

RIVEREAST

## News Bulletin

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

Volume 35, Number 8

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

May 21, 2010



The 'no's still had it in Hebron Tuesday. The town's second attempt to pass a 2010-11 budget was again unsuccessful, as taxpayers rejected it by a 773-705 vote.

## Hebron Budget Defeated Again

by Lindsay Fetzner

Voters turned down Hebron's proposed \$33.806 million 2010-11 budget Tuesday, by a vote of 773-705. While the margin of defeat was substantially lower than at the first budget referendum, there were still enough 'no' votes to sink the budget – and send town officials scrambling for solutions.

After the referendum results came in Tuesday, the Board of Finance (BOF) held a special meeting and voted 4-2 to cut the budget to \$33.66 million. Both the general government and Board of Education (BOE) proposed budgets are now at a zero percent increase from current year spending.

The \$127,239 cut to the school board budget brought it to \$11.716 million, while the \$19,546 general government trim brought it to \$8.83 million. (The two spending proposals went to referendum at \$11.84 million and \$8.85 million, respectively.)

The new \$33.66 million proposed spending plan is still a 1.7 percent increase from the current year's \$33.085 million budget. (The not-quite-\$600,000 increase is due to such things as the RHAM budget climbing and insurance going up.) With the reductions, the estimated mill rate increase is .77 mills, for a total mill rate of 28.94, according to Interim Finance Director Elaine Griffin.

BOF member Philip LoBianco said the board at its meeting went "back and forth on policy issues vs. money issues" and tried to identify what was "driving the 'no' vote." Although LoBianco said he "didn't like to have to cut the town and education budget ... we tried to make the best decision."

When the budget failed at referendum the first time on May 4, residents voted it down in a 1,127-639 vote. An exit poll was conducted by the Board of Selectmen (BOS), which provided feedback on the areas of the budget that concerned residents. In response to the overwhelming outcry due to the proposed expansion of the all-day kindergarten (ADK) program in the BOE budget, the BOF cut their budget by \$48,500. This represented the cost to expand the program. A poll, however, was not conducted the second time around.

"This vote was much closer," LoBianco said. "We didn't know if people were still dissatisfied because it was too high or mad because ADK was taken out." Despite these unknowns, he said the board tried to "look logically" as to where cuts could be made. "We couldn't play around with this forever," he said.

BOF member Donna Ferree said Wednesday she did not want to see the finance board

See Budget on Page 2

## St. Andrew Parish Celebrates Sesquicentennial

by Katy Nally

St. Andrew Parish in Colchester is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year – something that couldn't be possible without its dedicated community, parishioners say.

"It's the people that keep it together," parish secretary and longtime parishioner Barbara Palmer said. "I think we're a close family."

Palmer, who started working at the Catholic parish in 1979 as the church's housekeeper, has held her current position for the last 10 years. But her dedication to the parish extends beyond employment. Palmer, who grew up in Colchester, has always been part of the St. Andrew community and first joined the parish when the church was on Windham Avenue.

"This is my church, I'm very happy here," she said. "This is my home."

Palmer said the old church was where she had all her sacraments, and was even the last person to be married in the building.

St. Andrew Parish has a long history of its parishioners showing dedication like Palmer's. Throughout the church's history, there has been the common thread of community, which kept the parish alive during tough times.

The old church was completed in 1855 on what was then called Exeter Road. Five years later, in 1860, the church became officially recognized as an independent parish, and in 1861 a rectory was built next door for the priests.

Parishioner Mary Tasker has been researching the history of St. Andrew Parish, as part of the 150th celebration. She said the church was

thriving from 1860 to 1892, during which time many Irish immigrants settled in Colchester to work at the Hayward rubber factory.

As the community grew, the Dublin School was built in 1874. There were two classrooms, three teachers and 130 pupils, Tasker said.

But life for Colchester residents drastically changed in December of 1892, when the rubber factory closed for Christmas, and didn't reopen. "The industry came to a standstill," Tasker said. Without the factory, many people left town and abandoned their farms.

However, a few years after the factory closed, Tasker said, Polish immigrants filtered into the area, and unlike the other local businesses that went under, St. Andrew Parish endured. "They managed to keep the church going," Tasker said. "I don't know how they did it."

The church thrived for the next 50 years. Then in 1959 land for a new St. Andrew Parish was purchased on Norwich Avenue. In 1962 the hall was finished, a bishop from the Norwich Diocese blessed the new building, and the church began holding Mass there. On May 21, 1967 – exactly 43 years ago – the new St. Andrew Parish was officially dedicated.

Now, the congregation has grown to include 1,700 families, with 130 kids who participate in the church's two youth groups. This "very active youth group" is one thing that makes St. Andrew Parish unique, Palmer said.

Each year the youths hold a rock-a-thon to

See Parish on Page 2



St. Andrew Parish in Colchester is celebrating 150 years since it became an independent parish in 1860. For more than a century, the church was located on Windham Avenue, formerly Exeter Road, in the building shown here. It moved to Norwich Avenue in 1962.

### Budget cont. from Front Page

make the cuts it did. "I did not vote for the cuts," she said. "I think it was too much." Ferree said she believed the first budget sent to the voters was "a good budget." "We did our job," she said.

In light of the significant cuts made to the BOE budget, Ferree said, "they have a lot of work to do...definitely." "And it's not going to be easy."

"Of course I'm disappointed," Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said Wednesday. "It makes the decision-making so difficult." She said the board is now faced with many challenges as a result of Tuesday's cut by the finance board. "We think all of our services and programs are valuable and beneficial to the children," she said. "And I think we're waiting to see how the process unfolds."

When the results came in, Board of Selectmen member Gayle Mulligan said, "we have

to go back to the drawing board." "The BOE responded to what voters were saying," she said, and curtailed expanding the "hot ticket" ADK. However, whether this was enough, she said she was "not sure." She posed the question of whether the voters wanted "ADK completely out of the picture."

During the day on Tuesday, several voters expressed satisfaction with the budget. Rob Cascio said he thought with ADK out of the budget, "it should go through now." Cascio, a supporter of ADK, said he believed all along that it was a "big plus for the town."

J. Marinelli, another supporter of ADK, said with three children in the school system, he was voting yes to the budget. "I enjoy music," he said, and was afraid of what else could be cut out if the budget was not passed.

Charles Giardino said although he hoped the

budget would pass, "the BOE is struggling to keep standards high and taxes down." "It is a challenge for everyone," he said.

A former BOE member, Dave Burgess, said he thought the budget was "too low." He said, "everyone is all up in arms" about ADK, but that it is "based on ignorance" and that many people have not been attending the BOE meetings. Burgess said three studies were conducted in the last two years on ADK, and all pointed to implementing the program. After the pilot program was put in place, Burgess said the board considered expanding the program, but last year decided to wait another year due to the economy. "This is the time to do it," he said. "[People are] voting out of ignorance."

One resident who did not provide her name felt that the town did not need kindergarten overall. "Let parents pay for daycare," she said.

"The budget is still too high."

Another anonymous voter echoed her feelings. "I pay enough taxes in this town," he said. "I guess that tells you how I voted."

The 1,478 voters that showed up Tuesday were fewer than the 1,700 that came out for the May 4 referendum. Mulligan called the low turnout "a shame."

"[There was] nobody at these polls today," she said. "Everyone should be here voting," she said.

The third referendum on the 2010-11 budget is slated for Tuesday, June 1, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.

"Hopefully it will pass this time," LoBianco said. "I don't know what we can do if it doesn't pass."

### Parish cont. from Front Page

raise money for nurses in Haiti. "Through the grace of God," the fundraiser was scheduled just five days after the earthquake struck Haiti, so the parish raised over \$32,000 for their cause, youth ministry director Carole Pettit said.

"We were very touched by the generosity of people," Pettit said.

Throughout the year, the youth groups hold other fundraisers like car washes, candy drives and Doughnuts for Donations, which was held last Sunday. Pettit said these events are to "offset the cost of trips in today's economy."

The youths go on four retreats each year and this summer they will attend a camp with inner-city kids from Maryland. With every three Connecticut kids that register for the camp, one Maryland youth can attend on scholarship, Pettit said.

The five-day camp is "an amazing experience" for the kids, in part because they can see first-hand "faith come alive," she said.

This year the high school group studied morality and theology of the body. Each meeting teaches the "basis of their Catholic faith," but also offers a fun social atmosphere, Pettit said. "It's an opportunity to belong to something wholesome," she added.

The youths covered subjects like homosexuality, abortion and depression and had guest

speakers like a representative from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) who actually killed someone during a drunk driving accident. The kids also reached out to the community and gave an unwed mother a baby shower.

Pettit said the two youth groups would not be possible without the volunteers who meet weekly to decide on classes for the kids. She said with the many volunteers participating in making plans, "all the kids get represented."

"That's what makes the program strong, is that there's so many people on it," Pettit said. "Community is probably the biggest part."

Like Palmer, Pettit has been dedicated to St. Andrew Parish for over 10 years, and has been the youth ministry director for the past 11. She said the best part about her job is "to be able to be with [the kids] on the best walk of their life."

If the same dedication from parish staff and its congregation continue, perhaps St. Andrew Parish can persist for another 150 years and celebrate its 300th anniversary in 2160.

The next scheduled events are the Men of the Parish cookout on Thursday, June 17, and the Victorian Ladies Tea Party on Sunday, June 27.

For more information about the parish call 860-537-2355 or e-mail [standrew.rectory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:standrew.rectory@sbcglobal.net).



**St. Andrew Parish, in its current home on Norwich Avenue. Its unique roof makes the building easily recognizable on the road.**

# Marlborough Fitness Center Evicted by Plaza Landlord

by Katy Nally

A 16-year tenant-landlord relationship ended on damaging terms May 7, as Bodyworks was evicted from the Marlborough Tavern Green plaza.

Now both sides are trying to pick up the pieces, and gym owner Janice Flanigan said she is working with an interested buyer and seeking new locations.

The cause of the eviction actually began about a year and a half ago, when Flanigan said membership at her gym started to decline. To cope with the loss of revenue, she and her landlord, Robert Elliot, worked out a month-to-month lease, she said.

Flanigan said her rent payments came up \$15,000 short in 2009, and came up \$10,000 short this year, but “for the last year and a half [Elliot] has been working with me in the rent situation.”

Elliot was hesitant to call his situation with Flanigan an “arrangement,” because, he said, she paid late “time after time after time.” He said she was supposed to “pay me as quickly as possible.”

Elliot said, in total, Flanigan owes him \$39,000, plus an additional \$10,000 for the months of March and April, when, he claims, Flanigan paid no rent. “I’ve been bending over backwards for a year and half,” he said. “I never got any return on investment.”

However, Flanigan said this week, “I gave him some rent every month. ... I was paying him what I could just to keep the doors open,” she said.

Elliot said this wasn’t the first time Flanigan had trouble paying rent, and that it was “always difficult to collect.”

“It’s been going on for quite awhile,” he said.

Flanigan said in her 16 years as his tenant, “I can’t say that I was late that much.”

Flanigan’s rent was about \$5,000 per month and her membership had begun to turn around from its 2009 summer lull of between 600 and 700, she said. The business’ membership topped out at about 1,200, and before the gym closed, Flanigan said about 800 people were registered. “Bodyworks began to make a turnaround, members were coming back, and business was getting better,” Flanigan said in a letter to former gym members.

