

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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East Hampton kids wait in line for one of Nick Connell's balloon animals at Sears Park last Saturday afternoon. Connell's creations were one of the highlights at the park's 100th Anniversary Celebration. The event drew many residents, who got to swim, listen to a live band and participate in a variety of activities.

## Sears Park Celebrates 100 Years

by Claire Michalewicz

For a century, East Hampton residents have been gathering at Sears Park to swim, socialize and relax, and last Saturday, the town hosted a special celebration for the park's 100th birthday.

All afternoon, the park was filled with people who came for food, swimming, a live band and a variety of children's activities, including a bounce house, face painting and balloon animals. Parks and Recreation Director Ruth Plummer said the event was a great success, and thanked her staff for all their work in keeping the event running smoothly. "And of course it's all contingent on the weather," she added.

Though there were thunderstorms in the area, the rain held off throughout the afternoon. With high humidity and temperatures around 90 degrees, jumping into the lake seemed to be a popular activity, though many swimmers said the water was still chilly. Wrapped in matching towels, sisters Jenna, Jordan and Amber Murphy said they enjoyed jumping in the water, and didn't think it was too cold.

"What a great day, huh?" asked Town Manager Jeff O'Keefe to the residents gathered in the park. O'Keefe spoke about the Sears Park Improvement Plan, which involves replacing the bath house, building a new amphitheater and

expanding the beach. Construction on the amphitheater, O'Keefe said, would hopefully start this summer. "We're very excited about Sears Park," he said.

Town Council member Thom Cordeiro also spoke, as did Richard Norkun, chairman of the Parks and Recreation advisory board. Explaining why the park was special to him, Cordeiro said he had learned to swim there, and had worked as a security guard there in high school. "We hope this park continues for another 100 years."

The idea for the park started in 1909, when three children of local resident Stephen Sears approached town government about donating a parcel of land on Lake Pocotopaug, said Dean Markham, an avid local amateur historian. Markham said the town formed a study committee, and voted to open the park in 1910.

The Sears family gave the town the land, under the conditions that the town spend at least \$100 on maintenance each year and never serve alcohol on the grounds. Though a Board of Trustees originally oversaw the park, it is now run by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Markham said the park had been expanded five times in the past century.

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## Alpert Looks Back at Senate Campaign

by Katy Nally

Although he didn't win, and actually voters never got their chance to back him, Merrick Alpert said he was glad he "was willing to take the risk."

The Colchester native ended his campaign for Chris Dodd's seat in the U.S. Senate Friday, May 21 at the Democratic Convention, when his Democratic opponent, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, was endorsed.

After his one-year campaign, Alpert said he learned the senate race came down to two things: money and "getting your name out there," he said Monday. "If you don't have the dollars to get your name on TV...that's it."

Currently, two candidates remain in the senate race, Blumenthal and Republican nominee Linda McMahon. Alpert said it was unfortunate both candidates, and the "likely two on the gubernatorial side" all live "within a five-mile radius" of each other in Greenwich.

Alpert, of Mystic, said the candidacy ultimately depends on "who gives the most campaign dollars."

When asked what he would have done with more money to continue the campaign, Alpert laughed and said "stay tuned."

"There's something in the future, but I'm not sure what that 'something' is," he said.

That 'something' might be funded by his next plan, which is to find "distressed" companies "in need of leadership" and to invest in them.

But, despite his campaign's financial short-

comings, Alpert said his "real takeaway" from his experience was learning "the greatness in Connecticut and the country does not lie in elected officials." Instead, while out at towns across the state, Alpert said he enjoyed meeting "small business folks," who might be "scraping to get by," but still manage to support and give back to their communities.

He gave the example of a group that helps the unemployed in Connecticut. Alpert spoke at one of these meetings and met suburban, middle class people who were facing tough financial times.

"You realize the economy in the world is changing against them," Alpert said.

The volunteers and community activists he encountered were helping others with "no self-promotion," Alpert said.

"It's just a group of people who saw a problem in their community...and decided to help," he said. "That to me, is what's uplifting."

Alpert said this selflessness was sharply contrasted to many politicians who participate in similar volunteer work, but publicize and announce their initiatives with flyers, press releases and press conferences.

"That's the takeaway - meeting those people and understanding the best work that's being done is not being done by the government," he said.

Alpert, a businessman, never held public office. His political background includes work-

ing as a delegate for former President Bill Clinton to the Democratic National Convention and the Presidential Inaugural Committee, working as an advance for former Vice President Al Gore and as a policy adviser for the former governor of Oklahoma David Walters.

In meeting the individuals who shaped their communities, Alpert said the downside was realizing it would be difficult for these people to obtain office and later legislate.

"Having one of these good folks run - it's financially [prohibitive]," he said. "The insurmountable hurdle is money."

And money was not the only factor that influenced Alpert's campaign. During his year-long effort, Alpert said some Democratic town committees did not return his calls, and the state Democratic Party did not allow him to speak at the convention.

"We should modify the rules to open up the process," he said. "I think it is crucial in going forward...as a party...that we be much more welcoming and embracing of candidates who are not the established candidate."

But, Alpert said, while some told him not to be surprised by his party's actions, and that "the house always wins," he remained optimistic.

Even after his party endorsed Blumenthal, Alpert said his optimism endured, and he too publicly supported his former opponent. Alpert said he did so to keep his word about supporting his party and because "It's me - I fight hard,



Former Colchester resident Merrick Alpert ended his campaign for U.S. Senate May 21.

but at the end of the day, it's a democracy," he said.

After the convention, Alpert said other politicians acknowledged his "class." "There were

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### Sears Park cont. from Front Page

“I think it’s interesting that I’ve seen it progress and improve over the years,” Markham said. “I wish we could have expanded it more,” he said, adding that the park’s biggest shortcoming was its lack of parking. Normally, to park in the lot, residents need a special sticker on their car, which costs \$10 a year and is only available to East Hampton residents. But for the special celebration on Saturday, Plummer said, employees weren’t checking stickers.

“I think it’s been good. Nice and relaxing and fun,” said Heather Holbrook, one of the co-directors of the park’s summer camp, who was overseeing some of the activities on Saturday. “I’ve seen a lot of kids with smiles on their faces.”

Mixed in along the fun and games, the East Hampton Rotary Club was at the event to deal with a more serious matter. The club was photographing children for the Amber Alert program, which issues cards with the child’s photo and important identifying information, and enters the information into a computer database

that police can access. Ashley Russell, who was taking pictures and putting together the cards, said the cards could be a huge help in finding a missing child, and said she had distributed about 30 of them that afternoon.

Nick Connell’s balloon animals were one of the main attractions at the party. As he drew spots on a balloon giraffe, Connell estimated that he had created between 150 and 200 pieces of balloon art that day, and noted that the kids at this event had been unusually well behaved as they waited in line for his creations. “It’s a gorgeous day,” he added.

Brandishing a balloon sword and dinosaur, Tyler and Ella Khongkham both said they liked the bounce house the best of all the events at the park. Their father, Kham, said he didn’t come to the park that often, but the whole family had enjoyed the day.

Tim Murphy, father of Jenna, Jordan and Amber, agreed. “We had a blast,” Murphy said. “It’s great just to see them have fun.”

### Alpert cont. from Front Page

a lot of folks who said ‘wow,’” he said.

Alpert and Blumenthal had their own history on the campaign trail. On March 1, the two debated, with Alpert regularly on the attack.

“I had a lot of fun,” Alpert said through laughs. “I’m not sure my friend the attorney general had a lot of fun.”

Alpert said the debate was his chance to show voters he was not the typical politician. On March 1, he said viewers saw someone “who’s real, and humble...and chokes up about his wife and kids.”

Although he threw in the towel early, Alpert still said “I’m glad I did it.”

“I did everything I could, but I wasn’t able to get the outcome I wanted,” he added.

But, the former candidate won’t sit still for long. “For me, the key is you’ve got to be involved,” Alpert said. “You have to keep pushing.”

## Exit Poll Indicates Many Hebron Voters Feel School Spending Too Low

by Lindsay Fetzner

The results of an exit poll conducted by Board of Education (BOE) member Mark Allaben at last week’s referendum revealed that a large number of voters felt the general government side of the \$33.66 million budget approved at referendum June 1 was suitable but the school board portion was too low.

Late last month, the Board of Finance (BOF) voted to cut both the general government and the BOE budget to bring them to zero percent increases from the current year. The move was somewhat controversial, particularly the BOE reduction, and in the days leading up to the referendum several residents urged people to vote ‘no,’ deeming the reduced school spending package too low.

Out of the 354 who completed the exit poll, 148 said the school budget was ‘too low,’ 117 felt it was ‘about right’ and 89 said it was ‘too high.’ In terms of the town budget, 99 said it was ‘too low,’ 180 said it was ‘about right’ and 75 felt it was ‘too high.’ There were a total of 240 ‘yes’ votes and 119 ‘no’ votes.

Allaben, a seven-year member of the BOE, conducted the poll independently as a means to gauge residents’ thoughts on the budget. His motivation came from residents at past town

meetings, who voiced that a poll should be completed, coupled with the fact that the town was not administering one.

Last week at the referendum, Allaben said, “it is very difficult for elected officials to understand from a yes/no vote.” As a result, Allaben polled voters to gain “a little more information.”

On Monday, Allaben distributed the results from last week’s poll to local town officials, along with the conclusions he drew from it.

“The results of the exit polls were consistent with the actual vote,” he said this week. According to Allaben, the referendum votes from June 1 were about 60 percent ‘yes’ and 40 percent ‘no’ votes. The poll closely mirrored these statistics, with approximately 67 percent ‘yes’ and 33 percent ‘no’ votes, Allaben said. He also added that “people who voted ‘yes’ were more inclined to talk than people who voted ‘no.’”

Allaben pointed out that there was “strong support” for more education spending. “If you look at the number of folks who said the school spending was too low, this was different than the number of folks who said the town spend-

ing was about right.” Those who said the school budget was too low totaled 148 and those that thought the town spending was about right were 180.

“I do think that individuals who supported more spending on the schools will be a bit encouraged by the results,” he said. “The results show strong support for education in Hebron, even in these difficult times. The BOE needs to continue its fiscally responsible ways and continue to stress high student achievement.”

Out of the 240 voting in favor of the proposed budget, 30 residents said the town and education budget was ‘too low.’ Those who felt the town budget was ‘too low’ but the school budget was ‘about right’ totaled seven. Three said the town budget was ‘too low’ but the school budget was ‘too high.’

Forty-eight voters said the town budget was ‘about right’ but the local school budget was ‘too low.’ Seventy-two said the town and school budgets were ‘about right,’ while 30 said the school budget was ‘too high’ while the town budget was ‘about right.’

Forty-seven people who voted ‘yes’ said the town budget was ‘too high,’ but out of that fig-

ure, six said the school budget was ‘too low.’ Another six felt the school budget was ‘about right.’ Thirty-five said it was ‘too high.’

Out of the 119 ‘no’ voters, 59 felt the town budget was too low. Inclusive of that number were 31 who said the school budget was ‘too low,’ 26 who said it was ‘about right’ and the remaining two said it was ‘too high.’

Thirty residents said the town budget was ‘about right.’ Out of that figure, 20 said the school budget was ‘too low,’ three felt it was ‘about right’ and seven said it was ‘too high.’

Out of the 28 voters who said the town budget was ‘too high,’ 13 said the BOE budget was ‘too low,’ three felt it was ‘about right’ and 12 said it was ‘too high.’

Although there were a total of 240 ‘yes’ votes and 119 ‘no’s, that number is inclusive of three unknown votes in favor and two unknown votes against, counted toward the grand totals.

Allaben said the poll was conducted outside of the 75-foot perimeter at Hebron Elementary School last Tuesday, on the hill between the upper and lower parking lots. He polled residents from approximately 6 a.m.-6 p.m., retreating twice due to heavy rain.

## Longtime Marlborough Pediatrician Retires After 32 Years

by Katy Nally

In a “bittersweet” farewell, pediatrician Dr. Peter Hine will leave his practice at the end of the month, after working in town for 32 years.

Parents and children most likely recognize Hine’s office near the firehouse at 5 Hebron Rd., as it’s been there since 1982. Before that, Hine worked in the Marlborough Commons.

The pediatrician has been in practice so long, some of the first children he saw are now parents who bring their children in. “They must find some kind of value here,” Hine said modestly. “We try to do our best.”

Even out-of-towners, as far away as Mystic, travel to Marlborough for their family pediatrician.

After he retires, Hine said he’ll miss the children most of all. “The kids are what make my day,” he said. In particular, Hine said children’s “honesty” usually makes him smile.

