibly the police department. The building was in a central location, with adequate parking and a flat entrance, she pointed out.

"It doesn't address our immediate needs in a practical sense in terms of housing the people in the annex," Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel replied. Grzyb added that it might take two or three months to build offices in the Goff House. He said he didn't know how long the renovations to the Skinner Street building would take, though it would certainly be longer.

"The Goff House, even with compromises, is still the best option," council Vice Chairman John Tuttle said. To rent space in another office building, he said, would be "throwing money into the wind." If the town owned the Goff House, he said, they could rent the property to other groups.

Council member Thom Cordeiro, joining the meeting by phone, said he would wait for Grzyb's analysis before making any decisions. "Let's find the best place that everyone could move forward with," he said.

Cynthia Abraham, an East Hampton resident



The Town Council is looking for a new home for the offices in the Town Hall Annex. This week, the council toured a vacant warehouse at 11 Skinner St.

and strategic occupancy planner, offered her advice about the Goff House, which she said might not be adequate for the town's needs. Abraham said the Goff House has limited parking, and building a ramp to make the building accessible would eliminate several parking spaces. In addition, she said, the steep hill and ramp would make it difficult for people entering and exiting the food bank with packages.

"You're not gonna fit it all in there," Abraham said. If some offices were moved into the Goff House, she said, others would have to be housed elsewhere.

Weintraub said that while the town was in "crisis mode" in terms of finding a new annex location, she still preferred Skinner Street, which she felt offered more long-term potential than the Goff House.

During their Tuesday meeting, the council also raised the possibility of moving into vacant office space in two buildings in town – an optometrist's office at 240 Middletown Ave. and

a dentist's office at 142 East High St. Engel recommended that Grzyb and Director of Finance Jeff Jylkka investigate those properties as well, before reporting back to the Town Council.

The Board of Finance (BOF) discussed the annex relocation at their meeting on Monday evening, though at the time, it was still unsure which property the town would choose. At the meeting, Drewry told the BOF that he expected that no matter which property the council chose, it would probably require an additional appropriation.

Depending on when the council reached a decision, the BOF may have to call a special meeting to review the plans and transfer funds for the move, Jylkka said.

The Town Council agreed to hold another special meeting later this week or next week, after Grzyb drew up more detailed layout plans of the four buildings, and Jylkka reviewed the costs of each location.

Finance Board Examines East Hampton Public Works Budget

by Claire Michalewicz

The Board of Finance (BOF) reviewed the Department of Public Works budget at its meeting on Monday, as part of a preliminary look at the 2011-12 spending plan.

As BOF member Patience Anderson explained, the town was facing a possible budget shortfall in the next year.

"The figures are horrible," Anderson said. "We are in big trouble." She explained that she wanted to bring each department head in for a discussion with the finance board. On Monday, Director of Public Works Keith Hayden joined the BOF for a discussion about his department.

"We're gonna need to understand what effect a cut in your budget is gonna have on you," Anderson told Hayden.

As Hayden explained, the public works department was already struggling, as much of his equipment was old and required near-constant maintenance. Last year, the public works budget came in under budget, which he ex-

plained was the result of decreased overtime costs due to storms hitting during the day rather than at night.

Hayden pointed out that his department carries out many essential services, like removing snow and fallen trees from streets.

"A lot of what we do, we're emergency response," Hayden said.

Interim Town Manager Bob Drewry was, until his retirement last year, the town's former public works director. He said that, if the department was reduced, public safety would not suffer. Instead, he said, more routine matters like street sweeping and repairs to catch basins would be delayed.

"The savings effort is a daily effort," Hayden said. "We do everything we can to stretch what we're doing."

In addition, Drewry said, the department had a smaller staff than it did in 1973, even though the town has grown substantially since then.

The equipment, Drewry said, are "third-rate."

