



RIVEREAST

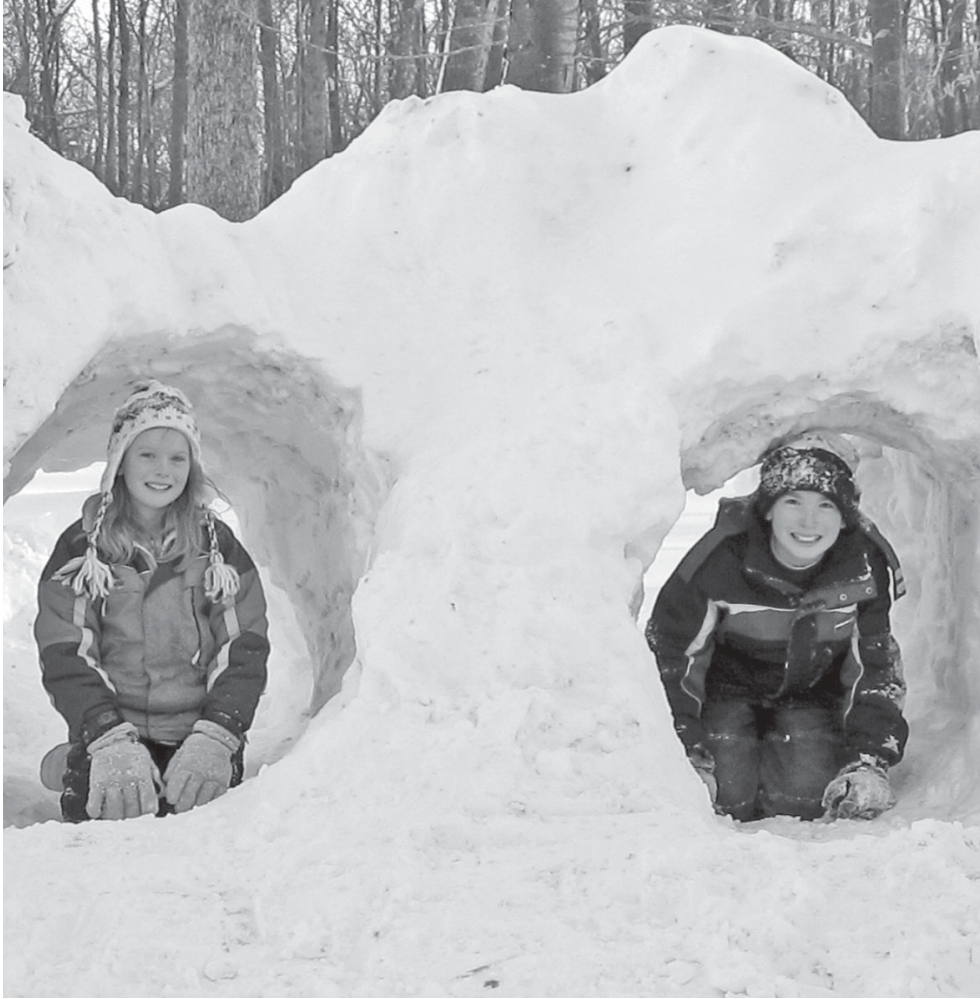
News Bulletin

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

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Nearly 30 inches of snow fell on the *Rivereast* towns last Wednesday, Jan. 12. While adults were faced with a giant cleanup, kids made the best of it, like Colchester residents Olivia (left) and Zachary Berard, who had fun tunneling in the snow. More pictures from the storm appear on page 4.

Massive Snowfall Blankets Area

by Katy Nally

A huge snowstorm battered Connecticut last Wednesday, and like the rest of the state, the six *Rivereast* towns began the big digout last Thursday and assessed the damage.

The storm dumped nearly 30 inches on some towns – Marlborough, for example, received 28 – and flakes began falling around midnight on Wednesday, Jan. 12. When the morning commute rolled around, already there was more than a foot of snow, and even Governor Dannel Malloy told his staff to stay home.

With area residents well aware that the roads were not safe for driving, fire and emergency personnel in Colchester, Marlborough, East Hampton, Portland, Hebron and Andover reported few motor vehicle accidents from last Wednesday.

However, in Portland, Fire Chief Bob Shea said his personnel had to locate two people who were stranded in the Meshomasic State Forest that borders Glastonbury.

Shea said the call came in around 3:30 a.m. at the “height of the storm.” Apparently there were two people who were stuck in their sedan. Another vehicle had stopped to help them, but it also got stuck in the snow. Shea said two more people were in the second vehicle, but had already left on foot by the time firefighters arrived.

He said the two found in the state forest were not injured and were driven home by a police cruiser. The two who left on foot were found safe at home, Shea said. The cars were left in

the park, and fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Portland firefighters located the two who were stranded by triangulating their cell phone signal. However, it was not as easy a task for Shea and his crew to venture into the forest. Several members of the Portland Fire Department stayed behind at the station, so as other emergency services weren’t “jeopardized,” Shea said.

Those who did drive out to the state forest were met with very limited visibility and several inches of snow on the roads. Shea said even in his four-wheel drive vehicle, he was sliding off the roadway.

“You couldn’t even see the edge of the road, and before you knew it, you were off into a gully,” he said.

Fire personnel had located the stranded people in their vehicle about 45 minutes after the call came in and it took about an hour and a half to “get them out,” Shea said.

“We weren’t out of there until well into the morning,” he added.

Because the event tied up Portland’s emergency services during a snowstorm, Shea said he wasn’t exactly a “happy camper.”

“It was a ridiculous move, thinking you could drive through a state forest in a blizzard,” he said.

But other than the state forest incident, Shea said there were few calls last Wednesday and

See Snowfall Page 2

Attorney Rejects Complaint Against O’Keefe

by Claire Michalewicz

An attorney has rejected a work environment complaint filed by a police officer against former Town Manager Jeffery O’Keefe, ruling that O’Keefe’s behavior was not “severe” or “pervasive” enough to warrant a finding of a hostile work environment.

Sergeant Garritt Kelly filed the complaint in July, alleging that O’Keefe had verbally harassed him at a mandatory staff breakfast meeting held at a local restaurant on June 24, two days after Chief Matthew Reimondo was laid off.

Attorney Glenn Coe, from the Hartford firm Rome McGuigan, investigated Kelly’s complaint. Coe did not dispute Kelly’s allegations about O’Keefe’s behavior, but found that they didn’t meet the legal criteria of a hostile work environment.

The Town Council hired Coe to investigate the complaint in July, though the investigation was put on hold after O’Keefe resigned in September. At its meeting Jan. 4, Coe said, the council instructed him to prepare a final report, which was dated Jan. 11.

In the investigation, Coe said he interviewed Kelly, O’Keefe, Sergeant Timothy Dowty, then-Lieutenant Michael Green and Alison Phaneuf, a consultant who was helping the police de-

partment with its restructuring.

Kelly alleged that O’Keefe verbally harassed him during the meeting, since Kelly had instructed the other officers not to eat breakfast. (Kelly declined comment this week on the complaint.)