As a pediatrician, Hine said he doesn’t tend to wear a white coat, because it can be intimidating for kids. During exams, he said he “gets down on their level,” to “make them feel more comfortable,” and proceeds with tests from least to most intrusive.

Besides exams, Hine said he tries to instill

good health habits in his patients and ultimately improve their lives.

When first starting out as a doctor, Hine said his goals were to “have a small multi-doctor practice with a close association with hospitals” and to teach medical school students. In his 32 years, he accomplished both.

A typical day for Hine begins with a visit to Connecticut Children’s Hospital or Hartford Hospital to check on patients or newborns. Then he returns to Marlborough to handle appointments.

Hine also works as an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. He said this program allows students to get out and see patients “right from the get-go,” something he wasn’t able to do as a med student.

Hine, a father of three, began his medical career working seven jobs at four hospitals across the state, doing “anything to put food on the table.”

Eventually he became a charter member of ProHealth Physicians, which his practice in Marlborough is part of.

Working with Hine is fellow doctor Carrie

Streim, three nurses, a nurse’s assistant, an office manager and a receptionist. “I think we have a great crew here,” he said. But, he said, he has yet to find someone to fill his shoes.

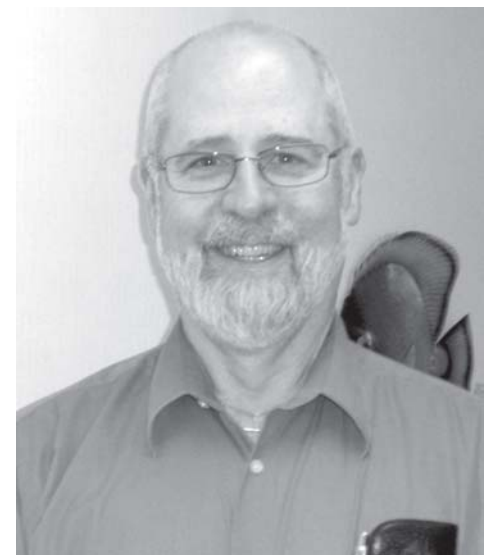
On Monday, several staff members said they would be sad to see Hine leave June 24. “I’ve seen no sighs of relief,” Hine said jokingly.

In addition to retiring as a pediatrician, Hine also left his job as a school medical adviser this year. Since he’s worked in town, he was the adviser for schools in Marlborough, Hebron and Andover, including both RHAM schools.

When the H1N1 virus hit Connecticut, Hine said he advised nurses at the various area schools on how to combat the pandemic. Although the virus spread rapidly, Hine said he was fortunate that none of his patients were hospitalized.

As his career winds down, and visions of his retirement in Maine are on the horizon, Hine’s office will still continue to bustle with smiling staff and small children, however the atmosphere won’t be the same in his absence.

“It’s bittersweet,” Hine said.



**Local families and children will soon say goodbye to their family pediatrician, Dr. Peter Hine, who will retire at the end of June after working in town for 32 years.**



*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

The annual Major League Baseball player draft was this past Monday – the Mets took pitcher Matt Harvey with their first pick, in case you were wondering (humor me) – and it got me to thinking: what’s up with A.J. Pollock?

As some you may recall, it was a year ago at this time that Pollock, a Hebron native and 2006 RHAM High School graduate (he helped lead the Sachems to a state championship in 2004), was the 17th pick in the MLB draft, selected by the Arizona Diamondbacks. It was the earliest a Connecticut resident had ever been drafted by MLB.

Since then, it’s been a year of ups and downs for A.J. After signing a contract with the D-Backs late last June, the 22-year-old was assigned to the Class A South Bend (Indiana) Silver Hawks. He made 277 plate appearances for South Bend, and batted .271 with three homers and 22 runs batted in. He then played in the Arizona Fall League, where he reportedly impressed with his plate discipline and fielding skills. (Pollock’s a former shortstop, but now plays center field.) He went to spring training this year and continued to impress.

One of those people A.J. impressed was, not surprisingly, his proud mom, Karen. A.J. made an appearance in the late innings of a Diamondbacks spring training game in late March. It was his very first big-league at bat and, since the game was broadcast on the MLB Network, the Pollock family was able to watch as A.J. stroked a double to the wall. “It was a blast,” Karen said. “It was just awesome to see him on TV.”

Not long after that, unfortunately, A.J. was injured making a sliding catch. During the slide, he put his arm out to brace himself and fractured the growth plate in his elbow. Surgery was required, and, Karen said, he’s currently rehabbing in Tuscon, AZ. By next month, he can start throwing again, and at the moment he can run and is “keeping himself busy with other kinds of training,” Karen said. “He’s grateful to do as much as he can.”

Karen said A.J., who earlier this year was ranked by *Baseball America* as the number three prospect in the Diamondbacks organization, is “very pleased with how [the team is] working with him.”

A.J. is “really on the mend,” Karen added. “Things are going successfully, but not as fast as he’d like it to be.” Karen also said that once his injury is healed, the doctors are saying the elbow “should be stronger than ever.”

A.J. has dealt with injuries before. During his junior year at RHAM, Karen said, A.J. had a lot of injuries that “were growth-related, because he was growing so fast.” While there were no arm or elbow injuries, Karen said her son had lower back pain and broke his foot twice. But “even when he was hurt, a lot of times he was playing.” In fact, she said, he even wound up playing for six weeks with a broken foot.

It sounds like one of the toughest things for A.J. is to just be patient. “I would say he definitely wants to be playing,” Karen said. “Since his junior year in high school he’s never not played. He’s anxious to play.”

It’s no surprise A.J. wants to get back to the diamond; it’s a place where he’s had a lot of success over the years. A.J. was named the Gatorade Connecticut Player of the Year in 2006, when he batted .462 with four homers and 27 RBI. He was named to the All-Big East team his sophomore and junior seasons at the University of Notre Dame. And in the summer of 2008, he led the Cape Cod League in hits (61), while finishing second in the league in batting (.377). He was named MVP of the league, an honor that, before him, had been bestowed to such current Major League stars as Evan Longoria, Carlos Pena and Jason Varitek.

Pollock’s no stranger to baseball success. And I’m sure he’ll be no stranger to success on the big league level, either. It’s just a matter of time.

\* \* \*

Speaking of baseball, it seems late last week everybody was talking about the perfect game that wasn’t. You know the one: last Wednesday, the Tigers’ Armando Galarraga

had retired 26 straight Indians in a row. The 27th one grounded to first, the first baseman threw the ball to Galarraga covering the bag, but umpire Jim Joyce called the runner safe. Replays showed the runner was out – in fact, it wasn’t even all that close – but the call stood, as there is no replay for plays like that in baseball. The only way the call could have been overturned is if Joyce had asked for an umpire consultation, and the other umps ruled against him. But he didn’t do that, since he really did feel – at the time anyway – that the runner was safe. (After the game, Joyce saw the replay, and it was a different story. He was very apologetic for costing Galarraga his perfect game, and even cried about it.)

Almost immediately, there was a call for baseball commissioner Bud Selig to reverse the call. There is historical precedent for the commissioner’s office to decide what constitutes a perfect game. In 1991, a committee established that for a game to be perfect, a pitcher must retire at least 27 batters in a row, and complete the game without allowing a single batter to reach base. This wiped out a 1959 “perfect game” in which the starting pitcher had pitched 12 straight innings of no-run, no-hit ball before giving up a base hit. It also wiped out a 1917 game in which a pitcher by the name of Babe Ruth walked the leadoff batter and was ejected for arguing the call. A relief pitcher was then brought in with none out and a runner on first. The runner was caught stealing, and the relief pitcher went on to retire all 26 men he faced. Not really a perfect game, but it was classified as such until 1991.

However, Selig opted to let the call stand, and instead put out a statement saying expanding instant replay would be considered more closely. (Currently, replay only exists to help determine if a ball is actually a home run or not.) And while many baseball fans were disgusted, I do understand why the commissioner isn’t going to reverse the call. That’s quite the Pandora’s box he could be opening.

Umpires are human, and they occasionally blow calls. It’s a part of baseball and, more importantly, it’s a part of baseball history. Blown calls can occur in early April and can occur in late October, and can have great impact on teams’ entire seasons. It’s been 14 years, and I still think that 1996 Orioles-Yankees series would have ended far differently had the ump agreed with everyone else on the planet and ruled that Jeffrey Maier interfered with that fly ball hit by Jeter. (Who knows, perhaps we could’ve been spared the horror of all those Yankee championships.)

I’m sure there are lots of people who feel lots of calls over the years should be reversed. And some of them may even involve perfect games or no-hitters. Should we go back and review all of those too? That’s an awful lot of baseball to review. (Also: keep in mind, one of the things that makes Joyce’s blown call stand out so much is that it was the last out of the game. Had it occurred in the second or third inning, and then Galarraga continued to retire every batter he faced, ending the game with a one-hitter, would there be this much uproar? Probably not.)

I’m sure Galarraga is disappointed, and I would be too if I were him. Still, he’s handled the whole thing with a lot of grace. And, as I’ve heard a couple people say since this whole thing happened, he can take comfort in knowing that he’s far more famous now than he would have been had Joyce not blown the call.

\* \* \*

That bastion of enlightened thinking, Sarah Palin (and yes, I’m being sarcastic), has spoken out about the oil spill in the Gulf. And, according to her, it’s the environmentalists’ fault.

Yep, that’s right; the environmentalists.

In a note posted last week to her Facebook page, Palin wrote that because those nasty friends of the Earth have pushed for more regulations regarding on-shore drilling, companies like BP have been forced to drill deeper in the places where they *can* drill.

In what she called a “message to extreme ‘environmentalists’”, Palin wrote, “Extreme deep water drilling is not the preferred choice to meet our country’s energy needs, but your

protests and lawsuits and lies about onshore and shallow water drilling have locked up safer areas. It’s catching up with you. The tragic, unprecedented deep water Gulf oil spill proves it.”

Ah, so that’s it. It couldn’t be the fault of BP, could it? (By the way, Palin’s husband Todd worked for BP for 18 years.) Nope, it’s those wacky tree-huggers, doing more harm than good. Thanks for clearing that one up, Ms. Palin.

Palin closes her Facebook note by writing,

“Radical environmentalists: you are damaging the planet with your efforts to lock up safer drilling areas. There’s nothing clean and green about your misguided, nonsensical radicalism, and Americans are on to you as we question your true motives.”

The only thing I question is what the McCain campaign was smoking two years ago when it thought this woman would make a good vice president.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Hebron BOE Hears Zero-Percent Recommendations

by Lindsay Fetzner

Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz presented members of the Board of Education (BOE) with a list of recommended budget cuts to total \$127,239 at a subcommittee meeting last Thursday.

Last month, the Board of Finance (BOF) cut the school board's 2010-11 budget by that amount to get it \$11.716 million, a zero percent increase from current year spending. The budget was passed by voters at a June 1 referendum.

"The purpose of the meeting is not to make decisions," BOE member Brian O'Reilly said, but rather to "look at possible ways to bring the budget down to zero."

Cruz stressed the "importance of staying close to our goals and missions" and gauging the impact that any cuts would have on the students. She said the board's recommendations "helped us frame decisions that we hoped moving forward the board would consider."

In April, when the BOF first cut the school board's proposed budget by \$177,649, the board voted to cut one Challenge & Enrichment (C&E) teacher at Gilead Hill School, one night custodian, one fourth-grade teaching position, one paraprofessional, supplies and professional development. The cuts totaled \$177,649.

On May 6, two days after the first referendum attempt to pass the budget proved unsuccessful, the BOF further cut the BOE budget by \$48,500. This move was done in an effort to curb the expansion of all-day kindergarten due to overwhelming public outcry. As a result, the BOE voted 6-1 on May 10 not to expand the program and consequently, one teaching position was eliminated in that program. The budget sat at a 1.09 percent increase after the re-

duction.

The BOE did not make any reductions to music, Spanish or technology.

After the budget failed at referendum for the second time on May 18, the BOF voted 4-2 for the \$127,239 cut.

On Thursday, Cruz presented several options for the board to consider to reach the \$11.716 million budget. The list did not represent any prioritization.

Cuts in insurance for non-certified staff (\$5,611) and certified staff (\$6,748) totaled a savings of \$12,359. This amount was inclusive for the entire year.

The behavior analyst, a contracted service, would be reduced from three days to two days for a reduction of \$17,040. "Services will be maintained as close as possible," Cruz said, and added that the analyst would be available for an extra day if needed.

Due to conservation efforts and the large impact they have had, Cruz recommended cutting electricity by \$15,000. She said she is "communicating to the public and staff to continue to conserve," and efforts as simple as shutting off the lights are "making a difference."

Cruz suggested reducing telephones by \$4,000, due to a lower usage.