But in April, the possibility of an eviction

began to “hang over” Flanigan’s head. She said she started to seek out potential buyers for the gym and narrowed down the pool to two serious ones.

Flanigan said she informed Elliot about a buyer, but then a week later, he went ahead with the eviction. She said she was “shocked” to find Elliot with a marshal at her gym on Friday, May 7, changing the locks.

“Up until that point I thought he was working with me to get the sale going,” she said.

Flanigan said Elliot and the buyer met the next day, but Elliot “wouldn’t cooperate.”

Elliot said he talked with the buyer and informed him about Flanigan’s debt, and the buyer became uninterested. “It was all a pipe dream,” he said. “Not one of her promises came true.” Upon the purchase of the gym, the buyer would have had to assume some of Bodyworks’ debt.

“I would have absolutely accepted a tenant over an eviction, if they were bona fide, but this guy wasn’t bona fide,” Elliot said. “[Flanigan] left me high and dry.”

Flanigan said the deal went sour because Elliot wouldn’t cooperate during the weekend after the eviction. “I was totally expecting to transition to a new owner,” she said. “[Elliot] threw me through a loop.”

Flanigan said the buyer was not interested in the gym unless it could reopen Monday morning, which did not happen. “There was just too much damage to pick up the pieces,” she said. Because members showed up to an empty and locked Bodyworks, Flanigan said the situation damaged members, employees and reputations. “[Elliot] hurt the deal too much. He affected hundreds of people,” she said.

In addition to the buyer who spoke with Elliot, Flanigan said another buyer, who was traveling before the eviction and was unable to meet with Elliot, was also in line to purchase Bodyworks. She said this buyer was interested in the business, but had plans to move it to another location. “[Elliot] doesn’t have a good reputation, so this buyer was already looking in to where he would eventually move,” she said.

Now, that buyer is “hoping to open at Marlborough Barn,” Flanigan said. If the sale doesn’t go through, she said she plans on sell-



Bodyworks Fitness Center was evicted from the Marlborough Tavern plaza May 7, and gym equipment was moved out this week. Above, Chris Chandler drives a truckload of exercise balls to be stored at the Marlborough Barn.

ing her equipment.

(Flanigan asked that both buyers remain anonymous.)

Since the eviction, Flanigan spent Tuesday and Wednesday of this week removing 6,500 square feet of gym equipment from Bodyworks, and housing it at the Marlborough Barn.

After she was evicted, Flanigan said some members were upset because they were short-changed on their gym memberships. On Wednesday, Flanigan said those members can fill out a health club guaranty fund application, available through the state Department of Consumer Protection website, [www.ct.gov/dcp](http://www.ct.gov/dcp), listed under “forms.” Members will need proof of their membership contract, and can obtain a copy by e-mailing Flanigan through the website [www.bodyworksfitnesscenter.net](http://www.bodyworksfitnesscenter.net).

With the absence of Bodyworks, Flanigan said not only have former members suffered, but surrounding businesses in the plaza have

lost the gym’s foot traffic. “It was a huge hit for [the tenants],” she said. “We had a couple of hundred people come through these doors everyday.”

The closing also sent Bodyworks employees “scrambling” to find other work, Flanigan said. “Bob just shut the doors and sent everyone spinning,” she said. “It was devastating – that’s the word I keep hearing.”

As a tenant for 16 years, Elliot said he and Flanigan had “nothing but the nicest relationship, while I let her get away with murder.”

“To paint me as the bad guy is just not fair at all,” he said.

But for Flanigan, she said this is not the first time Elliot has “screwed” someone out of a deal, and that she’s “never heard a good thing about him.”

“I need to find justice in what he’s done,” she said. “He gets away with hurting too many people.”

# Marlborough Selectmen Revise Commission Regulations

by Katy Nally

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) held five separate public hearings Tuesday night to review regulations for three commissions/boards and to establish a new illicit discharge management ordinance.

Regulations for the Commission on Aging, the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) and the Nature Trails and Sidewalks Commission were reviewed and changed. (One of the public hearings Tuesday also established Nature Trails and Sidewalks as a commission.)

The BOS talked mostly about a change made to the commissions’ attendance policy. Under the new rules, if any member is absent for three consecutive meetings, or doesn’t attend 50 percent of the meetings in one year, that member has essentially resigned. This refers to only regularly-scheduled meetings and not special events or public hearings.

First Selectman Bill Black said the reason for this rule change was because several commission chairs had come to him asking what to do about a chronically-absent member. Black said this rule gives the chairs “an exit strategy.”

“It’s very difficult sometimes to vote to ask someone to not continue on,” Black said. “The message I heard was, put that authority back on the appointing” board, which is the BOS, he said.

Black stressed that the BOS wouldn’t be “policing” this rule, instead the board would

depend on commission chairs to come forward.

The rule also helps commission members who “find it very difficult to say ‘I’m stepping down,’” Black said.

The two commission chairs who were present, Dennis Hawrylko from the Commission on Aging and Russ Johnston from Nature Trails and Sidewalks, questioned the new attendance policy.

“It erodes the responsibilities and duties of a chairman,” Hawrylko said. Members of Hawrylko’s commission are seniors, who he said, tend to have health problems, which could potentially cause absences.

Johnston had a similar concern. “There could be a variety of reasons someone misses two meetings in a row, and even three meetings in a row,” he said. Johnston suggested there be an appeal process for the absent commission member.

Another change was setting the number of regular members at five, although the number of alternates is not consistent. The WPCA is set at two alternates, the Commission on Aging at three alternates and Nature Trails and Sidewalks at two.

Currently, six people serve on the Commission on Aging and there are also three alternates. Hawrylko said he wanted to keep the number of regular members at six, instead of five. “It just seems to me that’s going the wrong

way,” he said. “I don’t want to fire someone.”

Black said no one would be fired; instead there would be a “transition period.” This means when members’ terms come up for renewal, one person will not continue on the commission.

Black also said five was chosen because “more and more the commissions like to operate at five.” He called it “a cohesive organization” that “seems to work.”

Selectman Riva Clark said five was chosen to be consistent with other boards. “I don’t think we were trying to fire anybody,” she said.

She also suggested setting the Commission on Aging’s membership at seven. “I don’t really have a problem with making it higher,” Clark said.

Hawrylko said it was important to have the same number of members, if not more, because the commission “is really a way to involve people,” so they “feel useful.”

Johnston was also uncomfortable with “forcing” a member off the commission if no one volunteers to leave Nature Trails and Sidewalks when their term ends. “I find that very discouraging,” he said.

But, Johnston said, “If five and two is the norm, that’s fine.” Currently there are seven regular members and two alternates on Nature Trails and Sidewalks.

The BOS also reviewed an ordinance that

outlines rules for the town’s nature trails. In the new regulations, horseback riders are permitted on the trails, but Johnston advised against this. “The commission’s view is that our trails are not set up for horses,” he said.

Many of the trails are short, curvy and narrow and not ideal for larger animals, commission members said. However, dogs are permitted, provided owners clean up after them.

Commission members present at the public hearing said they’re concerned about what horses might leave behind on the trail – especially on a short trail.

Black said he would look into whether or not the town could ban horses on some trails, and if so, how to prohibit them.

The BOS also reviewed a mandated ordinance from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that gives the town the “authority to actually take action” against illicit discharge offenders, Black said.

The ordinance is modeled after one provided by the DEP and is being adopted statewide, Black said.

With several streams, catch basins and tributaries in town, the ordinance will prohibit, and allow the town to enforce sanctions against, illegal dumping.

The next regularly scheduled BOS meeting will be Tuesday, June 8, 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

# East Hampton Students Coming to Town?

by Claire Michalewicz

The Portland and East Hampton school boards have agreed to revisit a proposal that would allow students to take classes at the other town's high school. The Portland Board of Education discussed the idea at its meeting on Tuesday evening.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sally Doyen said she had recently met with the superintendent, assistant superintendent and high school principal from East Hampton to discuss starting such a program. Doyen said East Hampton officials originally proposed the idea in 2008, when some East Hampton students were interested in Portland's pre-engineering curriculum, Project Lead The Way, as well as Portland's culinary and television production classes. In exchange, East Hampton was willing to open up places in its Advanced Placement classes for Portland students, since they provide a larger selection of AP classes.

BOE members agreed to look into creating an exchange program, though they worried that coordinating the two schools' schedules would be difficult. The two districts had stopped their 2008 discussion because of scheduling difficulties, Doyen said.

Doyen said at Tuesday's meeting that it was "unfortunately very late" in the school year to try anything for the 2010-11 year, but agreed

that the two districts could continue investigating it as an option for the future.

"I don't see any issues with opening up opportunities to students from East Hampton as long as Portland students come first," said MaryAnne Rode, though she said she worried there would be problems with space and scheduling. Andrea Alfano said she supported the program as long as Portland didn't lose money, and Doyen said the two towns would have to work out fees.

BOE Chairman Christopher Phelps agreed, saying that unless the school funding system changed dramatically, cooperation between towns might be the only way to increase academic offerings.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, the BOE continued its discussion of funding when they agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding about the Race To The Top program. The federal grant program is going into its second round this summer, and Portland is among the Connecticut school districts signed on to the application.

If Connecticut received the funding, Portland could expect about \$240,000 over four years, Doyen said. The town would also have the option to pool its money with another town, such as East Hampton, to develop a collaborative program. Doyen also explained that if Connecti-

cut received the grant, the state and local BOEs would have 90 days to develop a plan for how they would use the money. But if they decided that this was too difficult, she said, the BOE could decide to drop out of the program.

Phelps said he was worried that if the BOE spent a lot of time and effort on preparing their Reach For The Top application, they may miss out on opportunities to apply for other grants.

"My concern is that there may be more effort for some districts than there would be money," Phelps said.

Doyen shared his apprehension, saying the application process could take more effort than it was worth. "But on the other hand," she added, "\$60,000 [a year] is a teacher."

Doyen said she was happy that the town's budget had passed last week, but that the board would now have to deal with the \$125,000 cut that the BOS made to the education budget. The BOE would look into making cuts in June, she said, adding that she was happy to rescind all the notices of non-renewal that had been sent to non-tenured teachers to warn them of possible layoffs.

In her superintendent's report, Doyen also proposed expanding the BOE's website, especially to address school bus safety, which many

parents were concerned about. She said that while she includes a monthly letter to the community on the site, along with meeting minutes and agendas, the information on the website is "really limited."

Paul Bengston, the school system's Director of Buildings and Grounds, presented a list of maintenance projects that he said the schools needed. Bengston explained that there were two new items on the list: a guardrail for the parking lot overlooking the field at Valley View School, and a ramp and new pavement for the field house at the middle school and high school. Other projects on the list, which the BOE had already discussed, included generator-powered lights outside exterior doors, a re-labeling of the sprinkler systems and new fire-resistant curtains for the Brownstone School auditorium.

"We do have the funds," said Doyen, "but I don't know, Paul, whether you can get this all done." The BOE agreed that Bengston could go ahead with the older projects on the list, but asked for more detailed cost estimates for the guard rail and field house improvements.

The next BOE meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 1, at 7 p.m., in the high school library.

# Andover Voters Pass \$10.39 Million Budget

by Lindsay Fetzner

Voters passed a \$10.39 million budget for the 2010-11 fiscal year by a large margin Tuesday, with a vote of 207 in favor and 46 opposed.