According to Kelly’s complaint, O’Keefe said, “It is a tough day for everyone! It is especially tough for Kelly! He lost his best friend!” After briefly talking about the restructuring of the department, Kelly said, O’Keefe returned to his earlier remarks about Kelly losing his best friend. After Kelly told him his remarks made him uncomfortable, O’Keefe “went on a rant” about officers working private duty overtime assignments, which Kelly said was hostile and irrelevant to the purpose of the meeting.

Kelly said O’Keefe’s “remarks were absolutely inflammatory and certainly came off as an attempt to incite or provoke me. His tone was hostile, derogatory and demeaning toward me.”

Coe said “the accuracy of the comments was confirmed by Kelly and Sgt. Timothy Dowty” and was “not disputed materially” by O’Keefe and Green.

Coe explained that Kelly chose to file a “hostile work environment” complaint, but the laws

surrounding hostile work environments are strict. Kelly could have filed a grievance with his union, as outlined in the police officers’ collective bargaining agreement, or had his union file a complaint with the state Labor Board of Relations.

Coe explained that hostile work environments arise from forms of discrimination that are protected by law, including “race, color, religious creed, age, sex, marital status, national origin, present or past history of mental disability, mental retardation, learning disability or physical disability.” Furthermore, Coe said, state and federal case law require that the discrimination be “severe and pervasive” for an employee to take action against an employer.

Since Kelly does not claim he was discriminated against based on any of those grounds, and because O’Keefe only made these remarks on one occasion, Coe said the complaint was unfounded. In addition, O’Keefe did not take any employment or disciplinary action against Kelly, Coe said.

In his complaint, Kelly said O’Keefe’s actions may have violated the town’s employee rules. Coe said the town had a clear policy on sexual harassment, but not on other forms of

harassment. Furthermore, Coe said, the town’s Code of Conduct “appears to be aspirational, rather than regulatory,” and does not contain any sanctions for violating it.

Coe explicitly stated that his investigation only focused on determining whether Kelly’s allegations of a hostile work environment were founded. The investigation did not include the sexual harassment allegations filed against O’Keefe by three other employees, nor whether O’Keefe was right to downsize the police department, Coe said in the report.

Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said she was pleased with the results of Coe’s investigation.

“I didn’t suspect that [O’Keefe] had created a hostile environment,” Engel said, explaining that comments can be taken out of context or misinterpreted.

Engel said she was disappointed that the investigation had cost \$9,500, though she said the town’s insurance policy should cover the expense.

Council member Thom Cordeiro said he was relieved by the results of the investigation, though he understood the town was still facing several other pending cases related to Reimondo’s layoff.

Snowfall cont. from Front Page

noted Portland's highway department was "a huge asset" to the fire department during the storm.

In Colchester, firefighters also had to work against the snow, but this time on Route 2. Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Chief Walter Cox said he was dispatched to a long-term care facility to take an elderly man to the Marlborough Clinic a few hours after flakes began to fall.

Cox said by the time he got onto Route 2 it had been reduced to one lane and no vehicles were traveling faster than 25 miles per hour.

"We got there; it just took a little bit longer," he said.

Cars had also completely stopped on the highway, and others were stuck in ditches, he added.

"The snow was coming down so intensely, the on- and off-ramps were not clear," Cox explained.

And other problems arose for Colchester even after the snow had stopped. Cox said Monday that of the 315 fire hydrants in town, about half had been dug out since the storm last Wednesday.

The main hydrants in the center of town, "where the highest risk is," were cleared out first, Cox said.

Cox also cautioned residents about roof and deck collapses. Although there hadn't been an incident in Colchester, he said several homes in other towns had seen collapses. According to Cox, one cubic foot of snow weighs 10 pounds, so with last Wednesday's storm, plus the additional snow that fell this week, some roofs could be supporting 20-plus pounds of snow in one cubic foot.

"It's a concern, especially if we're having a tough winter," he said.

Firefighters and emergency personnel in the other four *Rivereast* towns saw less activity during last Wednesday's storm.

Marlborough Fire Chief Joe Asklar said his station responded to one medical call last Wednesday for a man who got his finger caught in a snow blower.

Asklar said the call came in around 8:30 a.m., and Marlborough highway crews worked to open and clear a path to the Marlborough Clinic so the resident could be treated.

"It was a great team effort," Asklar said.

East Hampton Emergency Management Director Richard Klotzbier said there were a few "minor motor vehicle accidents" and his personnel offered mutual aid to Portland.

Andover Fire Chief Ron Mike said his town stayed "nice and quiet – the way I like it."

Hebron Fire Chief Fred Speno said he responded to "nothing, just a big pile of snow."

"It ended up being very quiet," he said. "We were ready to respond, but we didn't have anyone to respond to."

With fire and emergency personnel grappling with the snow-covered roadways, it probably came as no surprise to residents that officials

canceled school last Wednesday. And most of the *Rivereast* towns called off school the next day as well, with the exception of Colchester, which went ahead with a 90-minute delay.

Although very few residents ventured out onto the roads during the storm, highway crews were hard at work clearing and salting streets. But the hard work to make streets safe comes at a cost.

Marlborough First Selectman Bill Black estimated Tuesday, about 70 to 75 percent of his snow budget has been expended. Usually around this time, Marlborough's snow budget is down by about one-third, Black said.

"If it continues at this pace, we're going to expend our budget before the end of the snow season," he said.

Black explained this winter has seen some early storms, which blew through his snow budget. Also, overtime is a factor, because most of the storms occurred after regular business hours.

Crews in Marlborough worked 20 hours last Wednesday, 14 on Thursday, 10 on Friday and eight on Saturday, Black said.

Portland and Andover officials estimated about half of their snow budgets have been used.

Andover First Selectman Bob Burbank said he planned on applying for federal funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"I'm not sure that we'll meet all the criteria," he said. "But hopefully that will put us back in really good shape."

East Hampton Finance Director Jeff Jylkka said about 52 percent of the town's total overtime budget has been expended to date. The majority of this expenditure, about 89 percent, is because of snow removal, he said.

Colchester First Selectman Gregg Schuster said about 42.5 percent of his \$299,000 snow budget has been expended, and about 46.6 percent of the remaining funds are dedicated to "payments for contractors and salt/sand."

Hebron Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said Hebron budgeted about \$176,000 for snow removal, and as of this week, only about 31.75 percent has been expended.

Despite the financial burden of last Wednesday's snowstorm, perhaps an upside to the event, was that there were very few power outages for Connecticut Light & Power customers.

CL&P spokesman Mitch Gross explained "most of the state have a very light powdery snow," which didn't weigh down power lines.

In the six *Rivereast* towns, Marlborough had the most outages, at 40, then East Hampton and Hebron were almost tied, at 21 and 20 respectively; only one customer in Colchester lost power and both Portland and Andover had no power outages, Gross said.

Now that Marlborough, Colchester, Andover, Hebron, East Hampton and Portland have finally dug out from the giant storm that dumped more than two feet across the state, residents can break out the shovel again soon, as more snow is predicted for today.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Holy cow, that was a lot of snow!

Perhaps I'd been spoiled by too many weather forecasts gone awry, but I really didn't think last Wednesday's snow explosion was going to be nearly as bad as it was. Sure, the weathermen were predicting one to two feet, but that tends to be meteorologist-speak for five to 10 inches. Or so I thought.