A total of \$6,000 was proposed for cuts to advertising, printing, binding, postage, audio-visual supplies and office supplies. "We took little pieces from each area," Cruz said, adding that staff in central office will "tighten [their] belts" to "make sure [they] are conserving as much as [they] can."

Cruz said using the "e-notify" e-mail notification system to communicate with parents and community members has had an impact in this

area, and hopes to expand on this effort by including more parents.

The next recommended reduction was general insurance savings, for a total of \$7,723. Cruz said there were contract and co-pay changes that prompted this reduction.

An area of concern that Cruz said "has come up fairly frequently" is substitutes. Cruz said interns from the University of Hartford are less expensive per day than substitutes. Three interns have been budgeted for, but \$11,000 can be saved if that number is reduced to two.

Cruz proposed a reduction to Spanish supplies in the amount of \$8,500. The supplies are not for the classroom, but materials that would expand the program. The Spanish department, Cruz said, "will get the normal supply allotment any other program will get."

Reducing one support staff from 1.0 FTE to .5 FTE was proposed, for a total savings of \$8,260.

Cruz also mentioned secretarial positions. "District-wide, we looked at reducing by one full-time position and reducing hours in another position," Cruz said. "None of these are ideal. Our secretaries are important for the smooth running of the building." Savings in this area totals \$27,316 for the reduction of one secretary and \$1,379 for reducing hours in the other position. This figure included the net of unemployment and insurance benefits.

BOE member Stephanie Raymond suggested that parent volunteers come into the office and offer assistance. Cruz added that although it was a good idea, "sometimes it's not always reliable."

In her final recommendation, Cruz suggested pre-buying paper, utilizing the \$27,000 surplus,

in an effort to reduce the paper line by \$8,662. This surplus is due in part to many factors, but the warm winter left the school with oil left over. Conservation efforts also helped. Although Cruz said it is not a "good practice to get into," buying the paper with this year's money and storing it for next year was proposed.

Cruz also discussed reducing the number of buses with board members. She suggested "being creative with the routes" but due to the fact that buses are shared with RHAM, it "gets very complicated." Going forward, Cruz said this is an area she will revisit, but a consensus on the topic was not raised before the meeting was held.

Since the beginning of the budget process in December, the total staff positions to be cut are one custodian, one secretary, three paraprofessionals, one classroom teacher and one C&E teacher. According to Cruz, positions that will be reduced in hours are one paraprofessional to .5 and one secretary by 2.5 hours per week.

Cruz said with the recommendations put forth to the board, "we were trying hard not to impact programs." The goal was to be "balanced in our decisions" and to not focus on "one area vs. another," she said.

O'Reilly added that he thought, "we listened to the community while still maintaining our goals and objectives." He said in addition to those factors, not impacting the children "as best as we possibly could" was a major priority in deciding where to make the cuts.

The BOE did not vote on any of the recommendations. Further discussion on the budget was planned for its June 10 meeting, which occurred after press time.

## Hebron Resident Killed in Crash

A Hebron man was killed last Friday, June 4, as a result of a one-car accident on Route 85, State Police said.

Stephen St. John, 63, of 80 Wildflower Dr., was driving his 1999 RX300 Lexus SUV in the area of London Road when he went off the roadway, toward the right shoulder and into the woods, State Police said. He "made contact with trees" located off the road around 6:50 p.m. on Friday evening, State Police said. St. John was driving southbound.

It is unknown whether St. John was wearing his seatbelt, according to police. The crash is still under investigation.

St. John's obituary appears this week on page 6.

## Hebron Selectmen Accept Grant for Peters House

by Lindsay Fetzner

In a 4-1 vote, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) last Thursday, June 3, accepted a \$200,000 state grant for restoration to the Peters House on East Street.

"I feel we're moving in the right direction," said BOS Chair Jeff Watt. He added that he felt the selectmen were making a decision within the parameters for renovations they had decided upon in February.

The town purchased the Peters House in August 2004. At the Feb. 4 BOS meeting, the board voted to finalize and retain ownership of the home, as well as take the next steps in restoration.

Last year, the town was awarded a \$200,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant for the house and earlier this year it received a \$35,000 grant from the 1772 Foundation.

Selectmen Brian O'Connell, Gayle Mulligan and Dan Larson agreed with Watt, and felt moving forward with the Peters House was a step in the right direction.

"Every day, every week [the house is] falling into further disrepair," Larson said. "That house has history. To not save it, I feel, would be criminal."

Mulligan, too, said she was "standing behind [her] decision from the very beginning."

But it was BOS member Mark Stuart who did not share the sentiments of his fellow board members. Stuart said some residents "leading

the anti-taxpayer anti-community" are the same group of people who are "now asking for taxpayer funds to restore this property." He called it "a circle," where people want to "hold the line on taxes" but "turn around and ask for taxpayers to fund this property."

Stuart said he did not feel the property would become a "tourist attraction," but rather "is a waste of public money."

During public comment, resident Dave Morrison urged the BOS to move forward with renovations and work on the house, shedding light on the numerous studies completed on the house over the years. "Press on," he said. "Let's get this job going."

BL Companies LLC of Meriden was awarded the bid for the architectural and engineering work on the house in the amount of \$21,600. (Services total \$18,600 with an additional \$3,000 fee for bidding and negotiation services.) BL Companies was one of four bids the town received, and was the lowest bidder in the group.

The work outlined on the request for services included window restoration, siding and trim restoration, interior restoration, a new interior stairway, a new accessible toilet facility, compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), energy conservation and structural evaluation and recommendation of the building.

Also at last Thursday's meeting, the BOS

awarded three Parks and Recreation bids. The first bid was granted to GM Industries for the purchase and installation of a photo solar cell at the Burnt Hill Park building. The cost of the project is \$58,150, which will be paid for through bond. A reimbursement for the purchase and installation in the amount of \$51,732 will be received. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said purchasing a 10.5-Kilowatt system was recommended due to greater efficiency and energy savings. Energy use is estimated to be reduced by 67 percent.

"It will save us a lot with energy," Therrien said. "So it's well worth it."

The second bid for field work at Hebron Elementary School was awarded to Midstate Excavation for \$28,500. The field behind the playscape will be expanded for recreational use.

The final bid was for different materials for the elementary school project, including silt and gravel fill, sand, top soil, stone dust, and crushed stone. DiSiato Sand and Gravel was awarded \$50,000, Rawson Materials for \$28,000, Manchester Recycling for \$10,000 and Baldi's Stone and Gravel for \$20,000. Some of the stone dust purchased for the project will also be used for the Airline Trail.

"Thanks to the Parks and Rec. for working really hard," O'Connell said. "Green energy is really where we need to go."

Also at the meeting, the BOS awarded GEC

Construction Inc. with a bid for \$72,343 for new sidewalks on routes 66 and 85. According to Therrien, the project is already in the capital project funding and added that grant money is available to assist in completing the project. Due to funding issues, sidewalks from Marjorie Circle to the Town Office Building will not be completed.

The board also appointed Michael Harder to the Conservation Commission. A 32-year retiree from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Harder said he "wanted to bring the experience to the town level."

One of Harder's interests is recycling, which he said he is currently working with Public Works Director Andy Tierney on, in an effort to "beef up" the program. Harder is aiming to make "town residents more aware of what can be recycled and what the requirements are."

"Thank you for stepping forward and offering your services," Mulligan said, adding that Harder will be "a great addition to the commission."

Larson said in light of the recent discussions regarding the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) and the town's contract set to expire in 2012, it is a "fantastic time to have [Harder] on board."

The next scheduled BOS meeting is slated for Thursday, June 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office Building.



# Portland Welcomes Home One of Its Own

by Claire Michalewicz

Portland warmly welcomed a returning veteran back to his hometown in a special ceremony held at Veterans Memorial Park Tuesday morning.

U.S. Army Sergeant Mitchell Foreman, who just returned from a year in Afghanistan, received a proclamation in recognition of his service.

"He's now a member of a very, very special group here in town," said Veterans Affairs Commission (VAC) member Bill Willinsky, introducing Foreman during the ceremony. "Welcome home, Mitch. We're very proud of you."

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield explained that she is a longtime friend of Foreman's parents and sometimes used to babysit him when he was a child. "I feel a little bit of parentage here," she said with a smile before presenting him with a proclamation in recognition of his service. "It's a great honor to be able to read this proclamation today for his friends and family."

Bransfield added that the rest of the selectmen, and the town's employees and residents, also sent their congratulations. State Representative Jim O'Rourke was unable to attend the ceremony, but later drove to Foreman's house to present him with a special citation from the state.

After accepting the town's proclamation, Foreman sounded emotional as he thanked the town and those in attendance. "I'd like to thank everyone who served before me," he said. "The thanks and award is as much yours as it is mine."

Foreman's parents, Anna and Bill Foreman, the town's former Youth Services director, were at the ceremony with their son to accept the proclamation, and said they were relieved to have him home safely.

"The only thing I wanted was a hug," said Anna Foreman, about seeing her son come home after a year at war. Anna said she was relieved to have her son home safely, and she hosted a huge party the day before the ceremony to welcome him home.

"He really is so good inside and out," she

said. She added that military service had changed him, but only in positive ways. "I didn't think it was possible, but we got an improved Mitch."

The proud mother also joked Foreman was her "new favorite" of her four children. While his three older siblings were unable to attend the ceremony, several other friends and family members were on hand.

Foreman, 27, said that joining the military was a lifelong goal, adding that he was inspired by his grandfathers, who both fought in World War II, and by a close family friend who served in Vietnam.

"It was just something I always wanted to do," he said. "I knew it was definitely a decision I wouldn't regret."

His mother agreed, saying that even as a child, Foreman showed a strong interest in the military and law enforcement. When he was about 8 or 10, she said, he and several friends started a police club, which she said they took seriously. Anna said her son and his friends would save their allowance to buy index cards, which they would use to create profiles of criminals.

In Afghanistan, Foreman served with the 410th Military Police company, based at Bagram Airfield in Parwan Province, directly north of Kabul. The company, Foreman said, mainly worked to assist with local elections and train the Afghan police forces. He said the experience was rewarding, though it was a major culture shock to him when he first got there.

The war itself, Foreman added, was a "work in progress."

"Like any other war," he said, "it's not really won or lost. It'll just die down, or start up again."

Foreman enlisted in 2006, and spent a year stationed at Camp Humphreys in South Korea before going to Afghanistan. Now, he's returning to Fort Hood in Texas, where he'll serve with the military police on the base until he's discharged next spring.

"Then I want to start the rest of my life,"



U.S. Army Sergeant Mitch Foreman, who recently returned from Afghanistan, was welcomed back to Portland with a ceremony at Town Hall Tuesday morning. He is shown here with his mother, Anna, father, Bill, and girlfriend, Jamie Casillo.

Foreman said. He said that it was difficult for him to split his efforts between his family and the Army, so he was looking forward to returning home. He hopes to put his military and police training to work, possibly joining the National Guard and pursuing a career in aviation, possibly flying helicopters for the state troopers or FBI.

"She stuck it out for a whole year," Foreman said, gesturing at his girlfriend of two years, Jamie Casillo.

"Why wouldn't I?" Casillo responded, adding that Foreman looked handsome in uniform. While he was in Afghanistan, she said, they kept in touch regularly by e-mail and phone, which

she said made the distance easier to handle.

"It's very important that we do this to welcome the veterans home," said Bransfield. She added that the VAC worked hard to hold a ceremony for each returning veteran, something she said few other towns do. Willinsky said the VAC started honoring returning veterans a few years ago, and Foreman was the 22nd one.

Family members said they were grateful to the town for hosting the ceremony, and added that they were proud of Foreman for serving in the army.

"He's doing great," said his uncle, John McMillan. "But we always knew he would."

# Longtime Portland Friends Now PHS Top Scholars

by Claire Michalewicz

Keenan Kelley and Chris Huebner first met on a basketball court, and next week, they'll be walking across the Portland High School soccer field. That's where they'll be graduating as, respectively, the Class of 2010's valedictorian and salutatorian.

Keenan and Chris met each other in third grade, when they played basketball against each other. "That's where we first clashed," said Chris, the salutatorian. He and Keenan, he explained, are both "very competitive."

Over the years, that sense of competition has evolved into a friendship. In sixth grade, he said, they started spending more time together, eating lunch with the same group of classmates and meeting up outside of school. In high school, they grew even closer, since they took many classes together.

"We've found ourselves doing the same things," Chris said. Both ran cross country in high school, and both played trumpet in the band. These activities, they said, gave them some of their favorite memories of high school.

"It's like a family community," Keenan said of the cross country team, adding that the past season was particularly memorable. "It was a good way to go out."

"I had a lot of friends doing it, and I made a lot of friends," Chris said. Band was also where Chris and Keenan met Kristin Novak, whom they both singled out as one of their favorite teachers at the school.