The town vehicles are old, Hayden said, including a 22-year-old dump truck. Because the trucks are used to transport corrosive sand and salt, parts need to be replaced frequently, he said. Hayden said vehicles are repaired in-house, by the department's own mechanic. The longer the trucks ran, Hayden said, the more repair costs the department faced.

Hayden and Drewry also discussed the plan to hire a town engineer, which former Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe included in his budget for this year. The \$109,363 position, O'Keefe said at the time, would save the town money, since much of the town's engineering expenses went to outside consultants.

"Unfortunately, there have been other things occupying my time," Drewry said, referring to the search for a new town hall annex and the ongoing controversy over O'Keefe's decision

to lay off Police Chief Matthew Reimondo. "It's been sort of put on the back burner for now."

Drewry said he was not sure that the position would save much money for the town. BOF member Tim Csere pointed out that even O'Keefe had been wavering on the issue during the summer.

The BOF plans to bring each department head in for a similar discussion in the upcoming months.

"If they're being asked to reduce the budget, which may or may not happen, they're able to tell us what pain we're gonna be in if we have to cut the budget," Anderson said.

The next BOF meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. In addition, BOF Chairman Matthew Walton said, a tri-board meeting, of the BOF, Town Council and Board of Education, is set for Thursday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. at the high school library.

Marlborough Library Receives New Computers, Hosts Tech Classes

by Katy Nally

Thanks to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the Richmond Memorial Library now has 15 netbook computers and a variety of eBook readers available for patrons.

"It's exciting," Library Director Nancy Wood said. "It's always fun to get new toys."

The library was awarded \$29,400 as part of a technology grant, and Wood plans to use the equipment to host informational classes regarding eBook readers, word processing, posting a resume online and navigating the Internet. Each class will run 90 minutes, with an additional half hour afterward for questions.

The first class, which is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m., called Technology Sandbox for Adults, focuses on the pros and cons of different eBook readers, including Kindles, iPads, Sony Readers and nooks.

Wood said she settled on purchasing ASUS netbooks and readers because of patrons' inquiries. She and other library staff members were frequently asked how to use the Internet, create a Word document and what their favorite eBook reader was.

After hearing about the grant, Wood saw the opportunity to answer these questions by hosting classes and purchasing the equipment.

Besides the netbooks and readers, Wood was also able to purchase three new desktop computers, four digital cameras, a touch screen self-checkout machine, a networked color laser printer, cordless phone headsets for the staff and she was able to pay a staff member to teach the technology workshops. An Overdrive station to download audio books and eBooks was secured through a grant from the library's consortium, the Library Connection.

Along with the new computers, Wood said she was able to purchase Microsoft Office and other software for each machine, through a program that sells the software at a discount to nonprofit organizations and schools.

While preparing the grant, Wood said it came down to "If they can fund it, I can think it."

Wood applied for the maximum allowance of \$30,000.

Many of the upcoming technology courses will cater to older people who may be out of the workforce and are looking for jobs again, Wood said.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, the library will host a Jobs Wanted! workshop at 9 a.m. to teach residents how to post resumes and search for positions online. Wood said the library's current job databases are "underused."

Other courses include: Computer Basics on Tuesday, Nov. 16; Simple Word Processing on Tuesday, Nov. 23; Working the Web on Tuesday, Nov. 30; and E-mail and More on Tuesday, Dec. 7. All these classes begin at 9 a.m.

Wood said another round of courses might begin in January, based on demand for the programs.

For those who may be more technologically-advanced, Wood said residents 18 and older are welcome to use one of the available eBook readers, but only inside the library. Wood said the library might change this policy and eventually allow residents to take home the devices.

Coupled with the readers, Wood will soon be installing an Overdrive download station, so anyone can download audio books and eBooks free of charge. Overdrive is a program provided through the Library Connection that patrons can access with their library card number and password.

As part of the technology classes, Wood said future classes might address how to download from Overdrive, how to shop online and how to use the color laser printer and cameras for digital photography.

The grant was provided by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving as part of the organization's "85 Years of Impact." The foundation awarded a total of \$850,000 this June to 29 public libraries in the greater Hartford area.

"Visit any library and it's obvious they are no longer just about borrowing books, music and movies," president of the foundation Linda



The Richmond Memorial Library purchased 15 netbooks, among other equipment, as part of a technology grant. Pictured are several of the new netbooks, which will be used in upcoming technology courses at the library.

Kelly said in a press release. "Technology is transforming the ways in which people access, acquire and share information. Residents visit libraries to find jobs, do homework, apply for college, do research, use e-mail and read the news – much of this online."

* * *

Two other towns the *Rivereast* covers, Andover and Hebron, also received part of the \$850,000 grant. Andover Public Library was awarded \$23,799 and Douglas Library, \$30,000.

Library staff in Andover used the grant to purchase four notebook computers, two public

computers, one staff computer, an LCD projector, a digital camera, a wireless printer, a copier/scanner and 30 hours of instructor-led classes.

In Hebron, the \$30,000 financed a wireless network, two new computers and the library can now reconfigure its existing space.

For more information about the grants, visit the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving website www.hfpg.org.

For information about Richmond Memorial Library, visit www.richmondlibrary.info.

Marlborough Parks and Rec. Department Loses Director, Again

by Katy Nally

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Caporiccio left Oct. 5, making him the seventh director Marlborough has seen vacate this position in the past 14 years.

The director position has a high turnover rate perhaps because of its pay, as well as the weekend and night hours throughout the summer peak season, Parks and Rec. Commission Chairwoman Barbara Lazzari said.

"It's a stepping stone for most of them," Parks and Rec. Commission Vice Chairwoman Louise Concodello added.

As part of the union contract, the Parks and Rec. director is paid 80 percent of the total salary for the first six months, then 90 percent for the next six. By one year, the director would receive the total salary. Caporiccio was hired May 3.

"Most of our problem with this position is compensation," Lazzari said.

From May through September, the director oversees Blish Park, swimming lessons, the annual triathlon and the summer concert. In the off-season, he or she is responsible for putting together the department's brochures and orga-

nizing trips and activities.

"The summer requires pretty much a 24/7 person [to keep residents safe at Lake Terramuggus]," Lazzari said,

Selectmen addressed the vacancy at their meeting Tuesday, Oct. 19.

With the current lull in Parks and Rec. programs, having just finished up the summer season and signups, First Selectman Bill Black and a few of his staff have taken over the department's clerical work. At Tuesday's meeting he said he would look into hiring a part-time clerical worker for 90 days to help with the department's paperwork.

Black added, since his staff took on Parks and Rec. responsibilities, the department's online signup system has "proved to be quite beneficial."

Selectmen, as well as Lazzari and Concodello, discussed who would be the ideal candidate to fill the open position, at Tuesday's meeting.

Black said he or she would need to have "self-discipline," preferably live in town or near town and be able to adjust to a "flexible sched-

ule" that includes evenings and commission meetings.

"It's a unique individual who can do it, and do it well," he said.

Because Caporiccio left during the slowest period for Parks and Rec., Black said "we've got a little bit of time" before the town decides on a permanent replacement. But, he warned, "The window closes fast."

There was some discussion about making the director position part-time, the way it was 15 years ago.

"We hate to lose the full-time position ... because everything suffers," Lazzari said.

Each director has added to the Parks and Rec. Department's repertoire by expanding and increasing its programs, Concodello said. And it was a goal for the commission to begin creating Parks and Rec. programs for seniors, Lazzari said.

Black said it was possible the Parks and Rec. programs could change if the position were not kept at full-time.

Lazzari said the commission would "prefer to have a full-time staff in that office."

She suggested bringing in a recently-retired resident who could be "up and running by May," but said, "A retired person isn't going to want to work the hours during the summer."

Black said he would look into services that locate retirees for available positions, and see "if in fact that's an opportunity."

Lazzari also added, "if anything should be budgeted full-time," it should be the park maintainer position. That person is responsible for cleaning the bathhouse at Lake Terramuggus, maintaining the pavilion, patrolling the park for vandalism and checking parking stickers, to make sure non-residents aren't using the facility.

Currently, the maintainer is an entry-level position, Lazzari said.

Ultimately, selectmen agreed to not yet advertise for another Parks and Rec. director. Lazzari said she would still like to "brainstorm" ideas with Black.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.



Portland Police are looking for a suspect in a gas station burglary that occurred early Tuesday morning. The suspect, shown here in a photo taken from surveillance footage, stole 200 packs of cigarettes, police said.

Police Searching for Suspect in Portland Gas Station Burglary

by Claire Michalewicz

Portland Police are looking for a suspect in a gas station burglary that happened early Tuesday morning.

The burglary happened at the Valero gas station at the corner of routes 17 and 17A, and occurred around 1:30 a.m., when the station was closed, Lieutenant Ron Milardo said. Milardo said police received a call about an hour later, from a vendor making a delivery to the store.

The vendor noticed that the front door was smashed and called police, Milardo said. From studying the store's surveillance tapes, police saw that around 1:30 a.m., a heavy-set male wearing green cargo pants and a blue hooded jacket smashed the front door with a rock, and began grabbing packs of cigarettes from behind the counter, stuffing them in a garbage bag he had brought with him.

According to Officer Michael Fitzpatrick, the suspect stole 200 packs of cigarettes. The suspect was in the store for about two minutes, Milardo said, but he did not trigger the alarm

system.

Milardo said the suspect's face was not visible in the video, but police were working to enhance the image quality to get a better view.

The suspect's car was not visible on the surveillance tape, but Milardo said that from the motion of the headlights, it appeared he arrived from the north along Route 17. Milardo said he had contacted police in surrounding towns, including Glastonbury, where a similar burglary happened at a gas station on Saturday, Oct. 16.

Employees at the Country Store on New London Turnpike discovered a window smashed when they arrived at work on Saturday morning, Glastonbury Police Sgt. Joel White said. Six cartons of cigarettes, worth a total of \$450, were missing, White said. White said Tuesday the case was still under investigation.

Anyone with more information is encouraged to call Portland Police at 860-347-2541.

Colchester Police News

10/11: Stacey Custer, 35, of 266 Colchester Tpke., East Haddam, was charged with DUI, making a restricted turn and possession of drug paraphernalia, Colchester Police said.

10/12: During the overnight hours between Oct. 11 and 12 the Ruby Cohen Wetlands and Preserve, located on McDonald Road, was vandalized, State Police said. There was "significant damage," which appeared to be caused by motor vehicles, possibly small pickup trucks, police said.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact Trooper First Class Catherine Billian at Troop K at 860-537-7500.

10/17: Ronald Demon, 53, of 77 Williams St., Norwich, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain proper lane, State Police said.

10/18: Frank Freeman, 50, of 24 Lee Ct., was charge with speeding, DUI and failure to maintain proper lane, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

10/8: Sabina Zygmunt, 21, of 47 Westerly Ter., was arrested for operating a motor vehicle under suspension and failure to illuminate a tail lamp, East Hampton Police said.

10/11: Brian Leigh Woynar, 47, of 77 Smith St., was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia, cultivation of marijuana, possession of over four ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia in a drug factory, police said.

10/12: Kristen Chapon, 20, of 4 Depot Hill Rd., was arrested for third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

Hebron Police News

10/18: Jennifer Mortimer, 28, of 221 North St., was charged with DUI, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

10/17: Troop K assisted the Department Children and Families with a suspected child neglect investigation on South Main Street, State Police said.

Andover Police News

10/13: Nicholas Huge Lafferty, 20, of 8 Lake View Dr., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

Salem Police News

10/14: John Sabolesky, 30, of 104 Round Hill Rd., was charged with third-degree assault and breach of peace, State Police said.

10/16: Robert Snider, 46, of 36 Krug Rd., Preston, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

Two Charged With Stealing from East Hampton Vehicles

The East Hampton Police Department, assisted by the Connecticut State Police at Troop K, arrested two men Wednesday, Oct. 20, and charged them with burglarizing cars in East Hampton and Marlborough.

According to East Hampton Police Sgt. Garritt Kelly, at about 3 a.m. Oct. 20, a resident spotted two men on Tammie Ann Drive, near Marlborough, burglarizing cars. Police arrived to find Joshua Wilcox, 18, of Mansfield, and Quenton Goldman, 18, of Chaplin, burglarizing the vehicles.

The two men stole a variety of different electronic devices and personal items from

the cars, Kelly said. He said three cars were hit in East Hampton, and at least one in Marlborough.

Also, Kelly said, Wilcox and Goldman were found with a vehicle reported stolen out of Coventry. Kelly said the two had stolen from other cars in Coventry "and then headed out this way."

Wilcox and Goldman are due in Middletown Superior Court Tuesday, Nov. 2, on charges of third-degree burglary, third-degree larceny, third-degree conspiracy to commit larceny and possession of dangerous weapons.

Judge Rules Johnson Vandalized Portland Farm Before Handing it Over

by Claire Michalewicz

A judge has ruled against Portland horse trainer Robert Johnson, finding that Johnson vandalized his horse farm before Andrew Srb took possession of the property.

Srb won Johnson's farm in a lawsuit he brought against Johnson, alleging that Johnson had sexually assaulted him when he was a student at Johnson's farm in the 1980s. When Srb arrived at the property in August, he found it heavily vandalized, with slurs painted on walls, windows and light bulbs smashed and horse manure spread throughout the property.

In August, Johnson told the *Rivereast* he had "left a mess" for Srb, but in court, he declined to say whether he had vandalized the property. On Sept. 28, Judge Robert Holzberg interpreted Johnson's silence as an admission of guilt, explained Sarah Devine, a paralegal at the office of Gerald Sack, Srb's attorney.

Devine said Sack had filed a proposed order requesting \$10,000 to pay for the cleanup at the farm, and another \$7,127 for legal fees. Devine said a court date had not yet been scheduled, but she expected Holzberg to simply sign the order to award Srb the money.

Also, Johnson was due to be arraigned at Middletown Superior Court yesterday for violating his probation, said Deborah Fuller from the state Judicial Department's External Affairs Department. Fuller said the warrant was not being released until after Johnson was arraigned. Johnson is on probation for a 2001 sexual assault conviction for a separate incident.

Portland Police have not made any arrests in the case, explained Officer Francis Ahlquist, who is leading the investigation into the vandalism. Johnson's attorney, Michael Dwyer, did not return calls for comment.

Obituaries

Colchester

Harold E. Brookman Sr.

Harold E. Brookman Sr., 79, of Colchester, beloved husband of Vivian (Hurn) Brookman, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 13, at the Wm. W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born May 1, 1931, in East Hartford, he was a son of the late Raymond and Grace (Roberts) Brookman.

He joined the National Guard in April of 1949 and was activated to serve with the Army in Germany during Korean War in September 1950. Mr. Brookman worked in Auto Parts Sales for over 50 years throughout the area for the former Weiner's, ACME and last with Mark's United in Colchester.

An avid outdoorsman, he was a longtime active member and past treasurer of the Skungamaug Fish Game Club in Hebron. In his spare time, he also enjoyed woodworking, but most importantly, spending time with his family, to whom he was ever devoted.

In addition to his loving wife of 57 years, he is survived by four children, Harold, Jr. "Sam" and his wife, Beverly of Rutland, VT, Christine Cleroux and her husband, James of East Hampton, Amy Strickland of Middletown and Michael and his wife, Darlene, also of Rutland, VT; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters, Dorothy Johnson of New Jersey and Ethel Williams of Rocky Hill; two brothers, Robert of Keene, NH and David of Wilmington, NY; a special nephew, Richard Brookman of Moodus; his dog, Jake; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by a sister, Grace Watrous; and two brothers, Howard and Raymond.

Friends called Sunday, Oct. 17, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral assembled starting Monday, Oct. 18, at the funeral home, before a chapel service. Committal with full military honors followed in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Skungamaug Fish Game Club, P.O. Box 208, Hebron, CT 06248.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Albert James Packer Sr.

Albert James Packer Sr., 96, of Colchester, formerly of Canterbury and Hinsdale, NH, widow of the late Ruth (Meek) Packer, passed away Friday, Oct. 15, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Born July 14, 1914, in Haverhill, MA, he was a son of the late Harry and Agnes (Boucher) Packer.

Early on, Mr. Packer worked for Pratt & Whitney and Electric Boat before going on to work as a union carpenter at Millstone for many years before his retirement. He was a former communicant of St. Augustine Church in Canterbury.

Survivors include two children, Albert Packer Jr. of Manchester and Susan Savidakis and her husband, Erick of Colchester; seven grandchildren, Monica, Albert, Christopher, Michelle, Mark, Erick and Alexa; his dear companion, Bertha Bradbury of New Hampshire; and many great grandchildren, extended family members and friends.

In addition to his loving wife of 29 years, he was predeceased by two siblings, Frederick Packer and Eleanor Crystal.

Friends called Tuesday, Oct. 19, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before a chapel service. Interment followed in the St. John Cemetery, Plainfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the American Heart Assn., 5 Brookside Dr, Wallingford, CT 06492 or to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-91 Tech Ctr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Carolyn Champagne

Carolyn (Markham) Champagne, "Cookie," 58, of Westchester and formerly of South Windsor, beloved wife of Brett, passed away tragically Friday evening, Oct. 15. Born June 28, 1952, in Hartford, she was a daughter of Shirley (Anderson) Markham of Westchester and the late Chauncey Markham.

Cookie held an avid love for animals and enjoyed spending time outdoors. She also dedicated herself to caring for her mother in later years.

In addition to her mother and her loving husband of 18 years, she is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Jodi and David Clark of Hudson, FL; two grandsons, David and Brandon; two brothers, John "Butch" and his wife, Wally of Colchester and Richard of Maine; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by a brother, Bob.

The family requests that donations in her memory be made to the Protectors of Animals, P.O. Box 24, South Glastonbury, CT 06073.

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

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Elizabeth P. Messina

Elizabeth (Betty) P. Messina, 94, of Colchester, formerly of Deep River, died Thursday, Oct. 14, at Harrington Court in Colchester. Betty was born in Northampton, MA, the daughter of the late John and Anna (Marek) Petcen. She and her late husband, Joseph W. Messina, moved from New Haven to Bridge Street in Deep River, where she lived for many years.

Betty graduated from Smith College with a degree in botany. The enjoyment she derived from gardening, plants and flowers continued throughout her life. One of her favorite flowers was the blue morning glories that climbed outside her kitchen window. She was a member of the Deep River Congregational Church, and a longtime employee of CJ Bates and Son in Chester. She was an avid reader who became a frequent and loyal patron of the Deep River Library after her retirement.

She is survived by her daughter and son in law, Donna and Brian Snell of Colchester, and her son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Adele (Gold) Messina of Woodbridge.

She is also survived by grandchildren, Amy (and Brian) Bisson, Joseph (and Beth) Messina, Jacob (and Allyn) Messina and Aaron (and Elizabeth) Messina, as well as four great-granddaughters: Alexis Bisson, Maya Messina, Eden Messina and Lilly Messina.

Betty was predeceased by three sisters and two brothers, and a granddaughter, Renee Snell.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Harrington Court for their loving care.

Funeral services were Monday, Oct. 18, at the Deep River Congregational Church, 1 Church St., Deep River, with the Rev. Timothy Haut officiating. Visitation was Monday at the church, before the service. Burial followed in Fountain Hill Cemetery, Deep River.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Renee Snell Memorial Fund, c/o Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

The Swan Funeral Home, Old Saybrook, has charge of the arrangements.

East Hampton

William Southworth Boyce

William Southworth Boyce, 85, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Sally (Hood) Boyce, passed away Friday morning at home with his family by his side. Born March 6, 1925, in Hartford, he was the son of the late John L.T. and Florence Southworth Boyce.



He graduated from Hartford Public High School, Class of 1943. He was a three-year veteran of World War II, serving in the Navy Seabees in the South Pacific. After the war he attended Hillyer College. He was a building contractor in partnership with the late Herbert Behrens of Glastonbury, working in the Glastonbury and Storrs area. He was a member of the Hartford Home Builders Association.

Besides his loving wife Sally, of 63 years, Bill leaves his six children and their spouses: Deborah and David Jackson of East Hampton, John and Marcia Boyce of East Hampton, Robin and Joan Boyce of Greenville, SC, Donna and Dennis Jenks of East Hampton, Gregory and Paula Boyce of East Hampton, William Gary and Jamie Boyce of Glastonbury. In addition to his children, he leaves his grandchildren: Shelley Carpenter and her husband Eric, Stacey Amende and her husband Corey, Brian Jackson and his fiancée Ashley Benoit, John Boyce Jr., Courtney Eighmy and her husband Jack, Wesley Jenks, Janine Jenks, Evan Boyce, Madison and McKenzie Boyce, Alexandra Boyce, Emma Boyce and Jack Boyce. He also leaves behind three great-grandchildren: Ava Carpenter, Jackson Amende and Cole Eighmy.

The family wishes to acknowledge and express many thanks to Chris Siriboe of Companions and Homemakers, Hospice of Middlesex Hospital and Susan who helped all of us through to the end. Also, thank you to Dr. William Longo, Dr. Raymond Schoonmaker, Dr. Miklos Fogarasi and Dr. Arthur McDowell at Middlesex Hospital.

There will be no calling hours. Services will be private in accordance with the deceased's wishes.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com. The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It's unfortunate but true: every year, the waning weeks of an election season often bring out the worst in some people. And this year is no exception.

A particularly sickening example of this was reported in various news outlets in the state last week. It seems that an anonymous flier was sent to some voters in the newly-created Cheshire-Southington probate district that revoltingly attempted to connect Joshua Komisarjevsky, one of the two men accused in the Cheshire home invasion murders, with Republican judge of probate candidate Matt Jalowiec.

Underneath the headline "Politics makes strange bedfellows" is a picture of Komisarjevsky, followed by a picture of his parents' home in Cheshire, which has a Jalowiec campaign sign in front of it. Then there is an equals sign, followed by the word "integrity" and a question mark.

The flier concludes: "On Nov. 2nd, tell Matt Jalowiec that 'integrity' does matter in Southington."

Yes, somebody was attempting to use the horrific Cheshire killings to influence a judge of probate race.

Jalowiec was appalled by the flier, and said Komisarjevsky's parents don't even live there anymore; another couple does. (According to the *New Haven Register*, however, online land records state Komisarjevsky's father Benedict still owns the property, although his phone number has been disconnected.)

Jalowiec's opponent, Democrat Matt Hall, was also repulsed by the anonymous mailing. "It's just disgusting and reprehensible," he told the *Register*. "Rest assured that neither I nor anyone associated with my campaign bears any responsibility for this vile effort."

It was indeed vile. Like I said, this is the time of year where people aren't always at their best, unfortunately. But using the Cheshire killings to try to stir up people's feelings is just beyond the pale.

* * *

On a decidedly more upbeat note, some of you may recall Lindsay Fetzner's story from several months ago about three Hebron women who had banded together to publish a new community phone book for the town. It would replace the previous one which, having been published in 1997, had gotten just a wee bit outdated.

Well, one of the three women, Judy Podell, called me this week to report the phone book is back from the printers and is ready to be mailed. Hebron residents should receive it in the coming days. Judy advised that the book will come in a white envelope. So, if you live in Hebron, be on the lookout.

* * *

A rather strange story this week came from North Carolina, where two Cub Scout leaders were tossed after the pack's sponsors, a Presbyterian church, discovered they were Mormons and, in the church's eyes, not real Christians.

The two, Jeremy and Jodi Stokes, enrolled their sons in the scout program offered through Christ Covenant Church and volunteered to serve as troop leaders. Officials at the church were on board, until they learned the Stokeses belonged to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Christ Covenant officials said the couple's sons could stay in the program, but Jeremy and Jodi needed to go.

Now, as the words "Church of Jesus Christ" suggests, Mormons are indeed Christians. Yes, there are some major theological differences between Mormons and, say, Catholics or Protestants; Mormons, for example, treat

as holy scripture writings not recognized as such by other churches, such as the Book of Mormon, and they also don't believe in the Trinity, the belief that God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one; rather, they believe the three to be individuals united in a single purpose.

But there are theological differences amid many branches of Christianity; that's why there are so many different versions of it. At the end of the day, Mormons are Christians too; shouldn't that be good enough? If the sons – who are most likely Mormon themselves, if their parents are – can stay in the pack, why can't their parents? It's Cub Scouts, not Sunday School. I highly doubt the Stokeses would be tying up pack meeting reading from the Book of Mormon.

The Stokeses were appalled by Christ Covenant's decision and, understandably, pulled their kids out of the church's Cub Scout program. Which drives home the fact that, in situations like these, it's not so much the parents or the church officials that suffer, it's innocent children. And that's a shame.

* * *

Speaking of religion, the Vatican's official newspaper, the *Osservatore Romano*, declared last Sunday that Homer Simpson is Catholic. The paper quoted a study of a 2005 episode of *The Simpsons* as saying that the show is "among the few TV programs for kids in which Christian faith, religion and questions about God are recurrent themes."

I'll leave the "for kids" part alone. (*The Simpsons* isn't a kids' show and never has been.) While the study is right – indeed, *The Simpsons* deals more frequently with religion than most mainstream TV shows ever have – Homer, Marge, Bart, etc., most certainly aren't Catholics. The church they go to is a Presbyterian one (and you don't even have to be an overt *Simpsons* geek to know this; anytime they show the outside of the church, the word "Presbyterian" is clearly displayed). The family's minister, Rev. Lovejoy, is married, which the Catholic Church views as a big no-no for its priests.

So are the Simpsons religious? Definitely. Are they Catholic? No way.

* * *

Tuesday afternoon, the San Francisco Giants won their game against the Phillies, and as of Thursday morning, are leading Philadelphia three games to one in the best-of-seven series.

An amusing thing happened in last Saturday's opening game of the series. Whenever the Giants' pitcher, Tim Lincecum, stepped to the plate, the Phillies fans – the game was played in Philadelphia – all joined together and whistled at him. Yes, whistled. Why? Because Lincecum has shoulder-length hair and the Phillies' fans evidently thought an old-fashioned wolf whistle would rattle him.

But Lincecum, who apparently isn't quite as homophobic as Philadelphia fans had hoped, was unfazed, and pitched the Giants to a 4-3 victory.

I know Lincecum's a Cy Young Award winner who – aside from a 2009 pot bust – hasn't had many off-the-field exploits for folks to dredge up, but, really, Phillies fans, that's the best you can do to rattle the guy? Whistle? Granted, it's a step up in human decency for Philadelphia fans (after all, this is the place where Eagles fans once cheered while opposing player Michael Irvin lay motionless with a neck injury), but you can't think up anything more creative?

* * *

See you next week.