Imagine my surprise when I woke up Wednesday morning, looked out the window of my Manchester apartment and saw nothing but white. I turned on the TV and learned the City of Village Charm had already received close to 20 inches. And, from the looks of the radar, there was no end in sight. At first I thought I'd go into the office a little late, perhaps in the afternoon. But the hours passed and the snow never let up, and with the parking lot of my complex still unplowed and the roads in Manchester looking downright unpassable, I eventually decided attempting to go in at all would be a fool's errand.

Fortunately, since the *Rivereast* publishes on Thursday, not going in was an option (albeit an undesirable one); no such luck for our sister paper, the *Glastonbury Citizen*, which publishes on Wednesday. I called to check in Wednesday morning, and it was literally a two-man operation: just the editor (*Rivereast* publisher Jim Hallas) and a layout person. Gradually, a few more people trickled in – including thankfully the people who ran the press, thereby allowing the *Citizen* to get out on time – but the paper definitely operated with a skeleton staff that day.

Meanwhile, back at my Manchester apartment, I watched as the snow continued to pile up. By the end of the day, the town had received 27 inches of snow; a fact that was easily believed by me when I went out Wednesday evening to dig my car out (so as I wouldn't have to do it Thursday morning). I had never seen that much snow in my life.

It was so much snow, in fact, that Manchester schools weren't just closed Wednesday; they remained shuttered Thursday and Friday as well. They were finally due to open Tuesday (after the Martin Luther King Day holiday on Monday), but the nasty snow and ice mess we got that day took care of that. So basically, kids in Manchester got a seven-day weekend. Not bad.

Over the next couple of days after the storm, going for a drive took on something of a surreal feel. Streets, buildings, parks, landmarks, etc., that I'd seen my whole life in nearly every type of condition were surrounded by walls of white. It was as if the town had been picked up and dumped in Alaska, or at the very least Wisconsin.

Of course, Manchester was by no means

alone; all the towns in the state got hit with an absurd amount of snow. As I'm sure you saw on the cover, reporter Katy Nally has a story detailing the snow's impact on all six of the *Rivereast* towns. One of the items she touches on is the storm's impact on the towns' snow removal budgets. This is shaping up to be a particularly messy winter (with another storm predicted for today), and I don't envy the towns' financial directors as they deal with the cost of keeping the roads clear.

Fortunately, as Katy indicates in her story, there were no serious accidents in the *Rivereast* towns as a result of the snowfall. Perhaps that's because most people were, like me, staying home if at all possible. When you get as much snow as we got last Wednesday, it makes sense to stay off the roads, no matter what kind of car you drive.

And so, what I thought last Tuesday night would be five to 10 inches of the white stuff turned into much, much more; a once-in-a-generation storm. At least it better be once-in-a-generation. Twenty-seven inches of snow in a day is rather cool and all, but if it became an annual event, it'd get old fast.

* * *

Last week, I touched on items Yahoo predicted people born in 2011 would never know. One of these was an encyclopedia, and indeed, the site made a pretty good case for them going the way of the do-do. ("Imagine a time when you had to buy expensive books that were outdated before the ink was dry," Yahoo wrote.) But there are dangers in just supplanting what you would read in an encyclopedia with what you read in Wikipedia (which is what appears to be going on, as I've heard of Wikipedia pages being used as sources in college papers, and even on news broadcasts).

Basically, anybody can submit anything to Wikipedia, true or not. And while there is a team of editors who do strive to catch factual errors and joke posts, they can't always get to everything right away, and mistakes do sometimes slip through, at least for a little while.

A blog I regularly read recently noted such an error. At one point early last week, the page dealing with the OJ Simpson case contained the following line: "Simpson hired a high-profile defense team initially led by Robert Shapiro and subsequently led by F. Lee Bailey, Johnnie Cochran and Bernardo the Ice Dragon."

You can probably guess which of those names is false. Although part of me does wonder what Bernardo's defense strategy would have been.

* * *

See you next week.

Marlborough Selectmen OK New Positions for Parks and Rec

by Katy Nally

Selectmen agreed Tuesday on drafts of job descriptions that would replace the current position of a full-time Parks and Recreation director.

Since 1996, the position of Parks and Rec. director has been full-time, but selectmen and the Parks and Rec. Commission recently crafted three part-time positions that would take the place of a director.

The proposed job descriptions call for two seasonal part-time directors and one part-time administrative assistant.

The seasonal directors would work mostly during the summer, splitting 36 hours per week for the equivalent of 26 weeks. A total of \$20,000 has been budgeted for the two positions.

Among other duties, the directors would be responsible for supervising seasonal Parks and Rec. staff, overseeing the lifeguards at Blish Park, the summer camp, as well as events like the triathlon.

The administrative assistant is slated to work 10 hours per week for 34 and a half weeks, and

\$14,000 has been budgeted for the position.

The full-time director position cost the town \$36,000, plus benefits, and it was under the Town Hall employees' union. First Selectman Bill Black said Tuesday the next step would be to talk with the union about changing the position to part-time.

Marlborough lost its full-time Parks and Rec. director last October. He was the seventh director to fill and vacate the position in the past 14 years, Parks and Rec. Vice Chairwoman Louise Concodello said, as many directors have used Marlborough as a "stepping stone."

"We can't keep anybody for the amount we pay," Parks and Rec. Commission Chair Barbara Lazzari said.

Dividing the director position into three parts "makes sense," she added.

"What we had really wasn't working," Lazzari said. "We're willing to try things, but we need it to be open-ended."

Lazzari said the new makeup of the director position should be a "trial thing," so that if it

doesn't work out, "we can go back and do something different."

"We have to be open to changes," Concodello agreed. "It's worth a try."

Besides pay, Lazzari said another hurdle in retaining a director was the fact that it was technically a nine-to-five position, but many Parks and Rec. events occur throughout the summer at night and other weekends.

She said it went against the union policy to make a director work special events, but they were routinely asked to cover them.

"We want the director to be around and available," she said, adding that most of the time during the summer, the director should be down at the lake rather than at Town Hall.

By using two part-time directors, Lazzari said they would be able to man the lake, especially at night and on the weekends.

"I think we owe it to the residents to have the park looked after the way it should be looked after," Lazzari said.

While the directors will be out and about,

for the most part, the administrative assistant will be in town hall taking care of the clerical aspect of Parks and Rec. He or she would be responsible for "day-to-day operations in the office," including creating the brochure, Concodello said.

Since the full-time director left, Assistant Treasurer Hayley Wagner and Judy Ceramicoli from the first selectman's office have been fielding calls and questions from residents about Parks and Rec. programs.

Wagner and Concodello worked to put together the annual brochure that lists every Parks and Rec. event and program.

Lazzari said the assistant's hours would most likely be "based on need" and increased in during budget season.

Once the positions are finalized with the union, Lazzari said she would like to fill the openings as soon as possible.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held Tuesday, Feb. 1, at Town Hall.

Benefit Dinner Coming Up for Injured Colchester Firefighter

by Katy Nally

Just three months ago, 19-year-old Dan Fitzgerald crashed his pickup truck into a hill and rolled it over five times.

Fitzgerald's Dodge was totaled, and he was seriously injured.

When he was admitted to the hospital, doctors first told Fitzgerald he'd never walk again, but he quickly proved them wrong, and actually waltzed out of the hospital in just three weeks.

Since then he's been recovering and itching to get back to work and to his family at the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Firehouse.

"Everyone at the firehouse has been like a family member to me," Fitzgerald said. "I love 'em all and I'd do anything for them."

And it seems the feeling's mutual.

Next Saturday, Jan. 29, the fire department will host a spaghetti dinner and raffle to raise money for Fitzgerald, who still has a few medical bills to pay off. The benefit dinner will begin at 4 p.m. at the firehouse, located at 52 Old Hartford Rd.

"As a brother firefighter, we thought it was our responsibility to [organize the dinner]," Fire

Company President Dave Martin said. "He deserves it, definitely."

As a result of the Nov. 27 crash, Fitzgerald sustained two skull fractures and three fractures in his back. He said he can't remember what happened in the accident, but was told he hit a curb, "shot across the road and hit a hill," then rolled over a number of times. According to police reports, the accident occurred around 3:07 a.m. in the area of Linwood Cemetery Road, and Fitzgerald was ejected.

But despite the gravity of his accident, Fitzgerald has "made remarkable strides in his recovery," Martin said, and his final appointment regarding his back injury is next month.

At first, Fitzgerald said he wasn't sure if he liked the idea of a benefit dinner, but he said he accepted it after realizing "they all really wanted to do it for me."

Although he's 19, most Colchester firefighters know Fitzgerald, who's been with the department since he was 14 when he joined as a cadet, Martin said.

"He's always been well-liked," Martin said. "He is a very cooperative-, very energetic-type of guy. He'd do anything for you."

Fitzgerald even works with several firefighters outside of the station, building houses, but has taken a hiatus since the accident.

"It's driving me nuts that I can't work," he said.

But, Fitzgerald said, the reason he joined the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department in the first place was his older brother, Jimmy Phillips, who is a firefighter in Willimantic.

"I never really got along with my family, but I got along with my brother," Fitzgerald said. "He's always been there for me."

And, like his older brother, Fitzgerald had applied to the Willimantic Fire Department before his November accident. Once he fully recovers, Fitzgerald said he plans to continue with the application process.

But for now, his sights are set on rejoining his family at the Colchester firehouse.

The spaghetti dinner and raffle is Saturday, Jan. 29, from 4-7 p.m. at the station, located at 52 Old Hartford Rd. Donations are \$10 per person.

For more information, contact the firehouse at 860-537-2512.



A spaghetti dinner and raffle will be held next Saturday, Jan. 29, at the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department to benefit Dan Fitzgerald, pictured right, who was seriously injured in a car accident last November. At left is Dave Martin, president of the fire company. *Computer-altered photo.*

Haverl to Run for Andover First Selectman

by Claire Michalewicz

Andover hasn't had a Democratic first selectman for 20 years, but the Democratic Town Committee is hoping to change that this year.

At a caucus held last Thursday, Jan. 13, the committee nominated Julia Haverl to run in the May election. Haverl was also the last Democrat to hold the office, serving from 1989-91.

Haverl will run against incumbent Bob Burbank, the Republican who has held the position since he took over for Charlene Barnett in 2006. At a caucus on Jan. 10, Burbank announced he was running for another term.

For the past 20 years, only Republicans have served in the office of first selectman. The last Democrat to run for the office was Heidi Hall in 2003. Democratic Town Committee Chairman Don Keener said the Democrats endorsed Burbank in the 2007 election, rather than running a candidate of their own.

"We like Bob," he said. "We think he's done a good job."

But after the 2007 election, Keener said, many Democrats told him they wished they had had a choice in voting. For a while, it looked like the Democrats wouldn't be able to field a candidate this year, Keener said, after a woman who was interested in running backed down because she had just landed a new job.

The first selectman position, Keener explained, "is a full-time job that doesn't pay well." (Burbank's current salary is \$45,900.) Because it's such a big commitment, it can be difficult to find interested candidates.

Keener said the committee approached Haverl about running, and just a few minutes before last week's caucus, she confirmed to him that she was interested. Haverl, 72, said she had recently retired from the business she ran for

several years, Long Hill Gardens, so she had more time to dedicate to running and serving.

"She's a nice lady," Keener said, explaining that Haverl had the advantage of having previously been first selectwoman.

When she held the office before, Haverl said, she mainly worked as an "enabler," helping establish the new firehouse during her tenure. Her favorite part of the job was being able to work with Andover residents and town officials and employees to help improve the community, she said.

Haverl has stayed involved in the community in the 20 years since she left office, serving on the Board of Selectmen as a regular member into the mid-1990s. She currently is chairwoman of the Board of Assessment Appeals.

During those two decades, Haverl said she's seen some notable changes in the community. The town, though still small, has been growing, as people realize that it offers convenient access to Hartford and other areas of the state.

In addition, Haverl said, Andover's notorious stretch of Route 6 has become safer, making the area more attractive for business owners and developers.

"I think that will be ripe for economic development change when the economy turns around," she said. "Although we're small, we're growing."

Bringing more businesses to town would ease the tax burden on residents, Haverl said, which would help them in difficult economic times.

But while Haverl thinks it's important to increase the town's tax base, she's also interested in preserving its rural character, by concentrating development in a few areas and leaving

farmland intact.

"Once I've made up my mind, I'm not hesitant," Haverl said, adding that Andover residents had been congratulating her for her candidacy and pledging their support in the upcoming election.

The slate put forth by the Democratic Town Committee at its caucus last week also features Board of Selectmen members Elaine Buchardt and Linda Knowlton, who are each seeking re-election. For the Planning and Zoning Commission, Democrats are running current regular member Sue England and current alternate Eric Anderson. They are also supporting Dave Knowlton for an alternate position on that commission.

For the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Democrats have nominated current regular member Dorothy Yeomans, and Jim McCann, a member of the Board of Finance, for an alternate position.

Current Board of Education member Kim Hawes is seeking re-election, and newcomer Cathy Danielczuk, a special education teacher and former daycare provider is also running.

Keener, a former industrial arts teacher, is running for the RHAM Board of Education. The committee also endorsed Republican Ken Lee, who is seeking re-election to that board. Lee was nominated for another term by the Republican Town Committee at its Jan. 10 caucus.

Joan Foran is running for the Board of Assessment Appeals. Foran has served on several boards in the past, Keener said, but is new to this board.

Former Board of Finance member Marie Burbank is seeking to be elected to that board again, along with Dennis Foran, who has served



Julia Haverl

on several other town boards.

John Colli is seeking re-election for Fire Commissioner – he was also endorsed by the Republicans at their caucus last week. The Democratic Town Committee also endorsed longtime Town Clerk Carol Lee for her position; she had previously been nominated by the Republicans at their caucus.

Andover's municipal election will take place on May 2.



Portland Police are looking for a white male in his 20s suspected in a smash-and-grab burglary at the Citgo station early Tuesday. The man, shown here in a surveillance photo, allegedly stole several packs of cigarettes.

Police Searching for Portland Burglary Suspect

by Claire Michalewicz

Police are looking for a suspect in a smash-and-grab burglary at the Citgo station on Route 66 early Tuesday morning.

Sergeant Scott Cunningham said the suspect arrived at the gas station at 1633 Portland-Cobalt Rd. just before 3 a.m. He smashed the front door with a metal pipe and stole several packages of Newport and Marlboro cigarettes from behind the counter, Cunningham said.

Although the store was closed, Cunningham said, the owner was upstairs preparing for Tuesday's storm. When he heard the suspect enter the store, the owner grabbed a baseball bat and went downstairs to confront him,

Cunningham said.

"The suspect was able to skeddadle right out the front door, but not before he got hit in the back," Cunningham said.

Cunningham said the owner described the suspect as a white male in his 20s, "with a distinctive large nose." He said the burglar was wearing jeans and a dark hooded sweatshirt, and left the scene in a gray or tan sedan, possibly a Camry, with a spoiler on the back.

Anyone with information about the burglary is encouraged to call Portland police at 860-342-6780.

East Hampton Man Charged with Using Counterfeit Money

by Claire Michalewicz

An East Hampton man was arrested last week for using counterfeit money at a local store.

Troy Timothy McIntosh, 28, of 14 Main St. was arrested Wednesday, Jan. 12, after he used a counterfeit bill at McDonald's, Sergeant Garritt Kelly said. Kelly said a store employee realized the bill was counterfeit, and called police with a description of McIntosh and his car.

Kelly said police located McIntosh, and found at least five fake \$20 bills in his car. Police were able to link McIntosh to counterfeit bills that had been used at Stop & Shop earlier, Kelly said.

McIntosh was charged with first-degree forgery, conspiracy to commit first-degree forgery and violation of probation. He is being held on a \$500 bond and is due to enter a plea at Middletown Superior Court on Feb. 3.

Three Cars Collide, Pedestrian Struck in Route 66 Accidents

by Claire Michalewicz

Two separate car accidents happened on Route 66 Saturday evening, one in which three cars collided and another in which a pedestrian was struck.

Sergeant Scott Cunningham said the three-car crash happened shortly after 6 p.m. on Saturday, when a westbound Honda Civic tried to turn left into the shopping plaza. An oncoming Volkswagen sedan struck the Honda, forcing it into a Chevrolet station wagon that was waiting to make a right turn out of the plaza.

The driver of the Honda, Margaret Lile of Middletown, was found to be at fault for failing to yield the right of way, Cunningham said.

In an unrelated incident around the same time, a 16-year-old boy was struck by a car when he tried to cross Route 66 in front of Cumberland Farms. Lt. Ron Milardo said the boy was with a group of friends waiting to cross the street. One car in the eastbound right lane stopped to let them cross, and he walked into the street. Another car in the left lane didn't see the teen, Milardo said, and continued driving.

Milardo said the teen hit the car's side mirror, and wasn't severely injured. He was transported to Hartford Hospital as a precaution, Milardo said.

Truck, Bus Collide on Route 66 in Portland

by Claire Michalewicz

A pickup truck and a school bus collided on Route 66 Wednesday afternoon, Portland Police said.

Sergeant Scott Cunningham said there were no students on the bus at the time of the accident, and no injuries were reported.

Cunningham said the accident happened in the westbound lane near the intersection with High Street at 1:40 p.m. Cunningham said the driver told police he felt he was wait-

ing too long to turn left from High Street onto Route 66. The driver turned right onto the street instead, and attempted to make a U-turn at the next divide in the median.

When he turned, he pulled in front of an oncoming school bus, Cunningham said, and the bus struck the truck. The truck sustained damage to its left side, he said, and the bus' front bumper was bent.

Nearly 2,000 Lose Power in Portland

Tuesday's ice storm knocked out power in much of Portland.

Connecticut Light & Power spokesman Jeff Tilghman said 1,900 CL&P customers in Portland lost power on Tuesday. Tilghman said power was restored to all but 80 Portland customers by early Wednesday morning, and all of Portland had power back by Thursday.

Spokesman Mitch Gross said the outages were caused by severe weather conditions, with ice knocking down power lines throughout the state.

Crash Sends Coventry Resident to Hospital

A two-car accident on Bunker Hill Road sent a Coventry resident to the hospital last Saturday, Jan. 15, State Police said.

Taylor Hansen, 21, of Coventry, who was traveling westbound on Bunker Hill Road in a 2004 Hyundai Tiburon, left the lane and collided with Richard Busch's 1990 Chevrolet GMT 400, State Police said.

Busch, 64, of Andover, was traveling eastbound. His car sustained front-end damage, but he was listed as not injured.

Hansen was transported via Andover Fire Department to Manchester Hospital for a minor left wrist injury. Hansen's vehicle sustained front end damage as well.

Andover School Board Approves \$4.08 Million Budget

by Katy Nally

The Board of Education unanimously approved a 2011-12 school budget of \$4.08 million Wednesday night, which includes a 0.21 percent increase over this year's spending package.

Overall, the increase is about \$8,700.

Line items that saw the greatest increase included insurance, retirement and unemployment costs, which went up by about 7 percent, over this year. Also, energy costs, such as heating and transportation fuel, increased, as did maintenance and custodial supplies.

"To go green costs a little bit more money," Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia explained. Board of Education Chair Jay Linddy said Thursday the schools have gone green by using environmentally-friendly products.

Contracted services, including legal fees, septic system maintenance and special education costs, saw the biggest decrease, at 19 percent. Maneggia said two special education students left the district, so consultant fees have been "reduced significantly." Also, Maneggia

said he went to bid for electricity and received a much lower rate.

Maneggia also saw some savings after a little "creative staffing." Based on projected enrollment (the number of students at the school is expected to drop from 335 this year to 327 next year), Maneggia said next year would put 35 students in fifth grade, with two teachers, and 38 students in sixth grade, with three teachers. Instead of having three sixth-grade teachers, Maneggia suggested reducing one of them to 60 percent and have him or her work with gifted students, provide extra math help, as well as technology assistance for other teachers.

Working with gifted students and providing math help were two responsibilities of a special education teacher that saw increased hours this year, thanks to federal money from the Education Jobs Bill. In October, Andover was granted \$72,000 to retain jobs.

Maneggia said half the money from the jobs bill, \$36,000, was used to increase this special education teacher to 90 percent. But instead of

continuing that increase, Maneggia said that position would revert back to half-time, and the remaining \$36,000 would be used to retain a third-grade teacher.

By rearranging the sixth-grade teacher, Maneggia estimated it yielded about \$28,000 in savings.

"If government funds stay [at where] we are now, all staff will remain at the current level," Maneggia said.

Maneggia's budget, as presented, doesn't lay anybody off, and even increases services to kids.

However, he presented the spending package with a disclaimer, noting the \$4.08 million hinges on the new governor keeping Education Cost Sharing at its current level. Maneggia said 14 percent, or roughly \$330,000, of Andover Elementary School's budget comes from "federal dollars."

But Linddy said he wasn't concerned about Andover not receiving its portion of ECS.

The state is "going to meet their obligations

this year on ECS grants," Linddy said Thursday. "There's no way you're gonna see 14 percent of a budget cut; it won't survive."

Like ECS funding, Maneggia added there are several other "assumptions and constraints" within his budget. For example, heating oil and low-sulfur diesel fuel costs are unpredictable, and federal and state grants "will be used to the maximum extent possible."

"If ever a year where assumptions and constraints are relevant, it's this year," Maneggia said. "There's no wiggle room in this budget."

Still, education board members said they were impressed with Maneggia's budget and unanimously approved it.

"We met the needs of our children, and we met the needs of our taxpayers," Linddy said.

The Board of Education will present the budget to the Board of Finance on Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m., at a location that at press time had yet to be determined.

East Hampton Residents Offer Input on Village Center Plans

by Claire Michalewicz

Residents and property owners had a chance to offer their opinions about the revitalization of the Village Center at a special Planning and Zoning Commission presentation Wednesday evening.

The commission, along with Glenn Chalder, president of the planning firm Planimetrics, outlined a proposed overlay zoning regulation that developers could choose to use in the Village Center. The optional zoning requires that 20 percent of housing units be designated as “affordable,” and also offers design guidelines to maintain the character of the neighborhood.

Chalder said he had studied the area around Main, Summit and Watrous streets, identifying properties that could be used for housing and mixed-use developments. Some of the major goals of the program, Chalder said, were to make the area more walkable, and to “create a stronger sense of place.”

Mill buildings could be converted to multi-family housing, Chalder explained, while other areas had space for duplex or townhouse developments that would fit with the character of the neighborhood. All of this, Chalder said, was optional.

He explained that the town didn’t have to conform with the state-regulated Incentive

Housing Zone program, instead developing their own way to bring in affordable housing. Under state law, unless the town can make 10 percent of its housing units affordable, developers have the ability to plan a large housing development that may not fit with the town’s character.

But rather than enter the state program, he said, the town could consider setting up its own guidelines. The commission presented a draft version of the regulations, which explain that developers must designate 20 percent of the units in a development as “affordable,” set aside for families earning less than \$70,000 a year.

Chalder said housing prices had been steadily increasing since the 1980s, which made it difficult to first-time buyers to get into the housing market.

“We are making steady improvements over time in the Village Center,” Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Ray Zatorski said. He pointed to the recent extension of the Air Line Trail into the area, explaining that it could draw more people into the village.

Zatorski stressed that the overlay zone the commission was considering adopting was simply one more option for developers, and

would not change the area’s existing zoning regulations. Since it was simply an overview, he said, no one was creating plans for any specific property.

“I don’t think anybody wants to force anybody to do anything,” Zatorski said. “We’re trying to open up the possibility.”

Many residents told the commission they thought the new regulations could help the Village Center.

“I congratulate you on this plan,” said resident Irene Curtis. Curtis said that while the town had been trying to redevelop the Village Center since the 1980s, the new guidelines were what had been missing from previous discussions.

“It’s a good thing to give property owners options,” said Bill Carlevale, who said he owns a property on Summit Street. He said that as long as the overlay zone didn’t put restrictions on existing properties, the program would give property owners flexibility. “That’s really the best of both worlds.”

Others, like Ralph Nesci, were less optimistic.

“This is a nice pipe dream,” Nesci said. “I don’t see it happening. I don’t see that much

money in this area.”

Nesci said he owns a property on Summit Street, but he had many concerns about developing it, including water and sewer connections, and the possibility of contamination from the area’s industrial past.

George Coshow explained that he lived in the Middle Haddam Historic District, and cautioned against historical zones with strict design guidelines. He said the strict rules in Middle Haddam had created problems for residents who wanted to make improvements to their homes.

The guidelines for construction, Zatorski said, were simply suggestions for developers. The draft zoning amendment says “projects should enhance the overall flavor of a historic New England mill village,” and fit in with surrounding buildings in terms of size and design.

Wednesday’s meeting was simply a means to collect input on the proposed regulations. Zatorski said the commission would revisit the plan at their next regular meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 20 East High St. He said the commission would schedule more workshops to get public feedback.

Hebron Police News

1/12: Cash and alcohol were taken from Amston Liquor Shoppe on Church Street around 2 a.m., State Police said. Entry was made by smashing the glass front door. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Trooper Joshua McElroy at 860-537-7555 ext. 4066.

1/13: Curtis Eza, 45, of 34 Cherry Valley Rd., Columbia, was charged with DUI, evading an accident and following too close, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

1/13: Robert Clarke, 46, of 179 South Main St., Apt. 1, was charged with violation of a protective order and disorderly conduct, Colchester Police said.

1/15: Peter Gruber, 37, of 56 Cherry Hill Rd., Norwich, was charged with violation of a protective order, violation of a restraining order and breach of peace, Colchester Police said.

East Hampton Police News

1/1: Jolene Emmerson, 36, of 12 Boulder Rd., Colchester, was arrested for DUI, East Hampton Police said.

1/6: David Caldwell, 21, of 157 Daly Rd., was arrested for possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

1/8: Denise Malaro, 47, of 121 Cedar Ridge Dr., Glastonbury, was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

1/9: Scott Orlinski, 39, and Jodi Junokas, 41,

both of 14 West St., were arrested. Orlinski was arrested for disorderly conduct and criminal possession of a firearm; Junokas was issued a summons for disorderly conduct, police said.

1/13: Kayla Cassidy, 18, of 165 Robbins Rd., Kensington, was arrested for sixth-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit sixth-degree larceny, police said.

1/14: Melissa Mae Northrop, 19, of 16 Mark Twain Dr., was arrested for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

Marlborough Police News

1/11: Ryan Henk, 19, of 297 Old Hebron Rd., Colchester, was charged with conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary and fifth-degree larceny, State Police said.

1/13: A youthful offender turned himself in for conspiracy to commit burglary from a motor vehicle and fifth-degree larceny, State Police said.

1/17: Catalytic converters were reportedly cut from two vehicles that were parked in the commuter lot near exit 12 off Route 2, State Police said.

Man Charged With Misusing 911

A local resident was arrested Jan. 7 after he used 911 to apparently harass his ex-wife, East Hampton Police said.

Brian Lee Woynar, 46, of 77 Smith St., was charged with misuse of the emergency 911 system and disorderly conduct, police said.

According to Sergeant Garritt Kelly, Woynar called 911 to send the East Hampton Fire Department over to his ex-wife’s house, due to a problem with her furnace. However, once firefighters arrived at the woman’s house, they discovered no problem whatsoever, Kelly said.

Asked what Woynar’s motivation for the false 911 call might have been, Kelly said he thought “there was some intoxication factor involved” and that he believed Woynar placed the call “to spite his ex-wife.”

Woynar is next due in Middlesex Superior Court Feb. 15, according to the state judicial website.

Marlborough

Casmira Overbaugh

Casmira (Orzel) Overbaugh, 79, of S. Stonybrook Dr., Marlborough, wife of the late George F. Overbaugh, died Wednesday, Jan. 12, at home. She was born in Schenectady, NY, the daughter of the late Stephen and Stasia (Bialczak) Orzel.

Prior to her retirement, Casmira was an administrative assistant at Capital Community College. She was also a member of St. Augustine Church Altar Guild and Rosary Society, and the Garden Club in Marlborough.

She is survived by her son, Peter Overbaugh of Marlborough; her daughter, Gretchen LaButti and her husband Jason of Cambridge, MA, a granddaughter Anna Regina; two sisters, Susan Mitsch of NY and Francis Wilgren of MA; also several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by two sisters, Lillian Dauwalter and Regina Orzel.

A memorial Mass will be held Saturday, Jan. 22, at St. Augustine Church at 11 a.m. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to, Salesian Sisters, Attn: Sister Suzanne, 655 Belmont Ave., Haledon, NJ 07508 or Human Life International, 4 Family Life Ln., Front Royal, VA 22630.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Obituaries

Portland

Michael E. Marseglia

Michael E. Marseglia, 82, of Portland and East Beach, RI, husband of the late Patricia (Swift) Marseglia died suddenly Tuesday, Jan. 11. Born Aug. 8, 1928, in Stamford, he was the son of the late Charles and Felicia Marseglia.

He lived most of his life in Portland. He served in the U.S. Army in the Korean conflict. He was a retired teacher who spent most of his career at Conard High School in West Hartford. He was an avid walker, gardener, naturalist and Sudoku player.

Michael is survived by his loving family: eldest son Michael Marseglia and his wife Lynda of Glastonbury, a daughter Kathleen Marseglia of Hartford, a daughter Patricia Colonghi and her husband John of Middletown, a daughter Sharon Champagne and husband William of Portland, a daughter Eileen Butterworth and husband Donald of Portland, a daughter Maureen Konopka and husband Richard of Glastonbury, a son Matthew Marseglia and wife Meg of Glastonbury.

Two sons predeceased him, Timothy and John. His loving grandchildren and great grandchildren spent endless hours with him, especially at his summer home at East Beach. He shared his passion for the earth with all of them. His grandchildren are twins, Jason and Jeremy Colonghi, Sarah Colonghi-Maziarz and her husband Jason. Jessica, Billy and Jeff Champagne, Tim and Emma Butterworth, Katie and Kim Konopka, Ava Marseglia and great grandchildren John, Jason and Emilia Maziarz.

He is survived by his brother, Mario Marseglia of Stamford. He was predeceased by a brother, Mark Maseglia.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Jan. 15, in the Coughlin-Lastrina Funeral Home, 491 High St., Middletown. Burial will be in the family plot in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland, at a later date. Friends called at the funeral home Saturday morning before the service.

Colchester

John H. Barber

John H. Barber, 86, of Colchester, died Friday, Jan. 7. He was born Jan. 9, 1924, in Hartford, son of the late William and Amanda Barber.

He was predeceased by brothers George and Charles Barber and sisters Mary Deming and Estelle Allen and nephew Scott Barber.

He is survived by brothers-in-law Bill Allen and Henry Deming of Glastonbury and sister-in-law Gita Barber of Florida. Beloved uncle of William and Robert Barber, Loretta (Deming) Goeller, Richard and Jeanne Deming, Michael and Amanda (Barber) Peck, Bill and Roger Allen and Karl and Wendy Barber.

John went to Hartford Public before attending Purdue University. He was a U.S. Army sharpshooter in World War II, serving in the 14th Armored Division in France and Germany. He was a decorated hero, receiving the Silver Star for "gallantry in action."

John's commendation noted: "While leading a small patrol into enemy held territory, he was discovered and brought under heavy enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. One member of the group was killed and Sergeant Barber was wounded in the neck and shoulder. He ordered the patrol to withdraw while he continued to reconnoiter enemy positions until a third wound forced him to withdraw. Under constant enemy fire, he paused along the way and sketched various enemy positions. Upon reaching the Command Post, he refused to be evacuated until he had posted the enemy data on the situation map. His accurate information made possible the destruction of three enemy machine gun positions and an ammunition dump and enabled the artillery to bring deadly fire to bear on four enemy pillboxes. Sergeant Barber's superb courage, utter disregard for his own safety, and unselfish devotion to duty reflect great credit on himself and the military service."

John served on the staff of *Stars and Stripes* after the war. Post-Army, he worked for the Postal Service in Hartford until his retirement. John was a longtime resident of Wethersfield, moving to Colchester with his brother Charles before returning. He was a devoted nephew, providing unfaltering care for his Aunt Alma for many years. John loved sports and games of chance. A memorial for John will occur on Memorial Day, attended by his family.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454 Alexandria, VA 22312.

Colchester

Samuel Turner

Samuel Turner, 90, of Colchester, beloved husband of Hattie (Bray) Turner, passed away Sunday, Jan. 16, surrounded by his loving family. Born March 21, 1920, he was the last surviving of the eight children of the late Rev. W. L. and Fannie (Crocker) Turner.

Mr. Turner was a truck driver for the former Schuster's Express in Colchester for 36 years before his retirement. He was a member of the Baptist congregation of the Colchester Federated Church and was also a Mason.

In addition to his loving wife of 70 years, he leaves his son, Kenneth, of Arlington, VA, and numerous extended family members and friends. His predeceased siblings were Lulabelle Morgan, Fannie Bray and Payton Turner, all late of Colchester and Bethenia Geter, Ollie Pearl Jones and Moses Turner Sr. and Aaron Turner Sr.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., on the green. The family will receive guests starting at 10:30 a.m. at the church. Interment will follow in the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

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

Hebron

Geraldine G. Chambers

Geraldine G. "Gerry" (Massey) Chambers, 76, of North Windham, formerly of Hebron, wife of the late Henry J. Chambers Sr., passed away peacefully Friday, Jan. 14, at Windham Hospital. Gerry was born Jan. 20, 1934, in Worcester, MA, daughter of the late Robert and Eileen (Keating) Massey.

She was raised in Worcester and had lived in Hebron for most of her life before moving to North Windham in 2003. Prior to her retirement, Gerry was employed for many years at the former Cheney Brothers Textile Mill in Manchester. She loved to go fishing, watching UConn women's basketball, 10-pin bowling, the New York Giants and especially spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by her three children, Henry Chambers and his wife, Nancy of Hampton, Guy Chambers of Mystic and Rose Fogg of North Windham, seven grandchildren, Tate, Amber, Sybil, Lucas, Lucie, Crystal and Victoria, her two beloved sisters, Barbara Massey of Raleigh, NC and Susan Chandler of Danville, NH and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Memorial calling hours were Monday, Jan. 17, at Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester, followed by a memorial service. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

To sign the online guestbook or for directions to the funeral home, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Portland

Ethel Walden McFarland

Ethel Walden McFarland, 91, formerly of Ann Street, Portland, died Friday, Jan. 14, at Chestelm Health Care Center in Moodus. She was the wife of the late Chandler McFarland. Born in Portland, June 12, 1919, a daughter of the late Charles and Ethel May Parmelee Walden, she was a lifelong Portland resident.

She had been employed by CAGM Food Services for many years until her retirement. Ethel loved flowers, birds, and dogs, and had been a doll maker. She loved painting, square dancing, and most of all, spending time with her family. She had been a member of the Portland Grange, the Middletown Elks, the Rebecca's and was a member of the Portland United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her daughters Diane Day of East Hampton, Susan Dwyer and her husband Francis of Portland; her son-in-law Rodger Congdon of Colchester; her grandchildren Ron Terrio, Todd Prout, Holly Russo, Pam Galvin, Richard Day, Robert Day, Tammy Desjardins, Kerry Fauteux, and Laurie Dill; 11 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her first husband Robert Wilcox, her daughter Marlene Congdon, and her brothers Edward Walden and Harold Walden.

Her family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home 231 Main St., Portland, Tuesday, Jan. 18. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 19, directly at the Portland United Methodist Church. The Rev. Al Grimm officiated. Interment will be in Center Cemetery in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Ethel's memory may be sent to the Portland United Methodist Church, 381 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

For directions, or to extend an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Portland

Donald J. Sogan

Donald J. Sogan, 65, of West Hartford and Portland, husband of Joan (Ostafin) Sogan of West Hartford, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Jan. 12, at the UConn Medical Center in Farmington.

Don was born on March 5, 1945, in Meriden, to the late Raymond and Bernice Sogan. He graduated from Portland High School, served in the U.S. Army, and was previously employed at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and Jarvis Airfoil. Don was devoted to the outdoors, loved gardening, spending time at his mother's home in Portland and was an avid bowler.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sisters Irene (Vincent) Tomassetti of Meriden, Shirley (Harry) Egan of Portland and his brother Robert (Carol) Sogan of Portland. He also leaves behind his niece Kara Rice of Cromwell, Kelly Warner of East Hampton and his nephews Scott Egan of Portland and Brett Sogan of Cheshire, grand-nephews Kevin and Connor Egan of Portland and his beloved dog, Rusty.

Funeral service was Saturday, Jan. 15, at the Sheehan Hilborn Breen Funeral Home, 1084 New Britain Ave., West Hartford. Burial private. Calling hour was prior to the service, at the funeral home.

East Hampton

Michael R. Des Jardins

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Michael R. Des Jardins, 58, of East Hampton, beloved husband and soulmate of Rose M. (Markham) Des Jardins. Born Nov. 11, 1952, in Camp Lejeune, NC, he had lived in Cobalt and East Hampton for most of his life.

Michael was a 1970 graduate of East Hampton High School, where in his senior year he participated in a work study program where he learned auto body repairs. Michael had two careers that were his passion, working on cars and driving trucks. He had worked for Victor Auto Body and Juliano Auto Body. He then received his CDL license and worked for Ellis Waste Removal, Sunshine Dairy and then at John and Bob's in Portland, where he eventually became a tractor-trailer driver.

He worked for Belltown Motors in East Hampton and most recently for Butler Construction. During the 9/11 tragedy he drove a tractor trailer loaded with lighting equipment to New York City to help in the rescue efforts.

Michael was an avid NHRA follower and loved the Connecticut Dragway Races and muscle car shows. He would travel with Rose as far away as California and most recently to Kingman, AZ, to see a show. He loved to just get in the car and drive and sightsee. Michael was a devoted husband, father and grandfather who will be sadly missed by all who loved him.

Besides his wife and best friend Rose, he is survived by his father, Phillip A. Des Jardins and his wife Elaine of Middletown; his mother, Myra Hughes of North Port, FL; a daughter, Heather Duplin and her husband Jason of East Hampton; a sister, Kim Des Jardins of Meriden; two grandchildren, Dakota Duplin and Kaylyn Johnson who lived with him; also his good friends who supported him throughout his long illness, Raymond and Karen Conroy, Eddie Nowakowski, and Jeff Rugar.

He was predeceased by his daughter, Wendi J. Des Jardins in 2003.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 19, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial followed in Skinnerville Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home Tuesday, Jan. 18, from 6-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Smilow Cancer Center at Office of Development, Yale New Haven Hospital, P.O. Box 1849, New Haven, CT 06508-9979, or to Middlesex Hospital Hospice, c/o the Department of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Marie Nichols

Marie "Nina" (Bernardi) Nichols, 88, of East Hampton, beloved wife of the late Harold Nichols, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 12, at her home, with her loving family by her side. Born May 27, 1922, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Julia (Bertotti) Bernardi of South Glastonbury.



Marie worked as a caregiver for over 25 years at Chestelm Health and Rehab and retired from Marlborough Health Care. She was a communicant of St. Patrick Church and a member of the guild. Marie enjoyed playing cards, gambling and bingo with her friend Ruth Flemke. She was an avid Red Sox fan. She also loved her three great-grandchildren with all her heart. They were her medicine for life.

She is survived by her two daughters, Mary Ann Wall and her husband Dennis of East Hampton, Julie Belcourt of Clinton; her granddaughter, Pamela Ann Oakes and her husband Timothy Oakes of Chelmsford, MA; three great-grandchildren, Sarah Marie, Samuel Thomas and Lily Katherine; a special friend, Nancy Wall; and many nieces and cousins.

She was predeceased by her brother, William Bernardi, and her son-in-law Thomas Belcourt.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Monday, Jan. 17, and again on Tuesday, Jan. 18. The funeral procession left the Spencer Funeral Home Tuesday, Jan. 18, followed by the funeral liturgy in St. Patrick Church, with the Rev. Walter Nagle officiating. Burial was private at Lakeview Cemetery.

The family would like to thank Dr. James Ouellette, Dr. David Gallo, Kimberly Hudson, and all the staff at Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit, especially Peggy Colburn, Karen Tedeschi, Ruth Utting and a special thanks to Naira Afrikyar, her caregiver.

Memorial donations may be made to Middlesex Hospice Dept. of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457, St. Patrick Church, P.O. Box 177, East Hampton, CT 06424, or East Hampton Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Amston

Elizabeth Jean Carlson

Elizabeth "Betty" Jean Carlson of Amston died Friday, Jan. 14, at the Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Born Feb. 1, 1950, in Quincy, MA, she was the only child of the late George H. and Jean (Norris) Baker of East Weymouth, MA.



Mrs. Carlson graduated from Weymouth High School in 1967 and from Bridgewater State College in 1971. In 1973, at the Cochesett Methodist Church in West Bridgewater, MA, she married David Carlson, who survives. She held various banking positions managing banks in Rockland, MA, Pawling NY and Pennington, NJ. She lived most of her working life in Danbury, Pawling, NY, Frenchtown, NJ, Duncanville, TX and Amston. Mrs. Carlson was a Gurnet Point [Plymouth, MA] resident for over 50 years. She enjoyed boating and gardening and was an excellent cook and fisherman.

Along with her husband, David, her brother-in-law, Peter, sister-in-law, Deby of Franklin, MA, nephew, Nikolas and his wife, Kristen, of Blackstone, MA, niece Beth, of Franklin, MA, Aunt Winifred Ovaska of Harwich, MA, and Aunt Lillian Drake of Marstin Mills, MA, survive her.

There will be no services. Donations in her memory may be made to Gurnet-Saquish Assn. c/o Karen Ellsworth, 205 Victory Rd., Quincy, MA 02171.

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

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.