"She's just a great teacher," said Chris. "She's always ready to play. You can tell that she loves music, and loves people."

The two also called Bob Miles, their English teacher for the past two years, another major influence. "He's trying to get kids prepared," Chris said, "not just for college, but for life and

everything that entails."

Keenan agreed, adding that after Miles' class, he frequently found himself thinking about things that had never occurred to him before. "He's like a pillar of PHS," he said. "He defines a lot of PHS."

Chris said another important teacher was Marietta Shlein, a Spanish teacher, who he said opened him up to new cultural experiences. For Keenan, Patricia Ponko was also influential, helping him with both his academic work and his run for class president.

In the fall, Keenan plans to attend the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA, where he'll do a double major in political science and economics. He said he plans to go to law school afterward, but added that his plans may change.

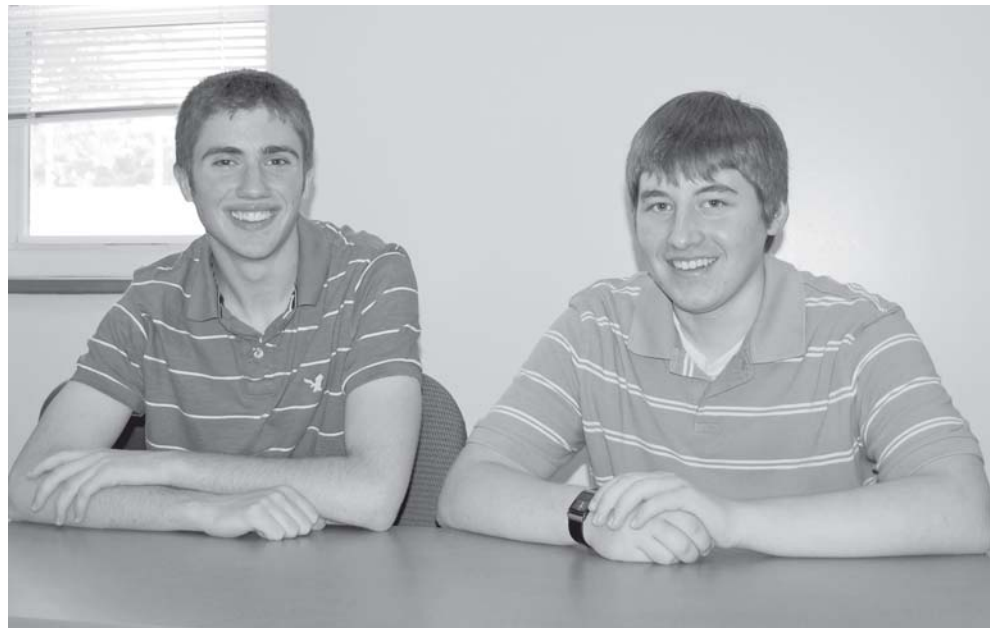
"We'll just see where it takes me," he said.

Chris will be headed to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., but that's as far ahead as he's planned. He said he's thinking about majoring in psychology, and is interested in being a writer, but he's still undecided. "Right now it's very vague," he said.

Keenan and Chris say they have mixed feelings about leaving Portland – on one hand, they're excited about college, but on the other, they'll miss their high school and hometown. They both said that growing up in a small town, they've made many close friends.

"We've been going to school for 13 years together, and now we're not," Chris said. "We always expect to come back here. It'll be weird to not identify yourself as a Portland Highlander."

"I've had some amazing opportunities, and met some amazing people," said Keenan. He added that he might not have had those same



Portland High School valedictorian Keenan Kelley, left, and salutatorian Chris Huebner have been friends since third grade. In high school, the two took many classes together, and both also ran cross country and played trumpet in the school's jazz band.

opportunities at a larger high school, where he wouldn't have been able to form such close relationships with teachers and fellow students. "I'm very thankful for all I've had," he said.

Looking back on high school, both said they're happy with their experiences, and with the choices they made. If they could do it again, they both agreed, they wouldn't do anything different.

Keenan said he's excited about moving on to college, and being able to take more chal-

lenging classes. Chris agreed. "There's a sense of eagerness to get out," he said.

But before they move on to college, they still have one last high school project – their speeches at next Tuesday's graduation ceremony. Both Keenan and Chris say they'll have their speeches ready for the event, but neither wanted to give any indication of what they might be talking about.

"We'll save it for then," Chris said with a smile.



# Still No Answers Regarding East Hampton Harassment Claims

by Claire Michalewicz

The concern over a recent harassment investigation at Town Hall intensified at Tuesday's Town Council meeting, as residents and State Representative Gail Hamm said they felt the investigation was mishandled.

In April, the town received complaints from three employees, claiming that a "senior town official" had harassed them. The Town Council hired a lawyer, Mark Sommaruga, to investigate the claims. Sommaruga presented his report to the council in a closed-doors executive session, and the council voted to take no action on the issue.

Sue Weintraub was the only member of the council who voted against hiring Sommaruga, pointing out he had done work with the town before and had helped write the employee handbook, and thus presented a conflict of interest. She said the accused employee should have been granted a leave of absence while the matter was investigated, and that investigators should have confidentially interviewed every town employee.

Town officials have not released details about the investigation, including the names of the employees involved and the nature of the complaints.

At the meeting, Gail Hamm, the town's state representative, came forward with a letter addressed to the Town Council, which she read aloud.

"My phone has been ringing off the hook," Hamm said, with calls from concerned residents who worried that the town was mishandling the investigation. She said she had been unable to get much information from the town about the nature of the complaints, but "the grapevine in town is pretty reliable."

"Respectfully, and without drawing any conclusion about the veracity or accuracy of any allegations, this matter cannot be closed, as it has simply not been a fair process," Hamm read from her letter. Hamm also recommended human resource specialists that the town could consult to ensure a more fair investigation.

Residents also spoke out, saying they were concerned that the town was trying to hide something.

"One complaint might be questionable," Angela Sarahina said. "But three complaints – something's wrong." Sarahina pointed out to the town that if it ended the investigation with-

out making any decisions, the three employees could sue the town.

"My concern is not only on content, but on process," said Fran Klein, another resident. Klein said she was concerned about the lack of clear policies at Town Hall for dealing with sexual harassment.

Laurie Wasilewski urged the town to release more information about the case, so the residents could have more information than just "whisper and innuendo."

Later in the meeting, Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel spoke on behalf of the council, reading a statement she had prepared.

"Like you Gail, everyone's phone has been ringing," Engel said. "Everyone is incredibly curious." The town's main goal, she said, was to provide confidentiality to all the parties involved in the investigation.

"People want to know the dirt," she said, "but I'm not providing that."

In her statement, Engel said the three complainants had refused to meet with Sommaruga. She added that, a week into the investigation, the three complainants came forward to say that their allegations were actually only "concerns."

In retrospect, Engel said, she would have considered hiring another investigator, but said she was entirely satisfied with Sommaruga's report. The entire issue, Engel said, called the town's lack of clear policies into question. She said East Hampton does have a sexual harassment policy, but the employee handbook needed to be reviewed, because the policies may not have been officially adopted. Town Manager Jeff O'Keefe replied that Lisa Seymour, the town's human resources director, would have a draft of the policy prepared in July.

Not everyone seemed satisfied with Engel's statement.

Resident Mary Ann Dostaler said it seemed to her the majority of the Town Council "wants to expedite this and make it go away as soon as possible." Dostaler also said there was a conflict of interest with Sommaruga, saying he had previously been involved in removing the previous town manager, as well as working with the Board of Education.

"The people of East Hampton need to stand up and know the truth," Weintraub said after the meeting. Weintraub said the lack of information coming from the town was a politically

motivated cover-up.

"As far as I'm concerned, this investigation has not seen the light of day, and it's definitely not over," Weintraub said. "The people of East Hampton need to stand up and demand to know the truth."

\* \* \*

The other major discussion of the evening was the search for a new building to replace the Town Hall Annex, which the town will lose in the fall. Connecticut Light and Power, which owns the building, has decided not to renew the town's lease.

Two local groups offered the Town Council space in their buildings in feature presentations at the beginning of the meeting. Terry Concannon, president of The Goff House Board of Directors, and Dean Markham, immediate past president, explained that space in their building could be used to house the town's food bank and social services office, while still maintaining the museum space and common area. O'Keefe explained that if the town chose to move into the Goff House, it would still have to use another building to house other offices.

The Middle Haddam Homeowners Association also offered the Middle Haddam School for the town's use. Barbara Angelico explained that the association bought the school five years ago, to prevent the area from being developed. The association would consider letting it be developed into a recreation and community center, with space for the town's offices.

Engel said she did not want to sacrifice having a large recreational center for more office space. "I'm disappointed without a pool," said Engel. "I'm disappointed without a racquetball court, a basketball court." She explained that while the building would be a good place for the Parks and Recreation office, she thought the other departments should be housed somewhere else.

O'Keefe outlined some of the town's other options for relocating the annex, including a Epoch Arts building on Skinner Street, a warehouse at 10 Summit St., a bank building at 66 Main St., and the town's former library at 81 Main Street. He suggested the town council visit the sites before the next meeting.

"I think we need to remember that whatever we do right now is probably going to be temporary, and needs to be done quickly," O'Keefe

said.

The town found out in May it would lose the annex. The town has been using the annex for over 15 years, said CL&P spokesman Mitch Gross. "It all comes down to space," Gross said. He said he doesn't know what the specific plans for the building are, but CL&P needs to put people and offices in it.

The new probate court, which will serve East Hampton and three surrounding towns, was originally planned to be housed in the annex, but will be temporarily put in Marlborough. The court is due to open in January.

In another ongoing debate within the town, Engel decided to reinstate the Noise Control Task Force, with new membership. The task force was disbanded at the last meeting due to perceived conflicts of interest, but Engel said that summer was already here, and the town should move toward solving the noise problem on the lake. Engel suggested that Town Council members John Tuttle and Thom Cordeiro join Police Chief Matt Reimondo or another officer to monitor noise levels near Angelico's Lakehouse Restaurant with the town's decibel meter. Weintraub said she had researched noise control policies in other towns, and would like to join the new committee.

In other business at the meeting, the Town Council voted to put one question about the proposed changes to the Town Charter on the ballot at the November referendum. At their past meeting, the council discussed writing separate questions for each change, but decided on Tuesday to put all the changes into one question.

Weintraub called the efforts to write multiple questions "a great attempt," but said she supported having only one question. "It will make it easier for the public to say 'no,'" she joked.

The council adopted the resolution to replace the roof and oil tank at Memorial School, and another one to lease new computers for the school system, funded by the Capital Improvement Plan.

Also at the meeting, the council revisited two matters they had discussed at previous meetings: the creation of an Arts and Cultural Commission, and the adoption of a social media policy. The council decided to discuss both matters at their next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, June 29, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 20 East High St.

# East Hampton PZC Narrowly Approves 253-Unit Development

by Claire Michalewicz

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) narrowly approved plans for a 253-unit Hampton Woods development at its meeting last Wednesday, June 2.

The proposal passed 4-3, with commission members Richard Gosselin, Darin Hurne, Rowland Rux and Ray Zatorski voting in favor of the development, while Roy Gauthier, Mark Philhower and James Sennet voted against it.

The development is planned for a 62-acre site on Bear Swamp Road, off the east side of Route 66 near the Marlborough town line. Thirty percent of the townhouses will be designated as affordable housing units.

Developer Peter Carli of Hampton Woods Development LLC said the town's Building, Planning and Zoning Administrator, Jim Carey, had been instrumental in getting the project approved. State statute requires that towns approve affordable housing developments unless they can prove that the development poses a health or safety problem, but Carli said East Hampton had been unusually cooperative.

Usually, Carli said, towns initially reject proposals for affordable housing developments, which are later approved in court. By working with him, Carli said, the town was able to work out a plan for the development that worked best for the town.

"I commend him for having the courage to approve it, because this way, they were allowed to have input in the way it was put together," Carli said of Carey.

The changes Carey suggested, Carli said, included paving an emergency access road, building a community center, building a water

system that neighbors can also use, and paying \$1 million toward the town's sewer system. The development, Carli said, will also include a swimming pool and walking trails in the woods.

Carli's attorney, David Sherwood, agreed, saying he was pleased with the town's decision to approve the development. Sherwood added that he was not surprised by their decision, as Carey, his staff, and the PZC had been extremely cooperative throughout the process. Sherwood said it was "definitely unusual" for a town to work so closely with a developer on an application for affordable housing.

The way Carey explained it, the town didn't have much of a choice but to work with them. "It's a really big project," Carey said. "No town wants to work under the gun like that."