The budget calls for no increase in the mill rate and represents a .16 percent decrease, or \$16,881.61, over the last fiscal year. The mill rate will stay consistent at 27.60, with one mill representing \$277,593.66.

"I am glad it was passed," said First Selectman Bob Burbank. "The staff and all people in town worked really hard to come up with a budget that had no increase in taxes. And the boards of selectmen and finance all worked together so that could happen."

The budget is representative of an additional \$500 from the budget presented at the April 28 public hearing, which is directed toward the website committee, appointed at the May 5 Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting.

Board of Finance members were enrapt to hear that the budget has passed by such a large amount. Georgette Conrad said she was "really impressed" and "very, very happy that we passed it by that much." Conrad said the town is "very lucky that everything fell into place this year."

David Gostanian, another member of the BOF, agreed with Conrad, and said, "I am glad the town supported the budget." He said the town worked "very hard" on it and was "very, very happy with the outcome."

"Fortunately, it passed," he said. "Because if it hadn't, there would have been difficult cuts to be made."

When asked if the BOF was fiscally responsible when preparing the proposed budget for the town, resident Robin Horn said, "This time, I think they were. ... I am okay with it."

John Handfield, however, felt that the budget "should be lower." "There is waste in this government," he said. Handfield addressed the full-time tax collector position and compared Andover to other area towns, including Coven-

try, whose tax collector works part-time.

This year, the tax collector line item reflects a 2.02 percent, or \$1,062.54, increase over the 2009-10 fiscal year, totaling \$53,540.03.

Handfield also took issue with the 2 percent raises for elected officials. "It is a hard time for everybody," he said. "It is a not a time for raises." The raises, he said, are a source of "poor leadership."

Janice Bazzani did not agree with Handfield, and had "no problem" with the raises. She said overall, the BOF did a "good job trying to keep the mill rate down." "I support it," she said.

In light of the \$4.07 million budget for the local school board, Bazzani said she believes it is "a balancing act and a compromise." Although Bazzani does not have any kids in the school system, she said she feels she has an obligation to pay back. "We have to tighten our belts in all areas," Bazzani said.

The Board of Education budget is a 1.91 percent increase over last year, which amounts to an additional \$76,409.

BOE Chairman Jay Lindy was happy to see the budget passed, calling it a "vote of confidence in the town, Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen and Board of Ed."

On the school budget in particular, Lindy said, "Administration and the superintendent worked very hard on it with the Board of Education. Our first major concern is to make sure the kids are getting the proper education."

Lindy added school board members also "understand this is a rough time" with "people out of jobs and [getting] laid off."

"We have the taxpayers on the mind," he said.

Not everyone, though, was in favor of the BOE budget. Sandra Kent said, "everything is much too high." "It could be lower, especially the board of education." However, Kent said she understands "it takes money to run a government." As a member of the library board, Kent said despite her feelings on the budget being too high, "it is important to get it passed."



The town's \$10.39 million 2010-11 budget was passed easily at referendum this week, by a 207-46 vote. Shown here are signs by the gazebo near Town Hall encouraging taxpayers to vote. The 253 residents that cast ballots Tuesday represented an 11.64 percent turnout.

With the voters' approval at the polls, Burbank said the town can now focus on completing necessary road work with the additional \$40,000 added into the budget for repairs. "It will certainly assist in getting more accomplished," he said.

Burbank said Burnap Brook Road is one of the roads that is "earmarked to be paved." The town did not have sufficient funds to pave it before. In addition to completing these repairs, Burbank said it is also important to "maintain status quo with the roads in fair condition" as well.

Included in the budget is a 71.43 percent increase, or \$102,500, to the capital expenditure

line item over last year.

Another highlight of the budget was a decrease in the RHAM levy of \$146,195, or 3.53 percent, for a total levy of \$3.99 million. Last year, it totaled \$4.14 million.

On the revenue side, there was a 1.92 percent decrease, amounting to \$50,593.35. Revenues are estimated at \$2.59 million for the 2010-11 fiscal year. The largest line item decrease was \$21,000, or 41.18 percent, for previous year's taxes. Despite this significant decrease, the town collected just over \$178,000 in a "tax sale" of back tax properties.

The approved 2010-11 fiscal year budget will take effect on July 1.



For 100 years, kids have been coming to Andover every summer to take part in summer camp experiences they might not normally have. Pictured at left is a group of 1940s campers. At right are campers of today.

## Andover Kids Camp Celebrates 100 Years

by Lindsay Fetzner

One hundred years ago, the Harrison Freeman family, in partnership with the Union for Home Work, began offering children from Hartford a camp experience on the property of their summer home, the Almada Lodge.

A century later, the nonprofit Channel 3 Kids Camp has not only kept up with that tradition, but has significantly expanded its programs.

Ten years after the Freemans began bringing children to their summer home, the full responsibility of the summer camp program was taken on by *The Hartford Times* newspaper. In 1931, the property, buildings, equipment and land were deeded to The Almada Lodge-Times Farm Camp Corporation. Over forty years later, during the late 1970s, the newspaper ceased publication and Channel 3 became the media partner for the camp.

The camp provides year-round activities for kids ages 6-16, servicing thousands of children. "We've grown from 20 kids in 1910 to over 4,000," said Director of Marketing and Communications Amber Wakley. The camp's goal is for kids of all backgrounds to attend camp. "We are proud of being so diverse," she said.

During the summer months, overnight and day summer camping programs are offered. Overnight camp, for children ages 8-12, runs for six sessions, with one and two week intervals. The day camp, for children ages 6-12, is very similar to the overnight sessions, offering campers a variety of activities and adventure experiences over a period of nine sessions.

In order to provide all kids an opportunity to

come to camp in an affordable manner, Channel 3 Kids Camp charges a camp fee of \$50 for children who receive food stamps, TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), are currently in foster care or qualify for a reduced lunch at school for the overnight camp.

Wakley said the cost of camp is on a "sliding scale," which depends on both household size and income levels. "We work to make costs low and fill in the gap between with fundraising efforts and initiatives," Wakley said. Although most families pay between \$50 to \$100 for one week, the actual cost for a child to attend camp for that week is \$750, according to Wakley.

Other programs throughout the year include the outdoor education program, Nature's Classroom, for third-, fourth- and fifth-graders. Afterschool programs, winter vacation day camp in February, the Expanded Teen Program and other educational programs on the weekends are just a few of the other opportunities the camp offers on a regular basis. "Our goal is to run programs all months of the year," Wakley said.

To celebrate the centennial, Channel 3 Kids Camp is hosting a myriad of activities and fundraisers all throughout the year. "There is an endless amount of events," Wakley said, with one or more events occurring each month.

This upcoming weekend, on May 22, the sixth annual Garden of Hope Auction will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell. A silent auction in addition to various raffles will take place, complete with a dining and

entertainment. A wine tasting reception will also take place at the auction. Channel 3 meteorologist Scot Haney and Irene O'Connor will serve as the auctioneers.

From June 3-6, a Family Extravaganza will be held at Rentschler Field, to benefit the Kids Camp. Over 80 exhibitors will be in attendance, along with live music, balloon rides, circus performances and carnival rides on the premises. "It will be a great weekend for families to come out at a really low cost," Wakley said, in addition to celebrating the centennial.

At the end of July, a reunion barbecue will take place at the camp to welcome back staff, campers and supporters of the facility. A golf tournament is slated for the first of September, followed by a Women Raising Awareness Philanthropy luncheon during November in Hartford. A birthday bash in mid-November, a Breakfast with Santa in December and a Joy for the Kids Concert at the end of the year will wrap up the celebratory events.

Christine Homa, the camp's director of major giving, stressed the importance of fundraising.

"There are several legs to fundraising," Homa said, and include various foundations, corporations, events and individuals that have all donated. "In this economy, in order to maintain funding, we need to be diverse."

One of the largest players for the past 50 years has been the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Homa said the economy has affected

the foundations as well, who have taken a hit in their endowments. However, Homa said the camp is "doing well" given the state of the economy.

This summer, Channel 3 Kids Camp will also host Operation Purple Summer Camp and Sibling Connections. Operation Purple is a partnership with the National Military Family Association, a nonprofit organization that looks to strengthen and protect families of those currently serving, retired, wounded or fallen in the military.

Wakley said the program is for kids with parents who are going to be deployed, are deployed or have just returned from the military. "It rewards kids who sacrifice their parents overseas," she said. "They can talk about what it's like to have a parent gone and relate to the other kids."

Sibling Connections brings together separated siblings who are currently in foster care. This is the third year Channel 3 Kids Camp has offered this program and is in partnership with DCF (Department of Children and Families) and the Wheeler Clinic in Plainville. Wakley said the camp staff works closely with the organizations while the children are on premises. "It allows them to come together and be kids," she said.

For more information on upcoming events or the camp in general, visit the Channel 3 Kids Camp website at [www.channel3kidscamp.org](http://www.channel3kidscamp.org), or call 860-742-2267.

## Police Charge Virginia Man with Additional Offenses in Colchester

by Katy Nally

Police this week charged a 20-year-old Virginia man with additional offenses, including sexual assault, related to an April arrest on risk of injury charges involving the daughter of a Colchester resident, the Eastern District Major Crime Squad said in a press release.

Christopher Carroll of 13806 Laurel Rock Court, Clifton, VA, was originally charged April 21 with risk of injury to a minor and custodial interference.

On Monday, May 17, Carroll was served with an arrest warrant at Norwich Superior Court and charged with two counts of second-degree sexual assault and risk of injury to a minor. On the judicial website, his charges also include enticing a minor by computer. All three offenses are felonies.

Monday's arrest warrant was the result of an investigation into the incident that occurred in Colchester in February, the Eastern District

Major Crime Squad said.

According to a Connecticut Department of Public Safety press release issued April 21, on April 4 a Colchester woman reported her juvenile daughter was missing, and had possibly fled to Virginia with Carroll.

Fairfax County Police in Virginia located Carroll and the victim about 12 hours after the complaint was filed with the Colchester Resident State Trooper office, police said. The victim was then returned to her parents, the press release said.

Virginia police took Carroll into custody as a fugitive from justice and on April 21 he was taken by Connecticut troopers.

Carroll is being held pending his next court appearance, which is listed as June 7, the Eastern District Major Crime Squad said. His bond is set at \$100,000.

## East Hampton Man Dies in Route 2 Crash

by Katy Nally

A 52-year-old East Hampton man died Saturday, May 15, after he crashed his Dodge Ram van on Route 2 and was thrown from the vehicle, State Police said.

Timothy Schleidt, of 227 Rock Landing Rd., was headed westbound near exit 21 at about 8:30 p.m. when he lost control of his van for "unknown reasons," veered into the left shoulder, struck a rock embankment and was thrown from his car, State Police said.

Lt. Don Lee of Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department said the call came in at 8:37 p.m. and personnel were on the scene until midnight. He said traffic was backed up

beyond Bozrah, almost to Route 32.

Lee said the road was closed as an accident reconstruction crew came out and investigated.

Schleidt was transported by Colchester ambulance to Backus Hospital, State Police said.

Although Lee said was not sure when the last fatal car accident on Route 2 was, he said they are not uncommon on that stretch.

Anyone with more information about the crash is asked to contact Troop K at 860-537-7500. The case remains under investigation.

Schleidt's obituary appears this week on page 14.

## East Hampton BOF Sets Mill Rate

The East Hampton Board of Finance set the mill rate for the 2010-11 fiscal year at its meeting on Monday evening.

Director of Finance Jeff Jylkka said the new mill rate is 24.98, the same figure that had been predicted throughout the budget process. This is an increase of .97 mills, or a 4.04 percent tax increase.

East Hampton's \$38.00 million budget passed by a narrow margin at a referendum on May 4.

# Local Colchester Youth Searches for Kidney Donor

by Katy Nally

Erik Peterson lights up when he talks about his artwork; but that same energy and passion disintegrates when he discusses the burden he's dealt with all his life.

Peterson, who was born with only a fraction of one kidney, was due to receive a kidney on May 5, but doctors found his body would have rejected the organ. "[The donor] was a match all the way to the end," he said.

This put the 19-year-old Colchester resident at the bottom of the nationwide organ donor list, which consists of 80,000 names. "It's a long wait," Peterson said with a laugh. He is also behind 300 others on the list for a kidney at Hartford Hospital.

Peterson's blood type is O negative, so he can only receive organs from people with type O blood, and O negative is preferred.

When Peterson was 10, his family friend, and school nurse at what was then called Colchester Intermediate School, donated her kidney, which worked well, until Peterson began feeling "real crummy" toward the end of his freshman year in college. "I had no energy, no drive," he said. Peterson was attending the Art Institute of Boston and living in the city, but came home to Colchester in the summer of 2009.

Prior to that, Peterson had experienced similar symptoms when he was 15, and underwent plasmapheresis, or a plasma exchange, to decrease antibodies that were attacking the foreign kidney. "They were able to kind of stabilize it, but not too well," he said.

In December 2009, Peterson underwent plasmapheresis again and had a biopsy. Doctors discovered "the failure was far more progressive than they thought," he said. Peterson's kidney was functioning well below average, and his body showed 400 times the amount of tox-

ins than normal, he said. Chemotherapy was an option, but Peterson said it might have done more harm than good.

In February, Peterson's kidney was removed after 10 years. Peterson said this was a good run for the organ, which "takes a hit" when the recipient goes through puberty. "I can't complain too much," he said.

Now, Peterson spends three days a week at what he jokingly referred to as his "day job," which is actually a dialysis clinic in Bloomfield. "I go there, I'm tired, I just want to get it over with," Peterson said. About six hours are dedicated to the treatment each day, including the commute. His recovery time, of about four hours, follows. "It really consumes your whole day," he said.

One of Peterson's fears is that the dialysis will become more than a temporary solution. "I'm just really worried about it being chronic," he said. In the clinic, Peterson is one of the youngest patients, as most dialysis recipients are seniors.

The ideal solution for Peterson is to receive a kidney from a healthy donor who is 35 or younger. But, because many donors don't give organs while they're alive, this group is hard to come by. "It's just something people need to be aware of," he said.

Another option is a swap program that links organ recipients. If a kidney doesn't take for one person, through the program, another person might be eligible to receive it. "It's a risky thing, but if it's done locally, I trust it," he said.

Peterson's grandmother, Alice Wade, has been actively hunting for a matching donor since the beginning of May, when doctors said his surgery wouldn't happen. Wade said she was compelled to help her grandson because "he's

very special and he never asks for anything."

"He's very brave," she added.

Wade said she put her "big mouth" to work and began spreading the word by visiting businesses in Colchester. "I worry about him a lot," Wade said.

Finding a kidney for Peterson will mean more than just making him healthy, Wade said. "He has dreams – he has things he looks forward to," she said. "I want to see him realize his dreams."

In addition to his grandmother, many of Peterson's friends are interested in helping him and told him they would get tested for organ donation. But, for college students, sacrificing six to eight weeks of recovery time is a tough decision. "It's all just a bad spiral," Peterson said shaking his head.

According to Wade, the cost of the procedure is covered under Peterson's insurance, as well as the short-term disability costs when the donor recovers. "The cost doesn't come out of their pocket," she said. "It would be wonderful if more people were aware of this."

Throughout this process, the most difficult part for Peterson hasn't been the treatment or the loss of energy, but that "everything's been on hold." He has since transferred to the Lyme Academy College of Fine Art and is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, but he is about a year behind his peers.

Peterson was accepted, along with 60 other students nationwide, to study art in Corton, Italy, during the fall semester – but one hurdle still stands in his way. If he doesn't receive a kidney by the fall, his alternative is to figure out how to do dialysis abroad.

Peterson has a procedure scheduled for next Monday, May 24, that will change the site of

his dialysis tubes from his chest to his stomach cavity. This way he can perform the blood dialysis himself at home. It's a more long-term solution, he said, but the process is slower than at the clinic. Peterson said he's willing to undergo the surgery "if it means going to Italy."

He said the thought of doing the procedure himself somewhat scares his mother, but, he added, "I've been really responsible with my health my whole life."

But before he can study abroad, Peterson must address a few loose ends, like how to send the solution bags to his address in Italy, or how to acquire the equipment there, and also, what to do about a possible infection.

"It's really nerve-wracking now," Peterson said.

Yet despite the many obstacles facing him, Peterson appears calm, levelheaded and, when discussing his art, enthusiastic. As someone who's dealt with a condition like chronic kidney failure, Peterson said many people find his outlook to be surprisingly positive.

However, under his positive exterior, Peterson said the "big long waiting game" has caused much stress and anxiety.

For now, as Peterson remains in organ donation limbo, he passes the time drawing and sketching to keep up with his studies. He said he hopes to sell some of his drawings that are for sale on his Facebook page, and then join his friends in Italy come fall. "I feel like I'm on pause right now," he said.

For more information about organ donating call the Hartford Hospital Transplant Program at 860-545-4132, or visit [www.harthosp.org/transplant](http://www.harthosp.org/transplant). People can also contact Peterson at [erikadrielpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:erikadrielpeterson@gmail.com).

# Teens in Hebron Spruce Up Camp Hemlocks Course

by Lindsay Fetzner

The adventure course at Easter Seals Camp Hemlocks got a facelift last weekend, thanks to four teenagers who wanted to "pay it forward."

Nick Emond, Kristina Pasquaretta, Ian Cannon and Zack Captao, otherwise known as the Green House Power Gang, all attended the Connecticut Youth Leadership (CT-YLF) summer program for youths with disabilities last July. The four-day forum, held at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, is an opportunity for youths to come together and share their personal experiences, to problem solve and to have a bonding experience with people who share a similar lifestyle, Ian, a Glastonbury resident, said.

"It brings students with all types of disabilities together for leadership," said Bobbi Pasquaretta, mother of Rocky Hill resident Kristina.

One of the counselors of the program, John Sims, said, "they work together to show that no matter the handicap, they are a viable part of the community," he said. "No one should be able to put you down."

Part of the CT-YLF program involved traveling to the Easter Seals Camp Hemlocks for a day to encourage team building skills on the camp's adventure challenge course. Ian said many found it difficult to navigate and reach portions of the course. This discovery prompted the team to jumpstart a community service project that would work to improve the course, complete with a theme of 'going green.' "They have done so much for us," Ian said. "Why not return the favor?"

After the teens visited the adventure course, Bobbi Pasquaretta said it was hard to understand the challenges they faced without seeing first hand the improvements that needed to be made. After seeing the facility, Pasquaretta said it became clear what needed to be done. "Our job was to keep them going," she said. "And assist where and when it was needed."

Zack, the main coordinator for the project, held meetings at his Middletown house, culminating last September. The group identified its project plans, costs and contacted local businesses for donations starting at the beginning of this year, among other things.

Peter Fierl, vice president of development for

Easter Seals Coastal Fairfield County and East Seals Camp Hemlocks, said the camp is "the crown jewel of Easter Seals." "We are excited about the future," he said, and commended all of the volunteers who came together to facilitate the teen's vision.

The foursome identified four different challenges that visitors to the course faced, and each individually pursued one of them. Kristina wanted to build seating on the course, Ian tackled the pathways, Zack focused on the 'whale watch' and Nick wanted to improve the 'nitro swing.'

Kristina said that while she was at the camp, she noticed there was a lack of seating on the course and wanted to construct benches. The pathways along the course also posed several problems for those in wheelchairs, among them were several raised tree roots. A combination of all-natural crushed stone and stone dust was used to cover the existing paths, which would compact down with rainfall.

The 'nitro swing' is comprised of a rope hanging from a tree limb. Participants swing to different pallets of various sizes and heights. Nick, a Portland resident, found that the pallets needed to be replaced and that the area was void of adequate seating, which he addressed in his project. Volunteers used a combination of wood and plastic composite for the pallets.

The 'whale watch,' also referred to as 'the islands,' consists of three platforms: two small and one beam in the center that tilts. The purposes of the 'whale watch' is to transition a group from one small 'island' to the center beam and continue on to the other small 'island.' The platforms were replaced over the weekend using the same pallets as Nick and Kristina used for their project, a material that kept with the theme of 'going green.'

"[They] all worked together to help each other to do their project," said Sue Emond, Nick's mother. "And they got the community to donate supplies," she said. Butler Construction Company of Portland, Big Y Supermarket of Mansfield and the Home Depot in Glastonbury and Middletown provided donations to help the project become a reality.

Mark Brown, of KBE Building Corporation in Farmington, served as the contractor and oversaw the renovations. "It's a great experi-



Zack Captao, center, is surrounded by friends and family who donated their time last weekend to make improvements to Camp Hemlocks. He is one of the four participants of the project.

ence," he said Saturday afternoon, which was day one of two for the group. He said he looked forward to the future and continuing to help the CT-YLF program.

Camp Director Jen Person said the teen's efforts have been "great because it's a full-circle experience. We provide them with programming in the summer and now they are taking the time to give back to us."

This is the first time that CT-YLF participants have given back to the camp in this way, Person said, and referred to the youths as "a great bunch of kids."

Over 40 people came out this weekend to assist with the project, many of whom were friends and family of the teens. Zack's grandmother, Linda Klemba, said over the course of the past year, has "seen all of the kids grow."

"The families have been so supportive," she said. "[The kids] have taken on a lot and set the

stage for future projects."

The group will present the accomplishments they have made with their community service project during this summer's CT-YLF program in July, in hopes of inspiring other participants to do similar acts in the future.

"It has been amazing to see what they have achieved no matter what disabilities they may have," Bobbi Pasquaretta said.

June marks the 60th anniversary of Camp Hemlocks. During the summer months, Easter Seals Camp Hemlocks is a residential camp for children and adults with disabilities, located on Jones Street. The camp offers a community swim program year-round, an Autism camp and a community day camp in the summer for children without disabilities. For more information, visit [ct.easterseals.com](http://ct.easterseals.com) or call 860-228-9496.

# Hebron Ethics Study Committee Holds Public Hearing

by Lindsay Fetzner

Nearly eight months after the Ethics Study Committee was formed, the group held a public hearing this week to acquire feedback on a draft of a code of ethics out for public review. Town officials and residents voiced their opinions on the document Wednesday evening.

The mission, charged by the Board of Selectmen (BOS), was to develop a code of ethics for elected and appointed officials as well as to examine the pros and cons of an ethics commission, Chairman Bob Zamojcin said.

"We have done lots and lots of research," he said. "We are a very, very ambitious committee."

Zamojcin said Hebron does not currently have a code of ethics, only an employee handbook. He said he felt it was something the town should have. "I was one of the first ones to speak out at one of the BOS meetings way back," he said. "I thought we should have a code."

As of March 2009, 124 of the 169 municipalities in the state have a code of ethics, with nine in the process of creating one, Zamojcin said.

Since the committee was established, the nine members have conducted research and reviewed the codes of surrounding towns. Zamojcin said the committee found that "there

is not one code of ethics that fits all."

"We thought we would use the state's model code of ethics, but we found it was too cumbersome and didn't fit Hebron for its size and what we have," he said.

The target, he said, was to make it useful for a small town, easy to read and not restrictive to volunteers. "We think we've achieved all of those," Zamojcin said. "I'm proud of the work of these people here."

The draft handed out at the hearing had seven major sections. They detailed the purpose of the document, definitions of words and phrases used, a description of conflict of interest, disclosure and recusal, gifts, use of town assets and the use of confidential information.

After commending the committee for their efforts, resident Harvey Desruisseaux recommended that the group consider having something in place where employees and officers of the town acknowledge and sign off that they have both received and will abide by the code. Desruisseaux also said, "this should apply to any and all town employees and officers...bar none."

"In all the experiences I've had, most towns have a code of ethics," said Town Manager Bonnie Therrien. She said she felt the code was

"clear and concise, which is really important."

The topic of whether to appoint an ethics commission was also discussed. "Towns have independent ethics commissions," Therrien said. "I've seen the good and the bad and I really think you do need one." Therrien stressed that members of the commission be chosen "very carefully." "I've seen where they've been political appointments and its destroyed towns," she said.

Therrien also noted that the town attorney is usually the advisor to the committee unless the attorney is involved with the conflict. In that case, an outside source is brought in, she said.

Peter Moon, of the Ethics Study Committee, voiced his concern in having funds available if a complaint were to arise. "My concern is will they be able to allocate at that moment," he asked. He brought up a contingency arrangement to cover for the short term. However, Therrien said the town does not have a contingency account and money would have to be taken from the surplus.

Brian O'Connell, a member of the BOS, said his main concern was "witch hunts" and the possibility of tarnishing reputations. Although someone may not have done something wrong, O'Connell said, "if people repeat the same

things enough, people begin to believe it." He then asked the committee what would happen in this case if a town did not have a formal commission in place.

Therrien responded by saying that when it came to the person making a complaint, it is important to make that person come forward. "Ninety-nine percent of the time, that person won't come forward," she said. "Whoever is being accused of something should see who is accusing them."

She also said that in cases where there is not an ethics committee, residents would approach an elected body or the town manager depending on who is in violation. However, Therrien said she "would rather the town adopt something."

Zamojcin said Thursday that he thought the public hearing "went very well." "The public comments were geared for the most part toward forming a commission," he said.

The committee hopes to present the revised code to the BOS during the month of June at one of their regularly scheduled meetings. The draft is available at the Town Office Building for review. The committee can be reached by e-mail at [ethics@hebronct.com](mailto:ethics@hebronct.com).

## RHAM Student Charged With Drug Paraphernalia in Locker

by Lindsay Fetzner

A 16-year-old was arrested last week after RHAM High School officials found drug paraphernalia in his locker, State Police said.

The youth's locker was searched after he was referred to juvenile court, stemming from a fight with his mother, according to police. The youth was arrested on Wednesday, May 12.

RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie said this is not an issue at the school, but "has certainly found students in school in possession of drug paraphernalia" in the past.

"The board [of education] is trying to be proactive," said Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski, in response to the arrest.

Siminski said the district works closely with AHM Youth and Family Services and the Drug and Violence Prevention Task Force, who have provided a number of presentations on similar topics. In April, the task force held a parent forum on opiate use.

Leslie and Siminski said they could not comment specifically on the youth's arrest.

## Portland Selectmen Set Mill Rate

by Claire Michalewicz

The Board of Selectmen set the mill rate for the 2010-11 fiscal year at 27.80 at a quick special meeting on Monday evening.

The new mill rate, which represents a .56 mill increase from last year, was the same rate proposed by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield in the town budget. It equates to a 2.08 percent tax increase. Portland's \$29.62 million budget passed at a referendum last Monday, May 10.

The budget was based on the expectation that the state will grant Portland \$4.79 million in funding. Bransfield said that since the state of Connecticut had passed its budget with minimal

changes, that figure should be fairly accurate.

At their meeting, the selectmen also voted to approve the \$482,703 million capital improvement budget, as well as other operating budgets for the 2010-11 fiscal year. The budgets are: Animal Control fund, \$110,765; Town Aid Road fund, \$121,415; Youth Services fund, \$266,406; Resource Recovery Fund, \$367,325; Building Maintenance fund, \$60,000; Parks and Recreation fund, \$388,725.

The selectmen also adopted the official pay plan for many of the town's employees, including part-time, administrative and executive employees and elected officials.

## Another Strong Season for Hebron Track Teams

by Claire Michalewicz

The East Hampton High School (EHHS) track and field teams are wrapping up another successful season, and are preparing for next week's Shoreline League Championships.

At every invitation they've attended this year, head coach Bill Wilkie said, either the girls' or boys' team has won. Wilkie said he's hoping both teams will win at next week's championship, which East Hampton is hosting this year.

Wilkie's teams have been successful, and they're also popular. There are 120 students, girls and boys, on East Hampton's track and field team. That's about one-fifth of the school's total enrollment, which Wilkie said is unusually large.

"There are a lot of different things that make the program so strong," Wilkie said. "The school is really supportive of a sports team this size."

Many schools, Wilkie said, wouldn't be as willing to have so many students on the teams, especially during indoor track season, when students practice in the hallways. Wilkie said teachers and school administration have been extremely supportive of the all the school's teams. His three assistant coaches, he said, are also a huge help in keeping practices and competitions running smoothly.

But the biggest draw for students joining his teams, Wilkie said, is the athletes themselves. "They're great kids, they're role models, and 99 percent of them are great students," he said. "It's a place that you want to gravitate to."

His athletes agree. "I like the sense of community we have here," said David Fitol, one of the boys' team's captains. "We're all supporting each other and trying hard to do our best."

Wilkie said one of his favorite parts of coaching is seeing and helping the athletes develop.

Unlike other sports like baseball and soccer, most students start high school without any experience in track and field, so they're sometimes unsure of where they fit in.

"It's a neat sport," he said. "It's the only sport in high school where there's a place for everybody." There are 18 events in track and field, and while his students have a huge range in their athletic abilities, Wilkie feels that there's at least one event that every student can do well in.

Next week marks the end of regular season and the start of championship season. Wilkie said that for most of the students on his teams, the Shoreline League Championships are the major focus of the season, which they've been training for for months. While some of his more elite athletes will be going on to state and even New England championships, the Shoreline championships are the most important because EHHS is hosting them this year, and the Shoreline event typically draws hundreds of students.

In fact, next week's event will draw about 600 students from 12 schools, Wilkie said. He's holding out hope that both his teams will win, and he said they're both in good condition for this late in the season.

"It'll be incredibly hard to do so," Wilkie said. "They'll have to do their best in every event."

Wilkie has been coaching cross country and indoor and outdoor track at East Hampton for 13 years. He ran track and cross country all through high school and college, and started coaching the two sports shortly after he graduated. Coaching, he said, takes about 25-30 hours a week, which he manages on top of his home remodeling business. He said that while coaching takes up a large amount of his time, he's happy to have it that way.

"It's been a huge part of my life," Wilkie said.



East Hampton High School track and field coach Bill Wilkie cheers on two of his athletes, Nikki Chambers and Stephanie Edwards, as they practice passing a baton for a relay race.

"I wanted to give back to a sport that gave me so much."

Team members agree that Wilkie has given them a lot as a coach.

"I think he's really contributed to me as a person," said Fitol. "He's a huge asset."

Shot putter Kelly Merrill said she's looking

forward to next week's competition. Wilkie, she said, has been keeping her and her teammates working hard all season. "We always have to keep improving ourselves," Merrill said.

The Shoreline League Track and Field Championships will be held at East Hampton High School on Wednesday, May 26, at 2 p.m.

# East Hampton Resident Seeking Probate Judge Seat

By Claire Michalewicz

Just within the past few weeks, Jennifer Berkenstock opened a new law practice and was selected as the Republican nominee for probate judge. It's been a dramatic change for her, but Berkenstock said she's ready for the campaign, and more importantly, ready to be the probate judge for the newly-created district, which includes East Hampton, Portland, Marlborough and East Haddam.

Berkenstock, who has lived in East Hampton for 22 years, is just back from taking a break to spend time with her family. In 2003, she decided to take time off from raising her son, who is now six, and spend time with her two older daughters, who are now 18 and 16.

Berkenstock said she's waiting to see what happens with the election before she makes any long-term plans. She's set up her office in East Hampton above her husband Rick's realty business, but she's putting off hiring any staff members until after the election. If she doesn't win, she'll expand her law practice, but if she does, she'll have other things to focus on.

"I'm prepared to close everything down after I win," Berkenstock said. "Hopefully," she added with a smile.

In November, she'll be running against a Democratic candidate (Stephen Kinsella, the incumbent Portland probate judge, and Kenneth Barber, another East Hampton attorney, will be facing each other in the Democratic primary in August.) But what sets her apart from other

candidates, Berkenstock said, is that she has been practicing probate law for her entire career, since she graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1989. She said she was initially drawn to the field because she enjoyed working with the elderly.

"I found that I had a good rapport with them, and a soft spot for them," Berkenstock said. She explained that she's always made an effort to go out into the community, and make her practice accessible by visiting people in their homes if it's difficult for them to come to her.

Working in probate law, most of her practice involves dealing with wills, estate planning, and issues of guardianship for people who can't make their own legal decisions. Most of her clients are elderly people and their families, though she sometimes works with children as well.

"It's just the kind of thing I enjoy doing," Berkenstock said, explaining that she finds it particularly rewarding when she can help elderly people maintain their independence and stay at home.

The probate court system is changing dramatically next year, and if she's elected probate judge, Berkenstock hopes to ensure that the transition process goes smoothly. At present, all four towns in the district – Portland, East Hampton, Marlborough and East Haddam – have their own probate court. After the election, the courts will be consolidated into one

court, which is tentatively planned to be in East Hampton. One probate judge will work full-time, and Berkenstock is hoping she will be that judge.

While Berkenstock said the transition may be difficult at first, it should ultimately create a court system that's easier for people to use. She's planning to go out into the four towns in the district and provide residents with more information about the probate court, and solicit their suggestions.

"I want it to be a two-way street," she said. Community involvement, Berkenstock said, has always been important to her. Since moving to East Hampton, she's been actively involved in her church, and has also helped out volunteering in schools and for the Girl Scouts.

In the past, she said, not all probate judges had experience working in probate law, and not all were even lawyers. The new law requires new probate judges to be attorneys, and Berkenstock said she's highly qualified because she's been working in probate law for so long.

While Berkenstock is familiar with the job of a probate judge, she's a little less at ease with the campaign process. "I'm just a lawyer, not a politician," she said, explaining that while she's always been interested in politics, she finds it strange to be running for office.

Fortunately, she said, the campaign process for judges is less politicized than it is for other elected officials. Although she's running as a



Jennifer Berkenstock

Republican, she's prohibited from talking about specific political issues. Berkenstock said she's trying to run her campaign as positively as possible, without using partisan attacks.

"To me, it's not about politics," she said. "It's about doing a good job."

## East Hampton School Board Opts Not to Participate in Nutrition Standards Program

by Claire Michalewicz

The Board of Education (BOE) accepted one major grant and declined to participate in another grant program at its meeting on Monday, May 10.

The BOE accepted an Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant of \$365,000. The federal grant is designed to fund existing special education programs within the school system, and can be used to hire new teachers or paraprofessionals.

In their other major agenda item, the BOE declined to participate in the Connecticut Nutrition Standards for Food in Schools program, which would reimburse the school board 10 cents for every meal sold if they agreed to adhere to certain nutritional standards.

The BOE did not want to participate because, school board member Don Coolican explained after the meeting, the guidelines are "very restrictive." The program would prevent schools

from selling snacks, which Coolican said were a major source of revenue for the schools. If East Hampton decided to participate in the program, he explained, the schools would lose more money than they earned through the reimbursement program.

Golden said East Hampton schools had switched to healthier menu options three years ago, by hiring their own cooks rather than contracting out food services to outside companies. The BOE, Golden explained, was researching other options to improve the quality of cafeteria food, and would not rule out joining this or another program in the future, after they have more data.

BOE member Josh Piteo said board members wanted to tell the administrators that healthy food was more important than making money, adding that he hoped schools could find snack foods that were both healthy and appeal-

ing for children. East Hampton's nutrition requirements, Piteo added, should be stricter than the government's.

"The thing is, it's a moving bar with these standards," Piteo said. "If it deviates from our standards, than we should go with ours."

In a special presentation, Dr. Tony Gasper, assistant principal of East Hampton High School, spoke about the importance of data, and the way the school system tracks and uses information like test scores, attendance and student demographics.

"We're surrounded by data every day," Gasper said. "How do we choose what to study and follow?" Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden asked Gasper to give the presentation to help the BOE better understand the large quantity of numbers they deal with in the school system.

Also at the meeting, the BOE accepted the resignation of Brian Reas, the director of support services. Reas, who has been working for East Hampton for six years, is leaving for a position as Assistant Superintendent with the East Lyme school system.

"We're really very sorry to lose him," Golden said, but added that she was proud of Reas for moving on to another position.

BOE member Mark Laraia said that Reas's decision to leave East Hampton was "a huge loss."

"He's done a great job," Laraia said of Reas, "especially with bringing special needs kids back into the district to save money."

The next BOE meeting will be held Monday, May 24, at 7 p.m., in the high school library.

### East Hampton Police News

5/6: Ryan D. Blaschik, 23, of 223 East Haddam-Moodus Rd., East Haddam, was arrested for speeding, East Hampton Police said.

5/7: Lori A. Souza, 49, of 98 Lakeside Dr., Andover, was arrested for failure to drive right and drinking while driving, police said.

5/7: Patricia Taylor, 38, of 9 West High St., was arrested for disorderly conduct and interfering with a police officer, police said.

5/7: Heidi Jean Scott, 22, of 45 Forrest St., was arrested for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear, police said.

5/7: Allen J. Guiot, 54, of 18 Summit St.,

was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and failure to drive right, police said.

5/8: Daniel Pagan, 32, of 26 Warwick St., Middletown, was arrested for failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police said.

5/11: Colleen E. Leary, 21, of 264 Millstream Rd., Amston, was arrested for operating under the influence, failure to drive right, possession of narcotics and drug paraphernalia, police said.

5/12: Nicholas A. Daddario, 20, of 40 High Ct., East Hartford, was arrested for larceny and conspiracy to commit larceny, police said.

### Portland Police News

5/14: Joseph Rooney, 23, of 20 Bell St., was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, Portland Police said.

5/14: William Catrone, 24, of 14 Bacon Ave., Apt. 2, Middletown, was charged with insufficient insurance, police said.

5/14: A 14-year-old male was issued a juvenile summons and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

### Marlborough Police News

5/15: Lawrence James, 31, of 194 Broad St., Apt. A, Danielson, was charged with sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

### Hebron Police News

5/17: Brian Grabber, 45, of Lebanon, was transported to Windham Hospital for "non-incapacitating injuries" after a one-car accident, State Police said. At about noon, Grabber was traveling southbound on Mill Stream Road when he swerved off the road and struck a wire guard rail, then a tree. His 2005 Ford F350 sustained front-end damage.

### Colchester Police News

5/12: A 17-year-old and a 16-year-old were arrested after running from Linwood Cemetery Road at about 6 p.m., State Police said. The two teens were both charged with criminal attempt of burglary, criminal mischief, possession of burglary tools and interfering with an officer.

5/13: Drag Zbigniew, 57, of 2 Country Place, was charged with DWI, and failure to drive right, State Police said.

5/16: Steven Pratt, 60, of 323 Windham Ave., was charged with DUI, State Police said.

5/17: Jason Christensen, 23, of 52 Hall Kilbourne Rd., was charged with failure to drive right and DUI, State Police said.



# Hebron Assistant Principal Search Committee Formed

by **Lindsay Fetzner**

A search committee has been formed to fill the assistant principal position at Hebron Elementary School (HES) after Vonda Tencza vacated her post and was appointed as the director of curriculum and technology in April.

Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said 98 candidates applied for the position. "The pool of candidates was very strong," she said, and ranged from individuals just breaking into the administration field to those with years of experience.

"I am very confident that we will find an outstanding candidate that will fit with the needs of the community," Cruz said. "I am very excited about the possibilities."

HES Principal Kevin Hanlon said he has a goal to make an appointment before the end of the school year.

Hanlon said an initial screening has been completed to narrow the pool of candidates down and is in the process of setting up the first round of interviews. A building-based team, comprised of teacher representatives, support staff representatives and two administrators, will conduct the first interviews.

Paraprofessionals and a secretary from the office at HES will comprise the support staff whereas Hanlon and Lisa Wheeler, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services, will represent the administrators.

When the first round of interviews have been completed, Hanlon said between two and three finalists will be selected and a second round of interviews will take place at the administrative level. Cruz, Hanlon, Gilead Hill School Principal Kathy Veronesi, Wheeler and Tencza will then interview the final candidates.

When the committee has chosen a final candidate, they will make a recommendation to the Board of Education, which will appoint the candidate to the position.

"I am very confident we are going to find someone who is going to be the right match,

the right fit and a strong leader for the district," Hanlon said.

As Tencza transitions from assistant principal to director of curriculum and technology, Hanlon said a retired HES head teacher has joined the school community to provide both assistance and support.

Terri Connolly joined the Hebron school system in 1974. She started her career in town at Gilead Hill, but moved to HES when the schools reconfigured. In June 2007, Connolly retired, but came back for the 2007-08 school year when a teaching position was not filled.

Currently, Connolly said she is working part-time as a master teacher while Tencza moves from HES to central office at Gilead Hill School. "I have been meeting with students, helping with projects and assisting Mr. Hanlon or Mrs. Tencza, providing support with things already in place," she said.

Hanlon said Connolly knows HES very well, due in part to her extensive experience as a head teacher before she retired a few years ago. "She has the confidence of the teachers and is really a perfect fit to help us finish out the school year," he said.

As head teacher, Connolly served in the absence of the principal or vice principal, "if a decision had to be made right then and there," she said.

"She has stayed connected to our building as a master mentor," Hanlon said. Connolly was involved in helping new hires to the district and provided support for them in their transition, he said. "She is very connected to our building."

Hanlon said Tencza has also stayed very involved throughout the transition to make sure "nothing is lost." And furthermore, to ensure that "the good work she has been responsible for and led here is maintained at a high level," Hanlon said.

## Obituaries

Hebron

### Deloris Violet Parker

Deloris Violet (Chicoine) Parker, 77, of Amston Lake, Hebron, beloved wife of Richard, passed away Thursday, May 13, at home, surrounded by her loving family. Born June 1, 1932 in Astoria, LI, NY, she was a daughter of the late Adelard and Gabrielle (Russo) Chicoine.



On Nov. 27, 1952, she and Richard were married in Hartford. Mrs. Parker was an assembler for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford for over 20 years before her retirement in 1989. In 1995, she joined Countryside Realty in Hebron as a realtor.

Deloris was a communicant of the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron. She loved to sing, and was a choir member at her parish. She also sang with the Sweet Adelines for over 20 years.

Mrs. Parker was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Post 95 in Hebron. She held an avid love of music, she enjoyed crocheting but most importantly, she will be remembered by her family for the love and devotion she selflessly gave to all of them.

In addition to her loving husband of 57 years, she is survived by five children, Caren Taylor of Amston, Dorothy Angell of Chaplin, Michael Parker of Coventry, Allen Parker of Colchester and Robert Parker of Lebanon; two sisters, Diane Nichols of Westchester and Lorraine Craft of Marlborough; 17 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by two siblings, Doris June Worski and Robert Chicoine.

Friends called Monday, May 17, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral assembled Tuesday, May 18, at the funeral home, followed by the celebration of the funeral liturgy at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., (Route 85), Hebron, with Fr. Michael S. Smith, officiating. Interment followed in the New Hebron Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Hospice of Eastern CT, 34 Ledgebrook Dr., Mansfield Center 06250-1664.

For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

Colchester

### Sophia Chotkowska Holden

Sophia Chotkowska Holden, 92, died Monday, May 10, in Henderson, KY, after a bout of pneumonia. Born May 12, 1917, to Polish immigrant parents, she lived in NYC, Salem and Colchester for most of her life.

She graduated from Bacon Academy in Colchester in 1934. She worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft during World War II and in the personnel department at Macy's in NYC for many years before returning to Colchester in 1967. There she and her husband raised their two children while she worked as a teacher's aide in mathematics at Jack Jackter Intermediate School. She retired several years ago after more than 30 years of service. She was the widow of Lloyd Holden, who died in 1977.

She leaves behind a daughter, a son, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Locally, she is survived by her niece Christine Kaszczynek and family, of Salem, and many friends, former colleagues and former students.

She was cremated at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY.

East Hampton

### Timothy Warren Schleidt

Timothy Warren Schleidt, 52, of Haddam Neck, died unexpectedly Saturday, May 15. Born June 25, 1957, in Middletown he was the son of Jean C. (Johnson) Schleidt and the late Henry C. Schleidt III. Timothy had proudly served his country in the U.S. Army, and had worked as a carpenter for many years.

Besides his mother, he is survived by a brother, Jeffery Schleidt of East Hampton; a sister, Diane Darcy and her husband, Thomas of Hadlyme; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a brother, Rodney C. Schleidt.

A graveside service will be held today, Friday, May 21, at 1:30 p.m., in the Rock Landing Cemetery in Haddam Neck. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com). The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of the arrangements.

Colchester

### Justine "Carrie" Duclos

Justine "Carrie" Duclos, 43, of Colchester, beloved wife of Patrick and mother of Ryan, passed away Thursday, May 13, surrounded by her loving family after a courageous battle with cystic fibrosis.



Born March 29, 1967 in California, she was the daughter of Carolyn (Bloomer) Ray of Manchester. Carrie has worked as a Certified Nurse's Aide in home health care before her illness.

Although not his "official coach" in baseball and basketball, she was her son's biggest fan and sideline coach. In her spare time, she loved all aspects of nature, especially bass fishing, bird watching and gardening, as well as taking family vacations.

In addition to her mother and loving husband of 14 years, she is survived by their son, Ryan; her brother, Jason Ray of Durham; her grandmother, Jean Bloomer of East Hartford; two uncles, Frederick Bloomer of East Hartford and Richard Bloomer of Long Island; her father and mother-in-law, Edward and Margot Duclos of South Windsor; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends called Tuesday, May 18, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral assembled Wednesday, May 19, at the funeral home before a chapel service. Committal followed in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Carrie Duclos Memorial Fund, c/o Liberty Bank, 219 So. Main St., Colchester, CT 06415, to benefit her son's education.

For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

Marlborough

### William Winterton

William Winterton, a longtime Connecticut resident, passed away peacefully Saturday, May 15, at Marlborough Healthcare Center. William was born July 19, 1916, in Boston, MA, to William James Winterton and Ethel (Baybutt) Winterton.

He grew up in Manchester, NH, and graduated from Manchester Central High School. William attended the University of New Hampshire before enlisting in the United States Army during World War II. He was stationed in Hawaii and served as a Captain in the Signal Corps. Following the war, William and his beloved wife Merta resided briefly in Portsmouth, NH and Baltimore, MD before settling in Haworth, NJ. He devoted his career to advertising, eventually establishing an advertising company with two partners.

William was an avid golfer and bridge player. He loved to garden, bird watch, fish and spend time at the ocean. He had an intense love of music which he fulfilled through singing in the choir throughout his life and playing the piano. He was a lifelong Red Sox fan and their World Series win in 2007 brought him tremendous joy. William was a wonderful husband, father and devoted grandfather.

He is survived by his younger brother Richard Winterton, his two daughters and sons-in-law, Carol and Robert Coutu; Susan and Brian Mandeville; and his three adored grandchildren, Matthew and Monica Mandeville and Michael Coutu.

A memorial service will be held at St John's Episcopal Church, 523 Hartford Tpke., Vernon, on Saturday, May 22, at 10:30 a.m. The family will receive friends and family in the church parish hall immediately following the service. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Marlborough Healthcare Center Recreation Fund, 85 Stage Harbor Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447 for beautifying the gardens in the courtyards.

For online condolences, visit [www.pietrasfuneralhome.com](http://www.pietrasfuneralhome.com).

# Portland Fair Director Unhappy with Town Selectmen

by **Claire Michalewicz**

One of the directors of the Portland Fair is worried the fair's future is in jeopardy, but town officials say that the association has ignored repeated requests for payment.

At the May 5 Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting, Finance Director Tom Robinson said the Fair Association had not yet paid the town for police coverage during the fair in October. Robinson said this happened every year, as his department made repeated requests to the Fair Association for payment.

Each year, Robinson said, the Fair Association didn't pay until the summer, shortly before the annual fair. Robinson suggested to the selectmen that they consider asking for payment in advance.

In response to that suggestion, Don Bascom, president of the Portland Fair Association and also a member of its Board of Directors, said, "I'd probably go out of business." Bascom said the Portland Fair prides itself on keeping its admissions fees low (in 2009, admission was \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.) He said they could look into raising the fees to cover costs, but was unsure how much they could raise them.

"That was a lot of garbage," Bascom said about Robinson and the selectmen's May 5 discussion. He said the selectmen were aware of the fair association's financial situation – each year, the fair association generally doesn't receive money from its vendors until the following summer, Bascom said – and that previous administrations had put money for the event in the town budget. Bransfield, Bascom said, removed the fair from the budget.

But town officials say that the fair is profitable, and it isn't fair to shift the bill for police officers onto the taxpayers. Bransfield explained

that the town had subsidized the fair when it first started a decade ago, but had stopped funding them as the fair became more profitable. The past few years, Bransfield said, had been profitable for the fair, and as budgets became tighter, the town had stopped funding other programs as well, including the Little League.

Police Lieutenant Ron Milardo said the town charges the fair association a special rate for police coverage. In addition, Milardo said, the police department provides the minimum number of police officers necessary for such a large event, to keep costs down.

"They're an important part of the town, and they're just trying to put on a fair," said Milardo. But, he said, the town could only fund so many events and organizations, and other events, like the Memorial Day parade, had also been cut from the budget.

"We love the fair, we support the fair," Bransfield said. She said that because the fair association had ignored repeated requests for payment, asking for the money up front was "good financial sense."

"It's only prudent to consider requiring prepayment," she continued, adding that the fair association was welcome to call the town to work out a payment plan, but the town and the police department had not heard anything from the Fair Association for the past seven months.

Bascom denies that the fair is profitable, and said he would pay the bill if he had the money. The fair association won't be contacting the town, he said, until they have received money from vendors, which he's hoping will happen in June.

"We're gonna pay just like we always do," he said.

## East Hampton

### Francis Edward Guillemin

Francis Edward Guillemin, "Jerry," 76, of East Hampton, died Thursday, May 13, in Hospice at Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center. This has followed several years of declining health due to the complications of dementia.

He was born on May 22, 1933, in North Haledon, NJ, to the late Francis Michael and Lillian Marie (Howard) Guillemin. He would have celebrated his 77th birthday during the week following his death. He graduated from Hawthorne HS, NJ, in 1951, before enlisting in the US Navy in early 1952. His major duty stations were aboard the aircraft carriers, USS Franklin D. Roosevelt and USS Lake Champlain, as well as the Quonset Point RI Naval Air Station. After his honorable discharge, he worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, East Hartford, in the Experimental Sheet Metal and Pattern Shop. He retired from P&W in October 1992.

"Jerry" is survived by his wife of over 54 years, Frances M. (Price) Guillemin. He leaves two children and their spouses, daughter Kimberly Ann and Helmut Hanelt of South Glastonbury, and Kyle Martin and Kimberly (Bergeron) of East Hampton. His four beloved grandchildren will forever miss their grampa, Alexander Francis Hanelt of South Glastonbury, and Joshua Albert, Jacqueline Ann and Josephine Annette Guillemin of East Hampton. He is survived by a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Gayle and John Babitz of Wayne, NJ, and two sisters-in-law, Carole Guillemin of VA, and Carole Price of FL. He leaves three aunts, one uncle and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, a brother, Roy W. Guillemin, and an infant grandson, Erich Michael Hanelt.

"Jerry" loved being outdoors whether walking through the woods, or skiing the finest slopes in North America and Europe. He was happiest when spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. A lifelong New York Yankees fan, he was a coach in the East Hampton Little League for many years and later enjoyed watching his grandson Alex progress from T-Ball through AAU and Varsity Baseball. With his son Kyle, he was actively involved in Cub Scouts/ Boy Scouts for a number of years. He also followed UConn basketball teams and football teams. He was a life member of the VFW Post 5095 in East Hampton.

The family would like to extend their appreciation to the staff at St. Francis Hospital and Portland Care and Rehab Center for their compassion and support over the last couple of weeks.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 18, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Richard Allen officiating. Burial with military honors will follow in Lakeview Cemetery. Friends called at the funeral home Monday evening, May 17.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the East Hampton Veterans Memorial Fund, c/o American Legion Post 64, 55 Main St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Portland

### Marion Smith Lastrina

Marion Smith Lastrina, wife of Joseph J. Lastrina, of Portland, died after a short illness Monday, May 17. Marion was born Oct. 25, 1932, to Alice Nelson and William E. Smith. Formerly of Cromwell, she has resided in Portland since her marriage 59 years ago.

Marion also leaves her sister, Joyce Crescimanno and her husband Thomas of Cromwell; two brothers Allan Smith and his wife Jane of Middletown, and Robert Smith and his wife Josephine of Naples, FL; and her sister-in-law Lois Smith of Middletown. She also leaves several nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her brother Donald Smith.

Marion was a graduate of Middletown High School and was employed for more than 40 years with Travelers Insurance Company, working in the president's office as Executive Assistant. Marion was an accomplished artist and enjoyed traveling and spending winters in Florida with her husband. She was a kind and gentle person who will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

Family and friends called at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Thursday, May 20. Funeral services will be held today, Friday, May 21, at 10:15 a.m., from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home and at 11 a.m. at the Church of Saint Mary for a Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Donations in Marion's memory may be sent to the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Freestone Ave. Portland, CT 06480 or to the Weiss Hospice Unit of Middlesex Hospital c/o Office of Philanthropy 28 Crescent St. Middletown, CT 06457.

For directions, or to send an online expression of sympathy, visit [www.portlandmemorialfh.net](http://www.portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Portland

### Brian Michael Sundell

Brian Michael Sundell, 56, husband of Phyllis Scata Sundell of Portland, died peacefully in his beloved wife's arms Monday, May 17, at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Brian was born at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford on Aug. 18, 1953, the son of Carl Hilding Sundell and Eleanor Cashman Sundell.

Brian grew up on Great Hill Lake and attended Portland schools. He was very active in his town serving as a constable with the Portland Police Department and was a life-long member of the Portland Volunteer Fire Dept. Co. No. 3. Brian and Phyllis formed many life-long friends through the PVFD. One of his greatest joys was camping with family and friends. Prior to his retirement, Brian was employed at Jarvis Corporation as assembly foreman. He had the ability from an early age to take any machine apart and put it back together better than it was.

Brian and Phyllis were married for 35 years and together raised their devoted sons, Michael Brian Sundell and Jonathan Ray Sundell; and later added to their loving family, a daughter-in-law Sarah Ackerman; and two beautiful grandchildren Morgan Leeann and Jack William Sundell.

As well as his wife, sons, and grandchildren, Brian is survived by his brother and sisters Carl H. Sundell Jr. and Charmie of East Hampton, David R. Sundell of Portland, Peter F. Sundell and Kay of New Port Richey, FL, George B. Sundell and Pauline of Cherry Hill, NJ, and Judith C. Sundell of Portland, Margaret "Marlou" French and Larry of Middlefield, and Mary P. Kuskey of Portland. He is also survived by his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Richard P. Dunn and fiancée Sharon Pacifico of Meriden, Octavius "Artie" Scata and Deborah of Windsor Locks, and Joseph P. Scata and Linda of Middletown. Brian will also be missed by numerous nieces and nephews and by all those who were unrelated but loved him as "Uncle Brian." He will also be missed by his beloved dog "Tino."

He was predeceased by his parents, his sister Anne E. Sundell, his brother-in-law Robert Willett, his sister-in-law Constance S. Dunn and his mother-in-law and father-in-law Lina and Joseph Scata.

His family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home 231 Main St., Portland, Wednesday, May 19. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 20, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home and later that morning at the Church of St. Mary for a Mass of Christian Burial. Burial followed at St. Mary's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in his memory may be sent to the Portland Volunteer Fire Department P.O. Box 71 Portland, CT 06480.

For directions, or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit [www.portlandmemorialfh.net](http://www.portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Colchester

### Patricia L. Collins

Patricia L. Collins, 70, of Colchester, formerly of East Hartford, passed away peacefully with her loving family at her side on Sunday, May 16. She was beloved wife of 39 years to the late Edward "Butch" Collins.

Born in Hartford on Feb. 4, 1940, a daughter of the late Pasquale "Patsy" and Angelina (Sinisgalli) LaCaprucia, Patricia was a graduate of the Class of 1958 from Bulkeley High School, Hartford. Prior to her retirement in 1995, she was employed for 15 years by the State of Connecticut - Department of E.M.S. Patricia was an avid reader and a talented ceramic maker who taught ceramics for many years. However, Patricia's greatest joy in life was being a proud grandmother who enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren, at "the beach" in Rhode Island.

Along with her beloved husband and parents, Patricia was predeceased by a brother, Patrick "Butch" LaCaprucia of Las Vegas, NV.

She is survived by her two caring children, John E. Collins, and Kathie Collins-Voiland, both of Colchester; her two adored grandchildren, Matthew and Mia Voiland, both of Colchester, who brought much joy to her life; two brothers-in-law, Robert Collins and his wife, Ann, of East Hartford, Patrick Collins and his wife, Pauline, in Florida; four sisters-in-law, Barbara Blaney and her husband, Phil, of Hartford, Carol Collins of Manchester, Rose Collins of Hartford, Peggy Cassano and her husband, Joseph, of West Hartford; several nieces, nephews and many close dear friends.

Funeral services were Thursday, May 20, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron, with the Rev. Michael Smith officiating. Private burial will be held at the convenience of the family. Relatives and friends called at the D'ESOPPO-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford, on Wednesday, May 19.

For any online expressions of sympathy to the family, visit [www.desopo.com](http://www.desopo.com).

## Colchester

### Richard Frank Terrio

Richard Frank Terrio, 69, of Colchester, passed away unexpectedly Monday, May 17. Born March 2, 1941, in Middletown, he was the eldest of the six children of the late Reginald and Marguerite (McGrath) Terrio.

Mr. Terrio was a professional truck driver, working with his brother-in-law, Norm, at Carefree for many years as well as for a number of other outfits. In 1959, he enlisted in the Navy and served proudly during the Vietnam War before his honorable discharge in 1962. In 1963, he joined the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company and was a life member. Mr. Terrio served as assistant chief from 1969 to 1983, and was also a junior fire company advisor, training officer, fundraising chairman for the August Fest and served on the company historical committee over the years. He was active in scouting for many years as a leader with Webelos Pack 469 in Colchester. In his spare time, he enjoyed wood-carving, stained glass work and model railroads.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce (Gustafson) Terrio of Colchester; four children, Richard Jr. and his wife, Fay of Woodbine, GA, Billy and his wife Virginia of East Hartford, Roxanne Brozyna of Hanover and Christine Watson and her husband, Ralph of Colchester; five grandchildren, Gary Brozyna II, Emily Brozyna, Erik and Scott Terrio, and Kathryn Watson; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends may call 3-5 p.m. Saturday, May 22, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service with company and military honors will be observed at 5 p.m., with the Rev. Fred M. Dole, CHVFC Chaplain, officiating. Committal will be private in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Colchester-Hayward Vol. Fire Co., 18-54 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415. For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## East Hampton

### Margaret Pearl Baer

Margaret Pearl Baer, 91, of East Hampton, widow of Harry G. Baer, died Sunday, May 16, at Middlesex Hospital. Born June 30, 1918 in Arlington, MA, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Margaret (McKay) Kinfred.

She is survived by her son, Robert G. Baer and his wife Lisa of East Hampton; a daughter, Helen Brown of Oregon; three grandchildren, Erin Baer of East Hampton, who took special care of her throughout the years, Winter Baer and her boyfriend Jesse Ducki of Colchester, Robert Baer and his girlfriend Casey MacDonald of Portland; one great-grandson, Raymond Kuritz; many close family and friends.

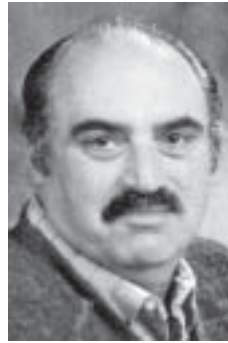
She was predeceased by her parents, her husband Harry and a grandson, William Kuritz.

Margaret had a great love of animals and also loved to travel. She spent many of her early years traveling the United States with her husband Harry. Mainly she loved spending time with her grandchildren. It is where she spent the last 30 years of her life, caring for them and loving them. She will be missed and never forgotten.

Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family. Burial will be in the family plot in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Arlington, MA.

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

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com). The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



## East Hampton

### David Dripps

David L. Dripps, 84, of East Hampton and formerly of Middletown, beloved husband of the late Ruth (Kahrman) Dripps, died Friday, May 14, at Middlesex Hospital. Born May 23, 1925, in Middletown, he was the son of the late Joseph and Elizabeth (Murray) Dripps.

David had proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII and the Korean War. He was retired from the State of Connecticut where he had worked at the Connecticut Valley Hospital. Before moving to East Hampton in 2000, he and his wife Ruth had lived in Middletown.

He is survived by his two sons, Joseph Dripps and his wife Janice of Round Lake, IL, Peter Dripps of Moodus; his daughter, Elizabeth Rinaldo and her husband Richard of East Hampton; seven grandchildren, David, Joseph Jr., Jeremy, Christine, Nathan, Kimberly and Thomas; and eight great-grandchildren, Eric, Natil, Andrew, Joseph, Anastacia, Lauren, Matthew and Alex.

He was predeceased by a daughter, Deborah Washburn and a daughter-in-law, Janet Dripps.

There will be a private graveside service with military honors in Pine Grove Cemetery in Middletown at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com). The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of arrangements.

## Portland

### Joseph Rosano

Joseph A. Rosano, 85, of 7 Commerce St., Portland, beloved husband of Sharon (Behm) Rosano, passed away Tuesday at his home. He was born in Middletown, son of the Late Ignazio and Santina (Salafia) Rosano.

He lived in Middletown for several years moving to Portland in 1981. He was employed by the Russell Co. as a foreman before entering the Army. A veteran of World War II, he served with the 204th General Hospital in Hawaii and Guam. He was employed by the City of Middletown as a police officer retiring after 31 years with the rank of Police Captain. He was president of Police Local 1361 for six years. He was president of the Middletown Police Benevolent Association, where the Association Ball was held in the Old Military Armory on Main St.

He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Middconn Municipal Federal Credit Union. He attended the F.B.I Academy as a hostage negotiator, for the Middletown Police Dept. He was administrative advisor for the Police Explorer post. He was appointed Acting Deputy Chief by two former Mayors, was also a member of the Italian Society of Middletown The I.A.C.O., American Legion Post 69 of Portland, National Notary Association and St. Sebastian Church.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Sandra Hastings and her husband Bill of Middletown and Esther McAvay Manchester; two sons, Shane McAvay and his wife Lynn of Portland and John Rosano of Portland; four grandchildren, Kristina Hastings Albert and her husband Brian of East Haddam, Kevin Hastings and his wife Renee of Southington, Jillian McAvay and Maren McAvay of Portland; three great-grandchildren, Benjamin and Olivia Hastings of Southington, Makenzie Albert of East Haddam; a sister, Rosalie Padilla of Berlin; a brother, Geno Rosano of Middletown and several nieces and nephews; a special longtime friend and co-worker Capt. Salvatore "Flash" Faraci.

He is predeceased by three sisters, Antoinette Amara, Josephine Salonia, and Lena Hazuka and a brother, Diongi Rosano.

Relatives and friends called at the D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., on Thursday, May 20. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held today, Friday, May 21, at 12:30 p.m. at St. Sebastian Church, 155 Washington St., Middletown. Burial with military honors will be in the State Veteran's cemetery, Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Middletown Police Alumni Association, c/o Middletown Police Dept. Police Benevolent Assn., Main Street.

*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

The budget season is wrapping up here in *Rivereast*-land, and the numbers aren't good – the voter turnout numbers, that is.

Turnout rates ranged this year from a pathetic 12 percent in Portland to a still-too-low 25 percent in Colchester. In Marlborough, where they still vote on budgets at the antiquated annual town meeting, just 87 residents showed up to decide town spending for the next fiscal year.

I've said it before and it bears repeating: I don't get why more people don't show up to vote on town budgets, especially when said budget vote is handled at referendum, where taxpayers have all day to show up and cast a ballot. Turnouts are usually far greater for state and especially national elections, but in reality, your town budget is likely to have a more personal, and more immediate, impact on you – especially if you have children in the public school system or use town services or are simply a homeowner.

And while your vote always counts, in any type of election or referendum, it's particularly true when it comes to town budget votes. Since the turnouts for these things are always so low, a few votes one way or the other really *can* make a difference. So, really, get off your butt or carve the extra five or 10 minutes into your schedule, head down to your local polling place and cast your ballot. I've seen a lot of failed budget referendums over the years, and I can tell you one thing: when budgets get defeated, they almost always get cut. Rarely – if ever – does a proposed budget *increase* after voters shoot it down. It's something proponents of a proposed budget as well as those against it would do well to keep in mind.

I'm sure area town officials are thrilled another budget season, with its long nights, tough decisions and sometimes-contentious meetings, are behind them. (Well, okay, it's not quite behind them yet in Hebron.) But I'm sure they'd also like increased voter participation. When you've got turnouts like the one in Portland, where nearly nine out of every 10 registered voters couldn't be bothered to show up, it's tough to get a real sense of how the townspeople feel. It's typical to hear a town official lament after a budget referendum that they just wish more people had turned out to vote.

I do too. Maybe next year things will improve. I'm not looking for a super-high increase in voters; but when the area town with the highest turnout saw three-quarters of its voters stay home, well, that's just pretty sad. The voter apathy is alarming. And it needs to end.

\* \* \*

I was genuinely surprised last weekend

when NBC canceled *Law & Order*. I didn't watch it regularly or anything, and I knew that its ratings had been slipping these last few years, but I figured it had at least one more year in it. This season was the show's 20th – yes. 20th – and if it had stayed on just one more year it would have surpassed *Gunsmoke* as the longest-running TV drama of all time.

As I write this, there are rumors producer Dick Wolf is trying to find a cable channel to pick up the show, but I'm not sure that'll go anywhere; it rarely does (see *My Name is Earl*). Instead, NBC might give the show a two-hour movie or something next season to wrap up storylines and provide some closure, since the network just canceled the show last weekend, long after next Monday's season finale had been filmed.

Not that there are a ton of storylines to wrap up. That's one of *Law & Order*'s trademarks, and a trait it's passed on to other shows. *Law & Order* was all about the, well, law and order. It was about whatever case the detectives were investigating and the district attorneys were prosecuting that week. You knew next to nothing about the characters' personal lives. Sure, you might sneak some glimpses here and there, particularly if a character were on the show long enough (like Lenny Briscoe or Jack McCoy). But for the most part, the show kept you at arm's length from the characters; the cases were the thing. It was one of the reasons why *Law & Order* kept going strong despite the many, many cast changes it endured over the years.

When *Law & Order* debuted, it was rather unique in that respect. Most dramas were about the characters, to varying degrees. Sure, there were crises of the week, but there was also a fair amount of continuing storylines. As *Law & Order* grew more and more popular, though, its influence became noticeable, in series like *CSI* and *NCIS* and their respective spin-offs – and, of course, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* and *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*. In fact, there's probably not a crime drama on network TV today that doesn't show the influence of *Law & Order*. The show has truly left its mark.

I have no doubt the show will live on in reruns (there are well over 400 episodes, after all). But, just as it'll be strange when *The Simpsons* finally leaves the air, it's a little odd that there won't be new episodes of *Law & Order* next season. Like I said, though, you can't overlook its impact. “The show that changed television” may sound pretty hyperbolic, but in *Law & Order*'s case, it's totally accurate. That's not a bad little legacy to have.

\* \* \*

See you next week.