The "gun" Carey was referring to is a state statute, Chapter 126a, Section 8-30g, which prevents towns from blocking an affordable housing development unless they can prove that it poses a threat to health and safety. Essentially, Carey explained, the regulation shifts the burden for proving that the development is suitable from the developer to the town.

PZC Vice Chairman Philhower, who voted against the proposal, said he was concerned that Carli had not yet paid all the fees required for his application. In addition, Philhower said, building the development would take away space that could be used for businesses. Putting new business in the area, Philhower said, could increase the town's tax base.

But PZC Chairman Zatorski said the commission didn't have much of a choice but to approve the permit. He stressed that, unlike

other developments, the town did not have the right to question what an affordable housing complex's effect on schools, roads and other town services would be. Zatorski said he reviewed previous court cases from towns who had tried to reject affordable housing proposals, and decided that the town had a legal obligation to work with the developer.

"It would be in the town's best interest, and it would be the best development," Zatorski said, if the town worked with Carli to make the design of the development more appropriate for the town.

Carey said that, despite the PZC's concerns about the development, "we did manage to do quite a bit of adjusting to make it a little more palatable." In addition to his requests about emergency access, a community center, and water and sewer systems, Carey added that the site would be built in phases. Construction would start with infrastructure like water and sewer connections, and then building townhouses in clusters. Constructing it in nine phases, Carey said, would allow residents to live in the development even if construction had to slow down or stop.

"If they have to slow down," said Carey, "what remains will still be a workable community."

Carey explained that the development company originally proposed a housing development for people over 55, which the Planning and Zoning Commission rejected and ended up bringing to court. At the time, Carey explained, the PZC didn't feel that the proposed use and

building design fit in with the town's regulations, and gave the development firm a list of suggestions for future plans. The company returned with this proposal.

Carli said the economy was his major reason for switching from his original plan of building an over-55 development. "We decided affordable housing made more sense," he said. "There's a massive need for this type of product." The economy, Carli said, was also his biggest concern for the future. He said while he had no worries that his company could afford to build the development, he worried that the economy could collapse, and people who would otherwise move into the townhouses could not afford to.

Many young people, Carli said, were having trouble finding affordable homes, and were leaving the state. He said that by building this development, he hoped he could bring more young professionals to the area.

"East Hampton is a nice town," he added, explaining that the property was ideal for development since it was close to the Route 2 exit in Marlborough. Carli explained that the 253 housing units would be "densely put together," which would leave 80 percent of the property wooded.

"I believe this is the future of development," he said, explaining that dense housing lessened the environmental damage of building large developments.

At present, Carli said, he's still waiting to receive government permits, but he's hoping to start construction later this year or early in 2011.



# East Hampton Salon Helping Out With Oil Spill

by Claire Michalewicz

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is still spreading, but a local hair salon has been doing its small part to help clean up the spill.

Salon Ferrara, on West High Street, started collecting its hair clippings a few weeks ago. Since hair is naturally absorbent, it can be used to soak up oil from the ocean. So far, the salon has sent two bags of hair to Matter of Trust, an environmental charity that's been collecting the hair to clean up the oil spill.

Stylist Jessica Tuttle said she first heard about the idea on a TV show about a salon, and asked salon co-owner Nicole Ferrara if she could start collecting the hair, which otherwise gets thrown out. "I always try to find little ways to help," said Tuttle.

Ferrara admits she wasn't paying much attention when Tuttle initially asked her about the hair, since she was busy with a customer, but told Tuttle to go ahead and collect the hair. A few days later, Ferrara received an e-mail from a friend about Matter of Trust. Ferrara signed the salon up on the group's website, and started to collect hair to send to them.

When they signed up, the collection date was only a few days away, but they managed to collect more hair for the second collection date of June 10. Ferrara said the salon would continue collecting hair and mailing it to Matter of Trust for as long as they needed it.

Tuttle said that she's been encouraging her friends to have their hair cut, to add their hair to the collection. She pointed out that unlike charities that collect hair to make wigs, Matter of Trust could use hair of any length.

The hair, human or animal, is stuffed into nylon stockings to make booms, which are placed in the water to absorb oil. The hair

booms, Ferrara said, could be wrung out and used up to 100 times, and a single pound of hair could collect about a quart of oil, Ferrara added. There was some debate over whether BP and the Coast Guard are actually using the hair booms, she said, but the booms are being stockpiled along the Gulf Coast so they're ready to be used.

Ferrara said that she hoped other salons also started collecting hair, and said she would even welcome donations of hair from other salons. "It's not a competition," she said. "We're trying to help."

Ferrara said the hair collection was good timing for her salon, since she's been trying to make her business more environmentally-friendly. In May, Salon Ferrara started offering L'Oreal INOA, a natural and ammonia-free hair color. Ferrara said her salon is one of the few in the state that offers the new product. While Ferrara said she and the other stylists at the salon work with chemicals all the time, "I like to think we're going a little more green."

Tuttle and Ferrara said many customers who came in for haircuts were surprised that they were collecting the hair. Many people thought it was a joke when they were told about it, Tuttle said, but then told the stylists that it was a good idea.

Melissa Lovin, who had just had her hair cut, said she was happy to learn that her hair would be used for the oil cleanup. "I think it's great," she said, "if it's a solution that's actually going to work."

"People like knowing they're making a difference, even if it's just a small difference," Tuttle said.



Stylist Jessica Tuttle sweeps up hair clippings at Salon Ferrara. The salon has been collecting hair and sending it to Florida, where it can be used to help soak up oil from the spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

## Democrat Jeanne Webb for State Senate

by Katy Nally

State Representative Pam Sawyer has some competition this election season from East Hartford's director of planning and development, Democrat Jeanne Webb.

Webb, a Bolton resident, has been a municipal employee in several Connecticut towns for the past 30 years.

"I've been making a lot of hard decisions at the municipal level, and I don't see the legislature making a lot of hard decisions," Webb said Monday.

On Tuesday, May 25, democrats from each of the four towns in the 55th district (Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough), unanimously endorsed Webb at a democratic convention in Bolton, Webb said.

Webb's platform revolves increasing state revenue while preserving the integrity of Eastern Connecticut villages. Coming from a family of farmers and contractors, Webb, 56, said it's important to determine "how we raise revenue, and how do we not impact the middle class." Two of her revenue-raising ideas are toll roads and tourism.

Webb, who has a strong background in transportation issues, said toll roads are "an opportunity to raise revenue that will help us with our road program." She noted that it costs \$11 to enter New York City, and added "we need to look at [tolls]."

Tourism and "funneling money into generating tourism" are other revenue sources, Webb

said. "I think a lot of people don't know about Connecticut," she added. While neighboring states invest and publicize their tourism efforts, Webb said, "I don't think we've done a really great job at it. I think we could do better."

Before Webb found her position in East Hartford, she worked as an economic development director in Rocky Hill for three years from 2003-06. There she tried to bring Wethersfield and Rocky Hill together through the Silas Deane Highway, and create a "more sustainable type of development," she said.

Before Rocky Hill, Webb held various titles in Hartford for 20 years, including transportation coordinator in the Department of Public Works from 1984-90 and bureau chief in the Department of Transportation from 1990-92.

During her time in Hartford, Webb said she worked on the Griffin Line rail, which was proposed to run from downtown Hartford to Bradley International Airport. Although the project never reached fruition, Webb said "I still think it's a good idea."

Similarly, Webb also helped develop the New Britain-Hartford bus line.

She also spearheaded a project to build market-rate housing in Hartford, named the Goodwin Estates. Webb said "under my leadership" she "put together a group of concerned people of the community," and created the housing from an old mansion.

Along with her transportation knowledge, Webb has a liberal arts degree from the University of Connecticut with concentrations in urban studies and psychology. She also has a master's degree from St. Joseph's College in counseling.

While in Hartford, Webb took over vacant properties through eminent domain to combat blight within the city.

Since she decided to run, Webb has been spreading the word the old fashioned way by knocking on doors and telling residents "who I am." After meeting citizens in the area, Webb said "I think that people are ready for a change."

Webb's competition is the 18-year Senate veteran, Republican Sawyer, whose last opponent was Hebron selectman Mark Stuart in 2006. "It's a wonderful part of the democratic process to have an opponent," Sawyer said Thursday.

Webb said because Sawyer is retired and has been in the legislature for nearly two decades, Webb has a different "understanding of what needs to be done at this time."

Sawyer agreed that her views with Webb would most likely differ, specifically those about the state's fiscal crisis. "[Our differences] will probably stem around budgets," Sawyer said. "My biggest fear is that the state financial picture is so bleak and part of it is because we have more government than we can afford."



Democrat Jeanne Webb is running against State Rep. Pam Sawyer for a seat in the House to represent the 55th district.

With the November elections months away, Webb added, "I feel like I'm offering a choice and the people will decide."

For more information about Webb visit [www.winwithwebb.com](http://www.winwithwebb.com).

# Valedictorian, Salutatorian Look Back at RHAM

by Lindsay Fetzner

When graduation caps are thrust into the air on Wednesday evening, Sam Young, valedictorian of the RHAM High School Class of 2010, and Elizabeth Rey, class salutatorian, will bid their alma mater farewell.

Looking back on his four years at RHAM, Sam, a Marlborough resident, said, "it was definitely a positive experience." With less than a week left at the high school, Sam said he is "trying to make the most of the time here with my friends."

For Elizabeth, an Andover resident, high school was a four-year period she described as a "fun time," complete with a fair share of activities both in school and out of school. Her friends, she said, are "definitely" what she will miss the most post-graduation.

"They are tremendous kids," RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie said. "They're not only committed to being good students, but they are really interesting individuals who are very, very committed to their own intellectual growth."

Sam and Elizabeth both credited their parents as a large source of support and inspiration throughout their high school career. "They are really supportive," Elizabeth said, pushing her to do well in her academics. She lightheartedly said it is her mom who "corrects English papers" and her dad who "helps with math homework."

Sam shared Elizabeth's sentiments. "My parents have been a really driving force," Sam said. "My mom encourages me to do my best."

Elizabeth said her older siblings, ranging from four to 10 years her senior, have also had an effect on her drive to succeed. "They have always been high achieving," she said. "I look up to them."

Elizabeth intends to pursue a career in engineering. Math has always been a subject she has enjoyed, she said, and her father is also an engineer. Looking back, Elizabeth said, one of her fondest memories was being a student for two years in Kirsten Erlandsen's pre-calculus and calculus class.

Sam said he also enjoyed Erlandsen's pre-calculus class, "mostly because it was a divergence from most math classes I had taken before."

"In pre-calculus, I learned that mathematics can be more open-ended than I had expected, and I began to see many different ways of solving problems," Sam said, in addition to making

him more of an independent learner. It was also Erlandsen who Sam credited with continually pushing him "to investigate and learn further."

Although Sam said he doesn't have a "favorite teacher," he said he has "gotten something from them all." Drawing on what he has taken from the classroom, Sam said it was one of English Coordinator Patricia Lawson's words of advice freshman year that has stayed with him. "Focus on the learning materials," he recalled her saying, "and the grades will follow."

Lawson said this advice is something she tells her students "all the time."

Lawson had both Sam and Elizabeth in an honors freshman English course, a class which she said students are "really, really intelligent and committed to working incredibly hard."

She described Sam as a "really tenacious, really determined and really self-motivated" student in the classroom. Due to Sam's growth in his reading and writing skills, Lawson said she nominated him for the 'Most Outstanding English Student' in the freshman class, which he was awarded.

This year, Lawson also taught Elizabeth in University of Connecticut (UConn) English. "She focuses on mastering whatever it is that is at issue," Lawson said, adding that she is "among the best writers" Lawson has had.

"She is a very hard worker and is very insightful," Lawson said. "She is a pleasure to have in class."

Leslie said both have "gained a lot of excitement and joy out of their commitment to their academics."

Outside of the classroom, Sam and Elizabeth are also members of the National Honor Society (NHS), a position they have had both this year and last. Sam said his induction into NHS involved participation in service activities. Cross-country and the school band are two activities the two students share as well.

Leslie commended both Sam and Elizabeth for being "so well-rounded" and "tremendously gifted in a wide variety of areas."

One of the more humorous memories of cross-country for Sam was running his last home race without one of his shoes. "It was funny," he said, and added that he trudged on for about two miles sans his sneaker.

Sam plays the trumpet in the school band and the piano for the jazz band. Elizabeth's instrument of choice is the clarinet and also plays the piano outside of school.

One of Sam's musical inspirations, especially



Sam Young, left, and Elizabeth Rey, right, were named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the RHAM High School Class of 2010.

for his interest in musical composition, was the late band director, Timothy Ketterer, who passed away in November of 2009. "He was a very encouraging teacher," Sam said. "He inspired a ton of students here and in Bolton." To date, Sam has independently composed two pieces.

"One of the things that makes RHAM so unique," Leslie said, is that the school has been "able to offer students a wide variety of classes, courses and opportunities." Sam and Elizabeth, he said, have both "taken advantage of that" in the classroom and on the athletic fields.

Sharing a combined interest in math and science, both Sam and Elizabeth want to pursue engineering at their respective universities next year. Sam will attend Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, and Elizabeth will head to the University of Connecticut.

Although Cornell is about six hours from Sam's home, he said the transition "is not really a scare anymore."

"I can picture myself living there and oper-

ating there," he said. Sam said it is his mom who has expressed melancholy that he will be moving away from home come fall.

While Sam heads off to upstate New York, Elizabeth will make Storrs her new home, a move she calls a "little bit of a transition."

"It is a very familiar place," she said, adding that all of her older siblings have all attended the university. "I am comfortable going there."

Like many of their fellow graduates, Sam and Elizabeth will be sad to say goodbye to RHAM. However, both expressed tings of excitement on what the future will entail, while still keeping strong ties to the relationships formed at RHAM.

"The activities, books and classes can be replicated," Sam said. And even though the students will go their separate ways, he said they will "always be a class."

The RHAM High School graduation will take place Wednesday, June 16, at 6 p.m., at the high school.

# Colchester Health District Task Force Established

by Katy Nally

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) approved a nine-member Health District Task Force at its meeting last Thursday, June 3.

The board also delegated the duty of animal control to the resident state trooper, and reviewed several pending town projects such as the police operational model.

The Health District Task Force was originally slated to be a seven-member board, but with many interested and qualified applicants, the BOS agreed to increase that number to five members and two alternates.

"The board chickened out and expanded the task force...to include everybody," First Selectman Gregg Schuster said. "It was going to be tough to choose," selectman Greg Cordova added.

The group comprises four Democrats, one Republican and two unaffiliated members. The chairman is Dave Daner, joined by fellow Democrats Michael Misiewicz, John Malsbenden and Jean Amara. The unaffiliated members are Christine Miskell, Blyse Soby, Sharon Laliberte and alternate Keri Shkutzko. The one Republican is alternate Jim Maffuid.

"We have just an incredible group here," Schuster said last Thursday.

The task force was created to decide whether Colchester should join a surrounding health district, remain independent or establish its own district with other neighboring towns.

Possible area health districts Colchester could join include Chatham, which includes Marlborough, East Hampton, East Haddam, Portland, Hebron and Haddam; Uncas, which covers Norwich, Bozrah, Sprague and Montville; and Ledge Light, which has East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, New London and Waterford.

Schuster said the town would save money if the task force decided to join a district, but there would also be a decrease in revenue, because of the loss of certain fees like health inspections.

The task force is expected to make its decision by the end of 2010. Selectman James Ford will be the liaison for the group.

The BOS later agreed to transfer animal control duties to Colchester Resident State Trooper Sgt. John Thompson – a request made by Thompson, Schuster said.

Currently, the department clerk in the first selectman's office fields animal control calls from citizens.

There was some concern from selectwoman Rosemary Coyle that, while the current resident state trooper is willing to perform animal control duties, a future trooper might be unwilling to do so.

Schuster said this was "a valid concern" but added, "it's very common throughout the state that animal control is done through the police department."

Ultimately, the BOS voted to place all animal control operations under the supervision of the resident state trooper.

Lastly, the BOS looked at a list of 28 town projects that are either complete, pending or planned for the future, and discussed several of them. Schuster said this was the beginning of an effort to make members of the boards of selectmen, education and finance members aware of town projects.

Coyle said she thought discussing the projects was important because "the devil is always in the details...it's never in the topic."

One project, listed as "high" priority, is the police operational model. This item made the list because Schuster said he was "concerned" that two (and possibly one more) police officers have left the force during May. "When I look at that I say maybe something is not working here," Schuster said.

By informing all the parties involved, including the BOS, the Board of Finance, the police union and the police retirement board, Schuster said together they could think of new ways to help maintain officers and possibly attract new ones.

Schuster also touched on the town's revaluation for 2011. Of the approximate 5,850 parcels, about 600 have had a full inspection, he said. "It's a little slower that we've hoped, but every piece we knock off...is less money we have to pay a contractor," Schuster said. This is also listed as "high" priority among the other town projects.

The next regular BOS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 17, 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.



# Beloved School, Church Volunteer Remembered in Marlborough

by Katy Nally

The school will miss her librarian skills and the church her avid volunteerism. In her 78 years, Marlborough resident Pat Williams never let an opportunity to help others pass her by.

"She was a very generous person, principally with her time and energy," Pat's husband Craig Williams said this week.

Pat died Thursday, May 20, after a four-year battle with ovarian cancer.

Pat and Craig moved to Marlborough in 1991 and Pat immediately began volunteering at the elementary school in the media center. Because her granddaughter had just entered Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall, Pat worked as a librarian up until 2007.

"It was under duress that she quit, because she really enjoyed it," Craig said.

Pat finally left the school once her immune system began to weaken from chemotherapy treatments.

Loraine Giannini, principal of Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall, remembered Pat as "a delight to talk to and have in your school."

"She was so committed to education that what happened in the school was really a priority for her," Giannini said.

A few years before she left the elementary school, Pat was awarded the Volunteer Recognition Award from the Connecticut Association of Elementary School Principals, for her "long service in the library," Craig said.

Pat's dedication to education spilled over from the school and into her church, Marlborough Congregational. Craig said Pat organized a book drive for early literacy agencies like Middletown's Reach Out And Read. "You'd be absolutely amazed how the books piled up," Craig said.

But Pat's connection with preschoolers actually began before she moved to Marlborough. When the couple lived in New York, Pat began her own co-op nursery school in East Aurora, with 15-20 children.

Both Craig and Pat moved around a lot because of Craig's job, which dealt with sales. The two were married in 1952, and Pat received her Bachelor of Science degree in home economics from Skidmore College the next year.

The two lived in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio and New York, before finally settling in Connecticut. In 1991, the couple built a house that overlooked Lake Terramuggus, so Pat could carry out her favorite pastime, swimming.

When Pat arrived in Marlborough, aside from joining the school, she also set out to find her niche at the Marlborough Congregational Church. In her 19 years as a resident, Pat held many titles, including moderator, and chaired several boards and committees at the church. "If there was a committee, she would show up on it, it seemed like," Craig said.

Pastor Bob Faulhaber arrived at the church when Pat was moderator, eight years ago. "That was a blessing, because Pat was instrumental in making my transition here," Faulhaber said.

Besides moderator, during her time with the church, Pat also worked as vice and past moderator, deacon, chairman of the missions committee, president of the Dorcas Society and a member of the music committee.

"She would roll up her sleeves and get involved in a wide variety of things," Faulhaber said.

But Pat didn't sit idly on these commissions. "She wasn't content to just talk about how things might be," Faulhaber said. "She was tenacious when it came to seeing a project go through. She was like a pit bull in that capacity."

When Pat joined the church, there were just "three old ladies" on the women's fellowship (Dorcas Society), Craig said. But, after Pat's persuasion, the group began to thrive and now has about 25 members. "It's a much more vigorous organization," he said. "I give Pat a lot of credit for building that back up."

One of the group's projects Pat initiated involved helping newly-released inmates from the Niantic Women's Prison. When she was president of the Dorcas Society, Pat asked officials from the prison to come speak to her group. After hearing how the prisoners were released into New Haven, Hartford or New Britain, with no possessions or direction, Pat's committee decided to help. "These gals didn't have anything," Craig said. "She saw this terrible injustice," Faulhaber added.

One of Pat's fellow Dorcas Society members was a decorator and had access to scraps of fabric. Craig said Pat's main role was to sew these swatches together to make bags, and then fill them with assorted toiletries. "It gives them something to start with at least," Craig said.

"That was a very big thing for her," Faulhaber said.

In moving Pat's belongings over the past few



**Pat Williams, a longtime volunteer at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School and the Marlborough Congregational Church, passed away May 20. She is pictured above doing one of her favorite activities in St. Croix, Virgin Islands two months before she died.**

weeks, Craig said he found boxes of these toiletries, some from hotels, others collected.

"She always had good ideas," Craig added.

Pat had a similar effect of the missions committee after the ministry asked her to chair the group. Faulhaber said the committee was "relatively inactive," and "somewhat disorganized," before Pat joined, and now "they've suddenly become a very active organization," Craig said. The committee has since become a board because Pat "made it so prolific," Faulhaber said.

Much of her skill for revitalizing church groups and starting initiatives was helped by her ability to organize people. Craig said his wife had a system when it came to pinpointing volunteers. "She spent a lot of time selecting who she was going to call," he said. And, if someone turned Pat down, she would simply ask them to fill a different slot.

If Pat was calling to ask for help, "you might as well pick up the phone and say 'Yes Pat, what am I volunteering for,'" Faulhaber said.

This was one of Pat's traits Faulhaber called

"a gift some people have."

"The greatest thing you could say about Pat was she was an encourager," Faulhaber said. The pastor said Pat was able to persuade others to do more than they thought possible.

But no matter how much she achieved, Pat remained humble, Craig and Faulhaber said. "That was kind of her stock in trade," Craig said.

When Pat wasn't organizing her church, or devising ways to help people, she was probably out swimming. "She just loved to get into the water," Craig said.

Last fall, Pat even swam from her house to the beach at Lake Terramuggus and back, which, Craig said, "wasn't too bad for a 78-year-old...with cancer."

During her time in Marlborough, Pat's energy led her to unite volunteers, help individuals, and in her spare time, conquer lakes. "She just kept plugging along," Faulhaber noted.

"Sitting around doing nothing was not her way of living," Craig said.

## RHAM Losing Its Resource Officer

by Lindsay Fetzner

When the new fiscal year starts July 1, 19 state troopers will be affected by a budgetary decision to suspend the school resource officer program. RHAM High School's resource officer, Denise Sevigny, will be among those called back to patrol duty.

According to State Police spokesman Lt. J. Paul Vance, the suspension will save the state approximately \$1.2 million. Its return is dependent upon the condition of the state's budget.

"There is a lot of alarm out there because people are saying we are terminating the program," Vance said. He added that State Police will "do as we do with other schools and provide any support we possibly can on a case-by-case basis."

"We don't have the luxury right now to have a full-time individual out there," Vance said.

The school resource officer program was originally implemented during the Clinton administration with federal funding, Vance said. Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski said RHAM's budget does not support the resource officer, as it is state-funded.

For two years, Sevigny has served as the resource officer at RHAM High School. Splitting her time between RHAM and Nathan Hale-Ray High School in East Haddam, Sevigny says she is involved in "everything and anything." Holding presentations on forensics, law and civics, as well as Internet safety and drugs, are just some of things Sevigny handles. Others include lock down drills, finger printing and monitoring the halls and parking lots.

Sevigny said it is "very busy this time of year" with sporting games, spectator events and the prom taking place. Sevigny said she gets "involved in anyway" that she can.

"The kids," Sevigny said, are what she will miss the most. "Having them be more relaxed and comfortable around you is a huge, huge benefit," Sevigny said. She said this year she has witnessed the students become more relaxed in her presence and has enjoyed keeping in touch with many kids from last year.

"You build, sometimes, lasting relationships," Sevigny said. "You really connect with

them. I will miss it."

Sevigny said she has enjoyed dealing with students on "more than just the bad stuff" and has been a highlight to her time in Hebron. Talking with students in the halls during the day and connecting with them on several levels has allowed the students to cease seeing her "as this big scary monster."

RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie said "having Denise has been a Godsend," calling the school resource officer program "brilliant from the get-go." He added that when something happens at the high school, having Sevigny already on the premises has been a great asset for the school.

Leslie also alluded to the relationships Sevigny has formed with the students. "She serves as someone who kids can go to," he said.

In the past, Leslie said high-risk students have gravitated toward Sevigny. "She was really a lifesaver for some of these kids," he said. And with her departure, it will mean "one less adult that can work directly with high-risk kids in helping them to solve problems or get themselves out of problems."

Leslie said it "is a cut that is going to produce savings initially," but in the end, it will "be a real loss for us."

"We are fortunate that we have the resident state troopers, who have always been great and reasonable," Leslie said. "But it's different."

Siminski shared Leslie's thoughts on Sevigny's departure. "The kids have a tendency to develop a relationship with her," he said. "And she has an understanding of what's going on in town."

Aside from guiding the students away from negative activities, serving as a "one-on-one" counselor was another highlight of having Sevigny at the high school, Siminski said.

Looking ahead, Siminski said, "the burden it will place on the residents will be significant." Since Siminski joined the RHAM administrative team five years ago, he said there has been a resource officer on staff.

"She is a good person," he said. "We will miss her."

## Colchester Congregation 'Broken-Hearted' After Burglary

by Katy Nally

The Abundant Life Assemblies of God church on Skinner Road was burglarized last Wednesday, June 2 and \$4,700 worth of music equipment and electronics were stolen, State Police and church staff said.

After returning from a mission trip to Haiti, Pastor Shirley Ellis entered the church last Wednesday to set up for the evening service and noticed sound equipment and amplifiers were missing in the sanctuary.

In another office, an X-Box, a DVD player and paintball equipment were also missing, Ellis said.

Officer Cyril Green of the Colchester Police Department said because of the nature of what was stolen, the alleged thieves were "probably younger," but, as of this past Wednesday, nothing had been confirmed.

"I feel like we've been violated; this is a house of God," Ellis said Tuesday. "As a sacred house of prayer, it really hurts that someone would be low enough to do that."

Because the music equipment was purchased by the band members, and the electronics and paintball gun by church staff, Ellis said insurance will cover the loss.

Despite the intrusion, Ellis said the church still held its regular Sunday service last week, and the musicians played with old, backup amps. "We still have what it takes, we're working with it," Ellis said. The church band will also perform as scheduled at the Tag Sale on the Green this Sunday.

The burglary is still under investigation by police. Green said it was possible the thieves broke in after removing a screen and entering through an unlocked window.

Ellis said she thought the perpetrators "knew what they were looking for" because

no other rooms were touched, and larger, more expensive sound equipment was left alone. "They came in for the toys and they knew where the toys were," she said. Green agreed, saying, "they had in mind what they wanted... but that's just my opinion on it."

It was likely that the burglars had been inside the church before, Ellis added. "It's a church, it's open to a lot of people," Green said. "It appears they had probably been there because they didn't take as much as they could have."

Because of the incident, Ellis said the church will step up its security and change the locks, as well as install cameras and motion-sensitive lights. The congregation also needs to become more aware of who enters the building, Ellis said.

"[The congregation] is very, very upset as well," she said. "We're broken-hearted."

This is the first time the Abundant Life Assemblies of God church has been burglarized, Ellis said, but all the churches in the area have "been hit," she added. Green was unsure if all the churches in town have been broken into, but noted there have been several residential burglaries in the past month.

Ellis said this incident especially hurt because her church has "the reputation of being giving."

Still, she said, "we're not pointing fingers."

Green said the Colchester Police Department usually conducts interviews from witnesses in these situations, but there were no witnesses of last Wednesday's crime. He asked that anyone with more information about the burglary contact the department at 860-537-7270.



# East Hampton Man Convicted of Manslaughter

by Claire Michalewicz

A local man has been convicted of manslaughter in the beating death of another man in East Hampton in 2005.

David J. Hill, 26, was tried at Middletown Superior Court for the murder of Louis D'Antonio, a local homeless man, in a wooded area of the town. Another man, Edgar N. Canterbury, also of East Hampton, has also been charged in the crime, but his trial has not yet been scheduled.

Hill was also convicted of conspiracy to commit intentional assault and tampering with physical evidence. He will be sentenced Aug. 27.

After hearing closing arguments last week, the jury reached their verdict around 12:15 on Wednesday afternoon, said Hill's attorney, J. Patten Brown.

Brown said he and the defendant were both

pleased with the verdict. He said he was glad the jury agreed that there was no evidence of premeditation.

"At least it's not the worst case scenario," Brown said, referring to the possibility of a murder conviction. "The jury worked very hard."

Brown said there were inaccuracies in the police report about the case, saying that there was conflicting information, and only two pages of statements from six hours of interviews.

"We deal with investigations as they go," said Sergeant Garritt Kelly, in response to Brown's claims. Kelly said there was much more to the case, which would be revealed when Canterbury goes on trial. "That'll put the whole story together," he said.

## Colchester Police News

6/2: Joshua Denney, 27, of 7 Lakeview Park Dr., Columbia, turned himself in for violation of probation, State Police said.

6/2: Diane Moore, 52, of 179 South Main St., Apt. 2F, was charged with disorderly conduct, criminal violation of a protective order and threatening, State Police said.

6/3: A 17-year-old was charged with interfering with a police officer and breach of peace, State Police said.

6/5: Coty Jay Nichols, 21, of 674 Deep River Rd., was charged with third-degree assault,

breach of peace and interfering with emergency calls, State Police said.

6/6: Robin Marie Elliot, 38, of 79 Elmwood Heights, Apt. B, was charged with failure to appear, State Police said.

6/7: William Reedy, 73, of 31 Oak Ridge Dr., was charged with breach of peace and reckless endangerment, State Police said.

6/7: Melissa Gamache, 34, of 191 Stanavage Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct and risk of injury to a minor, State Police said.

## East Hampton Police News

5/28: Ryan Cleveland Dorflinger, 27, of 311 Town Colony Dr., Middletown, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, possession of narcotics, illegal storage of narcotics and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

5/28: Brian M. Deren, 42, of 5 Middletown Ave., was arrested for disorderly conduct and assault, police said.

5/30: Bryan G. Marone, 39, of 48 Old Marlborough Rd., was arrested for disorderly

conduct and criminal mischief, police said.

5/31: Francis M. Guinan Jr., 52, of 78 Penn Dr., West Hartford, was arrested for driving while intoxicated and failure to drive right, police said.

5/31: Chavez Sears, 32, of 246 Plaza Dr., Middletown, was issued a ticket for failure to drive right and failure to renew license, police said.

6/3: Joshua A. Plude, 30, of 68 Childs Rd., was arrested for failure to carry insurance.

## Hebron Police News

6/5: Jason Litwinko, 29, of 242 Lake Rd., Andover, was charged with criminal violation of a protective order, State Police said.

## Marlborough Police News

6/2: Kristina Kelly, 21, of 64 Shailor Hill Rd., Colchester, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

6/5: Leona Bilodeau, 44, of 137 South Main St., was charged with DUI, State Police said.

## Obituaries

### Marlborough

#### Leona E. Bowen

Leona E. Bowen, 89, formerly of Novi, MI, most recently of Marlborough, beloved wife of the late Bert A. Bowen Jr., passed away peacefully Wednesday, June 2. She was born July 8, 1920, in Pottsville, PA, daughter of John and Mary (Stemler) Neary.

Leona grew up in Dearborn, MI, and after graduating Fordson High School worked as the chief draft clerk for the U.S. Draft Board during World War II. She and husband Bert owned and operated Versatile Tool in South Lyons, MI, in the 1960s. Throughout her life, in addition to making a good home for her family, Leona enjoyed many hobbies such as horseback riding, photography, playing the organ, raising black Labrador retrievers, painting, and as an avid seamstress, she enjoyed making clothing for herself, children and grandchildren.

As her children started their own families, Leona enjoyed traveling with her husband Bert to Tahiti, Italy, Ireland, Portugal and Spain. Having moved to Connecticut in 1999, Leona most recently resided at the Marlborough Health Care Center.

She leaves her son Bert (Bing) and his wife Carol of Andover; daughter Marilyn of Gaylord, MI; grandchildren Wendy Donagher of Manchester, Martin Bowen of Amston, Amelia Hedtler of Austin, TX, Erica Hedtler of Shelbyville, IN, Melanie Mize of Park City, KY; 11 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Leona was predeceased by her sister, Loretta Walker several years ago.

A memorial service, led by Pastor Joann Post, was held at Concordia Lutheran Church in Manchester on Thursday, June 10, and interment will follow at Glen Eden Cemetery in Livonia, MI at the convenience of the family.

In addition, the family would like to express their thanks to those at the Marlborough Health Care Center and the Masonic Hospice for their gentle care.

### Marlborough

#### Dennis Adrian Cloutier

Dennis Adrian Cloutier, 63, of Marlborough, passed away peacefully Sunday morning, June 6, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Gardiner, ME on Dec. 24, 1946, he was a son of the late Roland and Helen (Gagnon) Cloutier.

Dennis married Carolyn Shapiro on Aug. 4, 1968. Shortly after, he served in the Army for two years during the Vietnam War. The couple moved to Marlborough in 1975, where they raised their family.

Cloutier worked for UTC for a number of years before becoming an independent manufacturers' representative for over 20 years. After which, he worked as a sales manager for Light Metals Coloring in Southington.

Dennis was an avid golfer. He enjoyed ocean kayaking and skiing and he loved to travel with his wife and family. Most importantly, he will be remembered by those who knew him best as a devoted family man who loved his home and gave selflessly to his friends and family.

In addition to his beloved wife of 41 years, survivors include two sons and their spouses, Lieutenant Colonel Eric Cloutier and his wife, Melanie, currently stationed with the U.S.M.C. in Dachtel, Germany, and Major Marc Cloutier and his wife, Valerie, currently stationed with the U.S. Army in Ft. Stewart, GA; a brother, Ronald Cloutier of East Hartford; four grandchildren, Hannah, Elliyah, Grant and Molly and numerous extended family and friends.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by a sister, Camille Rogers and a brother, Gerald Cloutier.

A memorial service was held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., on Thursday, June 10, beginning with visitation, followed by a celebration of his life. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Masonicare Partners, Home Health and Hospice Program, 111 Founders Plaza, 2nd Floor, East Hartford, CT 06108 or American Cancer Society, 106 Franklin Commons, Route 32, Franklin, CT 06254-1800.

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

### Colchester

#### William Stomberg

William A. Stomberg, 63, of Royal Palm Beach, FL, formerly of Colchester and Glastonbury, passed away April 1, 2010, at Palms West Hospital in Florida, in the company of his loved ones. He was born March 14, 1947, in Hartford; he was the son of Dorothy (Donlin) Stomberg presently of Marlborough and the late Alden Stomberg. He was a 1965 graduate of Glastonbury High School. For most of his life he lived in Connecticut, owning his own construction company, until he moved to Florida in 1993.

Besides his mother, Bill is survived by his fiancée, Monica Kline of Royal Palm Beach, FL; six children, Kimberly and husband Dan East of Amston, Kevin and wife Dawn Stomberg of Glastonbury, Mandee and husband Dan Morris of Glastonbury, Erik and wife Kristin Stomberg of Manchester, Brennda Stomberg of Colchester, and Katrina Stomberg of Manchester; 11 grandchildren, Kasey, Daniel and Kelsey East, Alexander, Benjamin & Isabella Stomberg, Garrett, Wyatt and Clayton Morris, Talula and Vivienne Stomberg; two sisters, Carol Anne Dabrowski of Rhode Island and Jacqueline Tyrseck of Pennsylvania; two brothers, Gary Stomberg of Florida and Brian Stomberg of East Lyme; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by a brother, Dennis Stomberg formally of Manchester.

Family and friends are invited to a graveside service at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 19, at New Hebron Cemetery on Wall Street in Hebron. Call Erik Stomberg at 860-992-6107 for more information.

### Hebron

#### Stephen St. John

Stephen St. John, 63, of Hebron, passed away Friday, June 4, due to injuries from an automobile accident. Born in Hartford March 1, 1947, he was the son of the late Chesley and Elizabeth (Mitchell) St. John.

Stephen grew up in East Hartford, where he attended school. He went on to earn a degree in psychology from Central Connecticut State University. Stephen was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, having served during the Vietnam War.

On March 1, 1986, he wed Donna Jean Henderson in West Hartford. Soon after, the couple moved to Columbia, where they lived for 17 years before moving to Hebron, where they made their home and raised their family. Stephen retired in July 2009 as IT director of systems for CIGNA, having served for over 27 years. Prior to that, he also worked for both the Hartford and Travelers insurance companies.

He was a member of the Blackledge Men's Golf Club, of which he was an avid and enthusiastic golfer. He also enjoyed fishing, skiing, reading and Red Sox games. His recent labor of love was in making his retirement home in Bradenton, FL, ready for residing in. He will be remembered by those who knew him best for his fun loving nature, vibrant personality and love of laughter. Most importantly, he will be remembered for his love and devotion to his wife and children.

In addition to his wife of 24 years, he leaves two children, Jenna Elizabeth St. John and Brett Alexander St. John, both of Hebron; a sister, Nancy Jean St. John of Tolland; his favorite godmother, Annarita Williamson of East Hartford; nieces and nephews, Scott, Christopher and Melissa St. John and their spouses and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends called Wednesday, June 9, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral was held Thursday, June 10, at the First Congregational Church of Hebron, 1 Main St., Hebron. Burial followed in the State Veteran's Cemetery in Middletown with full military honors.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 279 New Britain Ave., Kensington, CT 06037.

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



## Portland

### Richard Morse

Richard Morse, 46, of Portland, beloved husband of Rose (Masselli) Morse, died Saturday, June 5, at Middlesex Hospital, after a long battle with cancer. He was born in Fort Campbell, KY, the son of Richard P. Morse of Norton, MA and Diana Pollett of Spring Hill, FL.



Richard was employed as a webmaster for 26 years with Northeast Utilities. He was a 3rd Degree Knight of Columbus and a member of St. Mary Church, Portland, a volunteer with the SMC Stage Company, and will be remembered for his humor, his love of music, the Red Sox, his shiny yellow Miata, his dog and friend, Ace, and enjoying every day to the fullest.

Besides his wife and parents, he is survived by his cherished sons, Nicholas, Joshua and Anthony Morse, all of Portland; a sister, Lisa Heath and her husband Jason, and their children Brittany, Sierra, Miranda, and Tiffany, all of Spring Hill, FL; his paternal grandmother, Gertrude Morse of Middletown; his half brother, Joseph Morse and his wife Kelly and their children, Michael and Christopher of MA; father and mother-in-law, Joseph and Ann Masselli of Portland; brothers-in-law, John Masselli and his partner, Archie Pistilides of TX, Michael Masselli and his wife Cathy and their children, Jennifer, Gina, and Brian, of Portland; sister-in-law, Maria Wilcox and her children, Jocelyn and Alexa of Portland; two aunts, Marge Faraci of Deep River, Ann Morse of Haddam; a great nephew, Adreyan.

He was predeceased by his grandfather, Richard L. Morse; a sister-in-law, Maureen Zory; and an uncle, Philip J. Morse.

A funeral liturgy will be held Saturday, June 12, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary's Church, Freestone Avenue, Portland. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Friends may call at Saint Mary's Church today, Friday, June 11, from 5-8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Richard P. Morse Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Liberty Bank, 245 Main St., Portland, CT 06480, Middlesex Hospital Weiss Hospice Unit, or Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit [www.biegafuneralhome.com](http://www.biegafuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Margaret Kananowicz

Margaret Irene (Prysnier) Kananowicz of Colchester, formerly of East Haddam, Hope Mills, NC, and Queens, NY, beloved wife of 49 years to Albert Kananowicz, died Saturday, June 5, at Marlborough Medical Center. She was born in New York, the daughter of the late Joseph and Olga (Zahachefki) Prysnier.

She worked as an executive secretary for many years for a chemical company in NYC. She spent the majority of her life as a homemaker raising her family. She was very active with the Ladies Guild and St. Bridget's Church Choir. Her beloved hobby was quilting and spent many hours teaching others to share her passion. She enjoyed time with her family and playing with her grandkids. She leaves numerous close friends and family and she will be missed dearly.

Besides her husband she is survived by her four sons; Joseph Kananowicz and his wife Aekyong of North Carolina, John Kananowicz and his wife Monique of East Haddam, Michael Kananowicz and his wife Cheryl of Colchester and Mark Kananowicz and his wife Heather of Massachusetts; her sister, Mary Jane Burzine of Long Island, NY; her grandchildren, Patrick Amperosa, Catherine Kananowicz, Julia Kananowicz, Andrew Kananowicz, Danielle Kananowicz, Eric Kananowicz, Marly Kananowicz, Miller Kananowicz, and was predeceased by her granddaughter, Ava Marie Kananowicz. She was also predeceased by her sister, Barbara Gildersleeve.

A funeral liturgy will be held today, Friday, June 11, at 10 a.m. at Saint Bridget of Kildare Church, 75 Moodus-Leesville Rd., Moodus. A private burial will be held at St. Bridget Cemetery. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, on Thursday, June 10.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to St. Bridget of Kildare Church, 75 Moodus-Leesville Rd., Moodus, CT 06469 or to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., P.O. Box 5022, Wallingford, CT 06492.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit [www.biegafuneralhome.com](http://www.biegafuneralhome.com).

## Hebron

### Nancy Anne Tarquinio

Nancy Anne (Grano) Tarquinio, "Nina," 77, of Hebron, recent widow of the late John Joseph Tarquinio, passed away Monday morning, June 7, at Hartford Hospital, surrounded by family, and her pastor and friend Dan Evans.

Born Ignazia Mafalda Grano on Feb. 12, 1933, in Hartford, she was a daughter of Nicola and Angelina (Oliveri) Grano, late of Hartford. She grew up in Hartford and graduated from Bulkeley High School in 1951. On Oct. 25, 1952, she and John were married in Hartford and shared 57 years together before he predeceased her on March 18th of this year.

The family settled on their family farm in Hebron in January of 1968 where Nancy took great pride in her home. Tending to her gardens and always welcoming family and friends, while creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere to all who visited.

A woman of great faith, Mrs. Tarquinio was an active member of Mt. Zion Christian fellowship of Bolton, where she gave generously of her time. She was also a self-taught artist and avid Scrabble player. Her greatest love and devotion was for her family and friends.

She is survived by three children and their families, Gary, his wife, Diane and their children, Marcus and Jacqueline, all of North Carolina; John and his wife, Heidi of Hebron, and their children, Rachael and her husband, Anthony Ferucci of Middletown. Dominic and Nicole Tarquinio and Thomas Delude, all of Hebron; Karen Thompson of Mansfield, her children, Clint and Natalie Thompson, of Hebron and Karen's fiancé, John Burnett and their son, Joseph Burnett, also of Mansfield; three siblings, Anne Matteis and her husband Gene Matteis of Palm Beach, FL, Anthony Grano and his wife Annie Grano of Wethersfield and Roger Grano of Hartford; nephews, Nicholas Grano of Suffield and Thomas Grano of Columbia; and numerous other extended family members, relatives and friends.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by four brothers, Joseph, Manny, Nicholas and Albert Grano.

Friends may call 4-7 p.m. Sunday, June 13, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral will gather starting at 10 a.m. Monday, June 14, at the funeral home before an 11 a.m. chapel service with Pastor Dan Evan officiating.

Committal for both Nancy and John will be observed immediately following at the Grano family plot in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Nancy to the American Diabetes Assn., 306 Industrial Park Rd., Ste. 105, Middletown 06457.

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

## Portland

### Gale Ann Bourbeau

Gale Ann (Crosscup) Bourbeau, 52, of Riverview Street, Portland, beloved wife of Roger R. Bourbeau, died Saturday, June 5, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born in Hartford, the daughter of Jean (Kelley) Crosscup of Rocky Hill and the late Donald J. Crosscup.

Gale worked with her father for many years at the Crosscup Insurance Agency and most recently was a cook with TriTown Market in Portland. She enjoyed boating and fishing with her husband and family.

Besides her husband and mother, she is survived by her sons, Ian Paul Bourbeau of Portland, and Sean Gregory Bourbeau and his wife Kenetha of Clarksville, TN; her sisters, Donna Jean Eno of Vernon and Patricia M. Huntoon of Stockton Springs, ME.

Funeral service and burial are private. There are no calling hours.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to Life Choice Donor Services, 8 Griffin Rd., North Suite 200B, Windsor, CT 06095.

Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. To share memories or express condolences online, visit [www.biegafuneralhome.com](http://www.biegafuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Karen Mitchell Wissler

Karen Mitchell Wissler, 55, longtime resident of Colchester, passed away peacefully Friday, June 4, at Yale New Haven Hospital with her family by her side. She was born Feb. 1, 1955, in Hartford, daughter of Barbara Prior Mitchell and the late Herbert T. Mitchell.

Karen grew up in Glastonbury, graduating with the Class of 1973. She moved to Colchester in 1974 and began her family. Her early years were spent being a stay at home mom and running a home daycare. After her children were school age, Karen worked for Clark's Transportation for many years. She became a licensed insurance agent and spent several years working at the Colchester Insurance Agency and most recently at the Stark Agency in Chester. She was a fun-loving person who enjoyed spending time with her family, especially hosting numerous family gatherings. She spent her spare time wood-working, gardening, bird watching and knitting.

She is survived by her loving companion Joel R. Pelletier Sr., her two children and their spouses, Scott A. Wissler and Erin O'Marra Wissler, and their son, James, John H. Wissler and Stephanie Marvin Wissler, and their sons Owen and Ty. She is survived by her sister, Dawn M. Mitchell, and her mother, Barbara Prior Mitchell. She leaves behind her two step-children and their families, Joel R. Pelletier Jr. and Wendy Bergeron. She also leaves behind several loving aunts, uncles and cousins.

Calling hours were held Tuesday, June 8, at the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 S. Main St., Colchester. Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 9, at Colchester Federated Church. Burial followed at Linwood Cemetery.

Karen's family has requested that memorial contributions be made to [AutismSpeaks.org](http://AutismSpeaks.org) or the American Cancer Society.

## East Hampton

### John Joseph Kelly

John Joseph Kelly, 88, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Norma (Murray) Kelly, died Sunday, June 6, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Feb. 14, 1922, in Tewksbury, MA, he was raised by his foster mother, the late Rose Duboise, whom he loved dearly.

John had served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps, in the Pacific Theater during WWII. He had retired from Pratt & Whitney where he had worked in security. He was a lifelong member of the East Hampton VFW Fowler-Dix-Park Post 5095, and had served as a former constable for the town of East Hampton.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his four daughters, Nancy Cutter of Oklahoma, Theresa Maynard of Higganum, Joanne Lassard of Connecticut and Mary Lou Kelly of Higganum; also 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated Wednesday, June 9, in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial followed with military honors in the family plot in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends called Tuesday, June 8 at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Assoc., P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424 or Weiss Hospice Unit, c/o The Development Office, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

## Hebron

### Deborah Anne Krauth

Deborah Anne Krauth, 46, of Hebron, passed away after a long illness Friday, June 4.

She was born in Middletown and worked at MetLife in Hartford. She graduated from Cato-Meridian High School in Cato, NY and SUNY Brockport. Debby loved gardens, hiking, bicycling and long walks with her Lab Sophie. She was a loving and compassionate woman who will always be remembered for her sense of humor, beautiful smile and her thoughtfulness for others.

She is survived by her mother, Lorie Rascati and her husband John Rattell of Colchester, her father Timothy Krauth of Corona del Mar, CA, her daughter Beth Sweeney of Hebron, her brother Jamie Calles and his wife Lauren of Moodus, her brother Michael Calles and his wife Sherrie and her nieces Arianna and Sarah Calles of Bright City, UT. She will also be greatly missed by her aunts, uncles, many cousins and dear friends from work and her Hiking With Dogs club.

Calling hours will be held at Belmont Funeral Home, 144 S. Main St., Colchester, on Saturday, June 12, at noon. A remembrance service will follow at 1 p.m.

## Amston

### John H. Richardson

John H. Richardson, 59, of Amston, passed away Sunday, June 6, at St. Francis Hospital, surrounded by Pam, his beloved wife of 35 years and close friends. John was born in Lisbon, OH, Aug. 2, 1950, son of Don and Jeannette Richardson.

After graduating from Ohio State University with a degree in aeronautical engineering, John, the "Forever Buckeye," moved to Connecticut to work at Pratt & Whitney. He loved being an engineer and retired from P&WA after 33 years of service. He continued to consult but only during the non-golf months. John was an individual who touched all who met him. He was genuinely passionate about life. He was smart, clever, fun-loving and full of compassion for others. He had a love of anything related to flight including flying his remote control model airplane, which sometimes resulted in disastrous, yet memorable results.

John's Monday golf league was the highlight of every week. He loved playing with his retiree golf buddies who brought nothing but laughter and smiles to his face. John was a big sports fanatic and ardent fan of the Ohio State Buckeyes, Cleveland Indians, Red Sox and Patriots. John had a love of animals which showed by the stray animals he and his wife brought into their home. John leaves many close friends and family who will miss him tremendously.

John will be lovingly remembered by his wife Pam, mother Jeannette, sister, Dawn Richardson Alexander and husband, Robert Alexander, sister, Hollis Richardson Koon and her husband, Steven Koon, niece, Erin Alexander and husband, Chris McClellan, nephew, Kyle Alexander, mother-in-law, Jean Brewer, sister-in-law, Jody Brewer and husband, Rick Orsini, brother-in-law, Jeff Brewer and wife, Wendy Brewer, nephews, Benjamin Brewer and Chris Brewer, and brother-in-law, Scott Brewer. He will also be greatly missed by his favorite truck riding buddy Kaiser, his dog, and cats, Zeus and Samantha. John was a true husband, son, brother, uncle, and friend. Rest peacefully John.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 12, at 11 a.m. at the Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main Street, Marlborough. An additional service will be held Monday, June 14, at 11 a.m. at the Eells-Leggett-Stauffer Funeral Home, Lisbon, OH. Interment will take place following the service at the Lisbon Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, in memory of John, please honor him..... give a smile to a stranger, lend a helping hand to someone in need, take time to listen and have compassion for every living creature.

Local funeral arrangements for John have been entrusted to the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury.