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The Marlborough Tavern will celebrate its 25th anniversary tomorrow night, with a dinner special and a live band. The restaurant is located at 3-5 East Hampton Rd. in Marlborough.

Marlborough Tavern Celebrates 25 Years

by Katy Nally

Twenty-five years is an eternity in the restaurant business.

And the milestone takes on new meaning if the co-owners are still speaking, and still married to their "starter wives." At least, that's how John Spellman sees it.

"It's unbelievable," he marveled.

Spellman and his business partner Jim Bradley have owned and operated the Marlborough Tavern for the past 25 years. And to commemorate this achievement, the restaurant will hold a 25th anniversary party tomorrow night, Saturday, Jan. 8.

As part of the festivities, the tavern is offering a dinner special, which is a four-course meal for a fixed price of \$25, and the band Columbia Fields will take the stage at 9 p.m. The Wild Turkey American Honey girls will also make an appearance.

The restaurant's normal menu will still be offered, and a \$5 cover charge for the bar will begin at 7:30 p.m.

While the tavern celebrates its birthday every year, 2011 will mark the quarter-century milestone.

Spellman said he looks forward to the birth-

day celebration all year, because it's his chance to look, and act, "like a big-shot-restaurant man." Just seeing him wear a tie might be incentive enough for some locals to check out the event, he said.

But much of the draw this year will probably come from Columbia Fields, a band that features three RHAM High School graduates, and has a sound similar to Dave Matthews Band, Counting Crows and Tori Amos.

The band came about in 2002 and finalized its members and name four years later. What started as jam sessions between RHAM graduates Eric Heath, on the keyboard, and Grayson Minney, on guitar, soon grew into a three-member band, once fellow RHAM grad Chris Bowes joined on drums. Then in 2006 the band gained bassist Jon Coates, and became Columbia Fields.

Tomorrow night's show will also feature guest guitarist Alan Veniscofsky.

Since the group's inception, the musicians have opened for Bon Jovi and Edwin McCain, but still haven't abandoned their roots.

Spellman called Columbia Fields "kind of See Tavern Page 2

Documentary Offers Different Look at Korean War

by Claire Michalewicz

Inspired by his grandfather's war stories, a Portland filmmaker is working to educate younger generations about the Korean War.

Conor Timmis, 30, is in the middle of production on a documentary called *Finnigan's War*, which aims to bring a different perspective to what's often called "The Forgotten War."

John Finnigan, Timmis' grandfather, earned a Silver Star as an Army sergeant in 1951. Finnigan ran toward an enemy position to draw fire away from a group of wounded men, allowing them to be evacuated.

After Finnigan died in 2007, Timmis came to realize his grandfather had shared more stories about Korea with him than with his other family members. Timmis said when he was young, he didn't really understand what war was, and thought it was "like a video game." But he managed to draw a lot of stories from his grandfather that no one else in his family heard.

"If it wasn't for my grandfather, I'd be like most Americans and I wouldn't know anything about the Korean War," Timmis said.

Teachers often skip over the Korean War in history classes, Timmis said, and many younger Americans know little to nothing about it. His main goal in making the film is to bring the war to a younger and more diverse audience.

"Most war documentaries have eight old white guys talking," Timmis said, so he's made a point of seeking out veterans from a variety of backgrounds.

Many of these veterans' achievements went unrecognized at the time because of prejudice, he said. For example, he said, his favorite in-

terview so far was with Maj. Kurt Chew-Een Lee, the first Chinese-American officer in the Marine Corps. Timmis said Lee was passed over for a Medal of Honor for his service in Korea, where he led a one-man raid on Chinese troops, and led 500 troops through a blizzard, but may be receiving one soon.

One of the Connecticut veterans he interviewed was Celestino Cordova from New Haven, who fought in an all-Puerto Rican infantry division. Timmis said Cordova's unit was "used as cannon fodder," and after leaving the army, Cordova was laughed at when he said he wanted to attend college.

The film is "kind of a memorial to these Korean War heroes who have been pretty much forgotten," Timmis said.

So far, Timmis said, the documentary has been easy to put together. None of the veterans or their family members that he's contacted for an interview have turned him down yet, he said, and they've been generous in sharing stories about difficult subjects.

"The material we've got so far has been incredible," Timmis said. "If it keeps up, I feel like I'll have something special."

Timmis said his grandfather was unusual among the Korean War veterans he's met, because he said the United States should have tried harder to win the war. But most of the other veterans he's spoken to, Timmis said, have said the war "was worth it."

What has struck Timmis most about the veterans he's interviewed is "the pride they've carried with them into their old age." Many of the veterans he interviewed also served in World



Portland filmmaker Conor Timmis poses with members of the 2nd Rangers, the Army's first and only all-African-American Ranger Unit. The company conducted the first airborne assault in Ranger history during the Korean War.

War II or the Vietnam War, he said, and a few even served in all three.

Timmis, who grew up in Middletown and Portland, started interviewing veterans and their families last summer. He said he's taking a break from shooting over the winter and plans to start up again in the spring, working on editing and voiceovers at a studio in California. He's looking for corporate funding for the project, and hopes to raise about \$50,000 for travel expenses, so he can conduct interviews

throughout the United States, Europe and South Korea.

Timmis primarily works as an actor, but this is his second documentary film. The first, *Kreating Karloff*, was about the actor Boris Karloff, best known for playing Frankenstein's monster in a series of 1930s horror films. With both films, he said, he's had an idea and simply felt the need to make the film, but in the long run, he doesn't see himself as a filmmaker.

See Documentary Page 2



This dining room in the Marlborough Tavern will be packed tomorrow night with residents celebrating the restaurant's 25 anniversary. As part of the festivities, Columbia Fields will perform live.

Tavern cont. from Front Page

like our house band."

"They always bring in a good crowd," he added.

Heath said the Marlborough Tavern is "kind of something we hold dear," as it's where the band debuted.

"It's right in the heart of where it started," Heath added.

But fans of Columbia Fields should get their fix at tomorrow's concert because they might become few and far between for a while. Heath said the band plans on taking a short hiatus after Saturday to write some new music.

Other than the live music, Spellman said he's looking forward to the dinner special – especially the Tortelloni Osso Buco, which is braised veal-stuffed pasta, tossed with sautéed mushrooms, baby spinach and tomatoes, tied together with a light cream sauce.

While Spellman dons the chef hat on Mondays and Tuesdays, he said tomorrow's dinner will be prepared by his two main chefs, who began working at the tavern when they were teens.

Twenty-four years ago, now-chef Will Jeffries walked into the Marlborough Tavern and began working as a dishwasher, Spellman said. Now he's a Johnson & Wales University graduate and sears New York strips and serves up chicken cordon bleus.

And Spellman himself has a similar story. He, and his partner Bradley, as well as a third restaurateur, Frank Oberhammer, all began working together as waiters at Chuck's Steak House in Rocky Hill.

The trio then decided to open their own res-

taurant and settled on the Marlborough Tavern. And 25 years later, the business is still standing, although it's just Spellman and Bradley now.

"Everyone talks about opening their own restaurant, and we did it, and we survived," Spellman said.

He attributed his survival in the restaurant business to a strong "will not to want to move into your mother-in-law's home." But really, over the past few months as the recession has taken a toll on the economy and residents' wallets, Spellman said it just comes down to "working harder and making less."

"We hope to be here for another 25 years," he said.

And if history is any proof, the Marlborough Tavern will endure. Since it opened in 1986, the Marlborough Tavern has persevered through three recessions, and Spellman said it's simply because of "good food and warm service."

"That seems to be the staple of how you survive in this day and age," he said.

That, and "trying everything."

New this year at the tavern is a variety of events like the comedy night on Jan. 15, the illusionist who is coming in February and "An Evening with Ghost Hunters of Connecticut," which is scheduled for Feb. 26.

But the New Year for the tavern will begin tomorrow with the 25th anniversary party.

The Marlborough Tavern is located at 3-5 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough. For more information call the restaurant at 860-295-8229 or visit themarlboroughtavern.com.

Documentary cont. from Front Page

On *Finnigan's War*, Timmis is working with director of photography and co-producer Gary Fierro, another Connecticut native.

Fitting with *Finnigan's War's* goal to educate people, all proceeds and royalties will go to the new Korean War National Museum in Illinois. The museum will have interactive, hands-on exhibits to educate younger people about the war, he said.

Timmis plans to continue speaking to veterans and their families throughout this year, and hopes to release it on the festival circuit this fall. Anyone interested in an interview or in sponsoring the film can contact him at finniganswar@gmail.com. In particular, he said, he's looking for more female veterans to interview.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Hello and welcome to my first column of the new year. I hope you all had a happy, restful holiday. I still can't quite believe it's 2011. As of my writing of this Tuesday night, I haven't had to write the date yet, but I'm sure I'll need to soon. I just hope I'll actually write '2011' as the year. I'm sure '2010' will embarrassingly make an appearance on a check or something of that nature at some point this year – just as '2009' made more than one such appearance in 2010 – but hopefully I can write it correctly at least the first time out.

I imagine many of you watched the UConn football game last Saturday night. As I wrote in my last column, while I enjoy watching a game every now and then, I'm not tremendously into football, but I was excited about the Huskies' first big bowl game. (Sorry, Meineke Car-Care Bowl.) And while they didn't prevail in the end, a big-name bowl game against a number 7 team is nothing to sneeze at.

Also, while things sort of fell apart in the fourth quarter, the Huskies held their own for a while, keeping the game closer than I think a lot of people felt it was going to be.

So cheers to the UConn Huskies for their recent bowl showing. But jeers to Coach Randy Edsall for his performance after the game.

I'm not criticizing Edsall for departing for Maryland; I understand it's a bigger program, and closer to where he is from. But did he have to handle it the way he did? While the rest of the Huskies flew from Phoenix back to Connecticut after Saturday's game, Edsall and his family flew to Maryland, for a Sunday full of interviews.

Edsall didn't tell anyone – not his coaching staff, not any of the players – about the

interviews, and many of them found out through calls from family, friends and former players. While I can understand the rationale behind not telling anyone of the interviews – after all, if Edsall didn't get the job, it would've made for an awkward and embarrassing return to UConn – couldn't he have waited at least a few days?

I admit to not knowing a ton about college football, but the season just ended; was it absolutely necessary for Maryland to sign a new coach on the third day of January? If Maryland was as eager to sign Edsall as they seemed, I think they would've allowed him time to say his goodbyes to people. I realize it's tough these days to keep anything a secret in the world of sports, but, a little more than 12 hours after Edsall had a post-game meeting with his players Saturday, the Internet was abuzz with reports that Edsall was heading to Maryland. That just seems a shame.

Edsall did at least do a conference call with some of his players late Sunday afternoon (after, of course, the news had already been leaked and the players had already likely learned about it anyway). So I guess that's something.

Edsall did a lot for the UConn football program during his 12 years here, leading it from Division 1-AA to 1-A in 2002, and then to the Big East in 2004. And, beyond on-field performance, Edsall was also credited with being a pillar of strength after UConn player Jasper Howard was killed in a 2009 campus stabbing.

So there is much good that Edsall will be, and should be, remembered for. It's just unfortunate that his time here ended so abruptly, and awkwardly.

* * *

See you next week.

Two Charged in East Hampton with Stealing from Relative

by Claire Michalewicz

An East Hampton couple was arrested over the weekend and charged with stealing a variety of items from a relative, including several guns and a car.

Anthony Surrell, 33, and Andrea Favale, 37, both of 6 Daniel St., were arrested Sunday morning after police tracked them throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island, police Sergeant Garritt Kelly said.

Kelly said Surrell's father called police Saturday to report that Surrell and Favale had stolen multiple items from the home where all three live. The stolen items included four guns – a shotgun, a .22 caliber rifle, a powder rifle and a pellet pistol – a car, money, debit cards, collectibles and electronics, Kelly said.

Officers Adam Brault, Hardie Burgin and John Wilson learned that the pair had connections to the Danielson area, and drove there on Saturday to look for them. Officers were able to track the pair to Rhode Island, after they traced a call the suspects made from a stolen cell phone.

Police returned to the area Sunday morning,

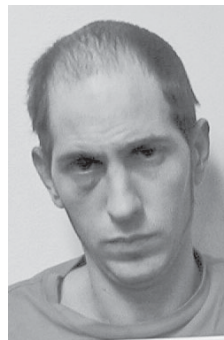
Kelly said. Surrell and Favale were apprehended at a gas station in Plainfield, when another customer called police to report the pair as suspicious, he said, and Plainfield and East Hampton police arrived on the scene and arrested the pair.

Kelly said the couple had planned to sell the items for drug money. He said all the stolen items were recovered, except for the pellet pistol. Some of the electronics had already been sold, while other items were either hidden in the woods or in the stolen car, he said.

Surrell was charged with second-degree larceny, conspiracy to commit second-degree larceny, three counts of theft of firearms, and criminal possession of firearms by a felon.

Favale was charged with second-degree larceny, conspiracy to commit second-degree larceny, and three counts of theft of firearms.

Both suspects were held on \$50,000 bonds, and were arraigned at Middletown Superior Court on Monday. Both are being held in custody and are due to enter pleas on Jan. 24.



Anthony Surrell



**EAST HAMPTON
Andrea Favale**

Hebron Starts New Year with New Computers

by Lindsay Fetzner

Thirty new computers arrived in town this week to replace the slow and outdated machines the town offices currently use.

Last month, the Board of Selectmen approved spending approximately \$89,800 for the technology purchases and to enter into a lease agreement with Dell Financing. In addition to the 30 computers, the town purchased two servers, software and a storage unit for backup and the storage of data.

The new computers were purchased from Dell, Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said this week.

"They gave us the best price," she said.

Finance Director Lisa Hancock said the equipment will be paid over a three-year period, including this fiscal year, and is on a lease-to-purchase basis. Roughly \$29,000 will come from this year's budget for the lease payment, an additional \$30,000 from next year's budget again for the lease payment and the remaining \$33,000 in the third year.

For the lease payment in the first year, Hancock said the funds will come from current appropriations for the computer purchases,

about \$5,000 in grant funding and other "special revenue funds" from the departments the computers are going to. Hancock also added that the final payment includes the buyout to finalize the purchases.

Some of the departments that will contribute money toward the computer purchases are Parks and Recreation, the Douglas Library and the assessor's office. With Parks and Rec., money will come from Fund 4 (\$3,600). Grant money will be used for the computers at the library and social services (\$5,800) and money will be used from revaluation funds from the assessor's office (\$4,600). The grand total applied toward the first lease payment is approximately \$15,300, according to Hancock. The remainder of the funds will come from the CIP account, she said.

The interest rates, Hancock said, started around 8 percent. At the last Board of Selectmen's meeting on Dec. 16, the lowest-priced lease agreement was at an interest rate of 4.25 percent. However, Therrien said Hancock was able to negotiate the rates with Dell Financing down to 3.22 percent.

Therrien said the servers will be the first of the purchases to be installed. From there, Therrien said it will take approximately four to six weeks to get all of the employee's computers up and running. Training will then be held at the town hall once installation is complete.

The cost for installing the computers is roughly \$9,600 and an additional \$2,000 to train the staff on the new Microsoft Office 2010 software, according to Hancock, which will be paid in this fiscal year.

Therrien said last month the cost estimates for equipment, training and installation initially came in over budget. As a result, the list of computers and laptops was shortened to staff members who were most in need of new computers.

At the July 15 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the board initially addressed upgrading some of the outdated pieces of equipment in the town offices. Therrien reported at that meeting that two computers had crashed, including one computer in the finance office and another in the assessor's office. Additionally, Therrien reported that many of the computers in the town office building were extremely slow

and outdated, taking as much as 20 to 40 minutes to start up each morning.

As a result, the board voted that night to allocate \$17,000 from the Capital Improvement Project budget and an additional \$12,000 from capital non-recurring, which was later approved by the Board of Finance for the technology equipment.

The old computers that are still usable will be offered to the other departments in town. The other computers will be recycled, after the hardware has been cleaned of all of its files, Therrien said.

Eventually, Hancock said she would look at incorporating virtual desktops for the town offices. The virtual desktops allow users to work through a server at their desk, using a keyboard and a terminal, but no PC.

"Eventually, that would be our goal for less-powerful users," Hancock said. "People who may just do a little word processing."

But for now, the town is focused on getting the equipment installed and the training completed.

Manchester Changes Its Mind on IT Agreement in Hebron

by Lindsay Fetzner

After much discussion in the past months on joining forces with Manchester for IT services, Manchester has decided to withdraw the pending agreement to assist Hebron with their technology needs.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said she received a phone call from Manchester General Manager Scott Shanley shortly before the Christmas holiday, during which Shanley said the town had decided to withdraw the agreement as well as assisting the town with IT services.

"I am kind of disappointed," Therrien said this week. "I was really looking forward to working with Manchester."

In a memo to the Board of Selectman dated Dec. 28, Therrien addressed the topic, outlining what she thought to be the reason for the withdrawal.

"Although we had met many times on this topic with Mr. Shanley, the Assistant Town Manager, and IT Director, I think the staff feels they could not handle two different towns and address everyone's needs," she said.

Therrien said Manchester is "one of the best in the state" when it comes to IT services.

"It seemed like a perfect fit," she said.

When reached this week, Shanley said "we had recommended a different approach than we first discussed," which he said the Manchester staff "thought would better meet everyone's needs."

Shanley explained via e-mail correspondence

that the approach would have included Hebron engaging in "relatively inexpensive" part-time temp help for computer work with Manchester's technical support through "remote capabilities."

"It was evidently not considered to be in Hebron's best interest," he said. "I respect that."

Shanley went on to describe a number of regional initiatives the town is engaged in, including a shared permitting software project, regional solid waste options, regional animal control and a regional narcotics task force, among others.

"In the end we all need to keep in mind the best interests of our respective property tax payers as we embark on regional initiatives," Shanley said. "I'm sure the direction Hebron's going will work out well for them."

Mal Leichter, a member of the Board of Finance and IT Committee, said he, like Therrien, was disappointed in the announcement.

"I'm sorry that it didn't work out," Leichter said. "I think Bonnie was on the right track and I think the town just needs to continue to move forward to put the proper support in place."

He added that he thought Manchester's decision was a "sign of the times" and "trying to do more with less."

Furthermore, Leichter agreed with Therrien's thoughts on Manchester being one of the elite as well.

"They've just done a great job," he said. "They have a robust infrastructure and they manage it well."

Looking ahead, Leichter said, "Hebron needs to have some sort of formal support structure. We need to have a support plan and unfortunately we're going to have to spend more money to do that."

At the Dec. 16 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the contract with Manchester was discussed at length. During discussion on the matter, Therrien noted that the town had been meeting and discussing the agreement between the two municipalities since the May/June timeframe. The board decided not to take any action on the agreement that night until further financial information was collected in regards to how much money the town has spent so far in the fiscal year for IT services. Further discussion was planned for Thursday's Board of Selectmen's meeting, which occurred after press time.

Therrien said this week she was "pretty surprised" with Manchester's decision due to the fact that "we had moved along so quickly" in trying to form an agreement for services.

When asked if she was going to consider other area towns that could assist Hebron, Therrien said she would not do so right away. Getting the newly-purchased computers, servers and software up and running was a priority right now, Therrien said, and would perhaps consider the issue again in the new budget year (for more information on the new equipment, see a related story on page 18.)

The draft agreement initially discussed at the Dec. 16 selectmen's meeting included Manchester overseeing technology needs such as installation, help desk questions, network administration and server issues. Therrien explained to the board that the town currently budgets \$12,000 per year, through June 30, for technology support costs. She pointed out that due to the fact that the town is never sure how much money will be spent each year because they pay by the hour, the Manchester contract would have aided in budgeting because it was a fixed cost for the services.

According to the draft, tech support would have been available to Hebron on an average of five hour per week. Services would include, but not be limited to, the installation of new hardware and software, general help desk service for network and computer issues, general network administration, general server administration and maintenance and assistance with general technology management.

The cost for the services would have been paid in 12 monthly installments of \$1,358, for a grand total of \$16,296. If the board had approved the agreement, it would have begun on Jan. 1 and terminated on Dec. 31.

Without the tech support from Manchester, Therrien said the town will now utilize the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology out of East Hartford for support.

Complaint Filed Over Breastfeeding Incident in East Hampton

by Claire Michalewicz

The East Hampton woman who was asked to move when she breastfed her daughter at Sears Park this summer has filed a complaint with the state Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO).

Kendra Dickinson said Parks and Recreation Department employees told her to move to the restroom when she breastfed her daughter on the beach on July 20.

Dickinson's complaint, filed with the CHRO in late November, and forwarded to the Town Clerk's office Dec. 14, alleges the town discriminated against her by asking her to breastfeed elsewhere. In doing so, Dickinson said, the town violated Connecticut General Statute 46a-64(a)(3), which makes it illegal "for a place of public accommodation, resort or amusement to restrict or limit the right of a mother to breast-feed her child."

Dickinson said the Parks and Rec. Department has not yet made any efforts to educate its employees about that law.

Parks and Rec. Director Ruth Plummer said she did not want to jeopardize the CHRO's proceedings by commenting on Dickinson's com-

plaint.

Dickinson was at the Sears Park beach on July 20 with her two daughters, Ella and Riley Briggs, ages 2 and 4, and the two young daughters of a friend. Late in the afternoon, she said, she needed to breastfeed Ella.

Dickinson said a lifeguard approached her and told her she had concerns about her breastfeeding on the beach.

"There are a lot of families and children here," Dickinson said the lifeguard told her. "If you need to continue to nurse her, you are going to have to go and use the bathroom," the guard told Dickinson, according to the complaint.

The lifeguard went on to say the day camp co-director, Heather Holbrook, was the one who was concerned about Dickinson breastfeeding.

Dickinson approached Holbrook, she recounted, and Holbrook told her there were too many children and families at the beach, and that children were complaining.

"We could see some of you," Dickinson said Holbrook told her, the complaint states.

Holbrook suggested she cover herself in a towel or blanket if she wanted to continue feeding Ella at the beach.

Dickinson said she told Holbrook she had the legal right to nurse her daughter on the beach, and that covering Ella would be too hot and impractical on a 95-degree July day. But Holbrook insisted she use the towel, and defended what the lifeguard had told her, the complaint says.

Following the incident, Dickinson said she was crying when she called her husband, Chris Briggs, who left work to meet her at the park. Briggs contacted the La Leche League, who verified that Dickinson had the right to breastfeed in public. Arriving at the park, he spoke with Holbrook, who said she wouldn't let Dickinson breastfeed unless he produced a copy of the law, the complaint explains.

Briggs contacted Parks and Rec. Program Coordinator Shawn Mullen, Holbrook's supervisor, who said he was aware of the law and had spoken with Holbrook about the situation. Dickinson said Mullen promised to set up a

meeting between her and Plummer, but to date, the meeting has not happened.

Dickinson said in the complaint she met with the East Hampton Police Department after the incident, and then-Lieutenant Michael Green sent a letter to Plummer, recommending that the Parks and Rec. Department review state laws about public breastfeeding.

"Should any problems arise in the future regarding any breastfeeding issue at the park, I recommend that you have staff members refrain from confronting anyone and instruct them to request the police department respond and handle the situation," Green wrote in the Oct. 6 letter.

So far, Dickinson wrote in the complaint, she has not seen any evidence that the Parks and Rec. Department has made any changes to their policies about breastfeeding, nor educated its staff about any future incidents.

Dickinson and her attorney Eric Henzy both declined to comment on the case. Dickinson explained that she would wait for the CHRO decision before speaking about it.

East Hampton Council Postpones Town Manager Search

by Claire Michalewicz

The Town Council has decided to delay the search for a new town manager until after a new council is elected in November.

At a special meeting Tuesday night, council members voted to search for a new interim town manager to fill in until the town is able to find a permanent replacement, probably sometime in 2012.

The new interim manager would replace Bob Drewry, the town's former public works director, who came out of retirement to fill in for Jeffery O'Keefe when he resigned in September.

At first, the majority of the council said they wanted to move ahead with the plan chairwoman Melissa Engel announced last month, hiring a permanent town manager by this summer.

Vice Chairman John Tuttle said he thought waiting until 2012 "really does a disservice to the town."

Tuttle added, "there's a lot of energy in our town," and suggested the council see if they could find a qualified, interested manager this year.

Fellow council member Barbara Moore agreed.

"I think it's a good thing for all of us to work together and do it," she said.

But after some discussion, council members agreed that waiting until after the election could allow the political climate in town to return to normal after last year's controversies involving O'Keefe and his decision to lay off Police Chief Matthew Reimondo. Putting off the search process, council member Sue Weintraub said, would "help the healing process in this town."

"We want to find someone who's attracted to a positive situation," she said.

Weintraub suggested consulting the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) to find a retired administrator who would fill in as town manager and help in the search process for a permanent replacement.

Engel pointed out the controversy that erupted in 2007, when the council hired a new town manager, James Thomas, less than two weeks before a municipal election that brought several new faces to the council. The newly-elected council decided to cancel Thomas' contract and search for a new manager, ultimately

choosing O'Keefe.

Engel said that, at first, she was eager to find someone by the summer. But by waiting, the council could get input from the public about what they want from their new town manager.

Council member Thom Cordeiro said that while he felt confident the town could find a permanent replacement this year, "I actually think we should let this breathe a little bit."

"I don't recognize the need for speed," Cordeiro said.

Engel said the council would consult with ICMA about qualified candidates who would be interested in the temporary manager position, and discuss the process further at its next meeting. Finding an interim town manager would be much faster than finding a permanent one, and Engel said she expected the council would be able to hire a qualified candidate within two months.

When the new council is elected in the fall, she said, they can work to put together a search committee for a permanent manager.

In a public comment period before the discussion, several residents expressed concerns about Engel's December announcement that she hoped to find a new town manager by the summer.

"I did not expect the process to be laid out with so little description," Laurie Wasilewski said, explaining that she hoped the council would consider the issue carefully, even if it meant the process would take longer.

Resident Mary Ann Dostaler said she had "grave concerns" about finding a new town manager before the 2011 elections, pointing out that it might be difficult to find interested candidates in just a few months.

"You put a timeline in place to go about finding someone," Dostaler said to Engel. "That is an increasingly unrealistic assumption without even testing the waters."

"Every decision that's happened since 2009, when this council was elected, has been politicized," Dostaler concluded.

* * *

The discussion about the town manager came after an executive session in which the council addressed pending litigation and complaints against the town. The session lasted about 45 minutes, during which council members reviewed a total of 11 claims, most of which con-

cern the controversy surrounding O'Keefe and his decision to lay off Reimondo in June.

O'Keefe said the restructuring of the police department would save money, but Reimondo has insisted O'Keefe laid him off as retaliation for handling harassment complaints filed by three female Town Hall employees against O'Keefe.

O'Keefe resigned in September, and Reimondo remained on paid leave until November, when he was reinstated to his position by a townwide referendum.

In July, Reimondo filed a lawsuit against O'Keefe, the town, Engel, Tuttle and Michael Green, the police sergeant who took over as acting lieutenant and acting chief in Reimondo's absence. Reimondo alleged the defendants conspired to remove him from his position to protect O'Keefe. Though Reimondo has been returned to his job, he is still seeking an undisclosed amount of damages.

This fall, Reimondo filed similar complaints against the town, Engel, O'Keefe and Tuttle with the state Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO), accusing them of retaliating against him.

Two other CHRO complaints were filed in October, by police department employee Elizabeth Shepard, one of the three women who filed concerns about O'Keefe's behavior. Shepard accused O'Keefe and the town of sex discrimination and harassment, alleging that O'Keefe rubbed her thigh when he insisted on giving Shepard a ride to her car in April.

Shepard's job was slated to be cut along with Reimondo's, but she was never laid off. Shepard and Reimondo are both being represented by West Hartford attorney Leon Rosenblatt.

In July, Police Sergeant Garritt Kelly filed a work environment complaint against O'Keefe, accusing him of creating a hostile labor environment. Kelly alleged that at a police department meeting immediately after Reimondo's removal, O'Keefe "said something to the effect of 'It is a tough day for everyone. It's especially tough for Kelly! He's lost his best friend!'"

After Kelly told O'Keefe he found his remarks offensive, O'Keefe then "went on a rant" about private-duty overtime work, saying that officers feel they are entitled to it, Kelly said in the complaint. O'Keefe's comments, Kelly said,

"were absolutely inflammatory and certainly came off as an attempt to incite or provoke me."

Another claim came from the police officers' union, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO) Local 524, in a vote of no-confidence they took in O'Keefe's leadership abilities the week after Reimondo was laid off.

IBPO representative Dave Hebert explained this week that the vote was not a formal complaint, and the union wasn't pursuing it since O'Keefe had resigned and Reimondo had been reinstated.

* * *

The council was also slated to deal with four other complaints during its executive session. An appeal filed in Middletown Superior Court by resident Fran Klein against the Zoning Board of Appeals protests a decision the board made in August, upholding an earlier opinion from Zoning Enforcement Officer Jim Carey. Carey and the ZBA both ruled that outdoor entertainment is an allowable accessory use at restaurants in town, including Angelico's Lake House. Klein lives near the bar, and has been urging the town to mitigate the noise coming from the patio. Klein and her lawyer had argued to the ZBA that owner Paul Angelico had never obtained a permit for outdoor entertainment.

Another FOI complaint was filed by resident Ted Hintz in November, concerning a September FOI request he made for all of Town Council member Sue Weintraub's 2010 e-mails. Hintz said Weintraub took nearly two months to respond to his request, and did not provide all the e-mails. Weintraub said she *did* include all her e-mails in the package she sent to Hintz, and said the seven weeks it took her was a reasonable timeframe, given the size of Hintz's request and time constraints from her job.

Another CHRO complaint came from resident Kendra Dickinson, who was asked by a lifeguard to move to the bathroom at Sears Park to breastfeed her daughter. A full story about Dickinson's complaint appears on page 7.

The final piece of litigation was a foreclosure of a property by TD Bank, which names Carey as a defendant.

* * *

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 20 East High St.

New Members Elect Colchester Police Commission Chair

by Katy Nally

Since March of last year, the Police Commission has almost had a complete turnover of its members.

However, with a now-full commission, the four new members unanimously voted Monday, Dec. 27, to appoint Rob Parlee as their chairman.

Parlee is the only commissioner who was not recently appointed to the five-member board.

The turnover began in March when commissioner Tony Camilleri resigned for "personal" reasons. In an e-mail dated March 1, about one month before selectmen approved his resignation on April 15, Camilleri criticized First Selectman Gregg Schuster for attempting to "dismantle" the Police Commission and undermine its authority.

Camilleri was responding to Schuster, who had said in an e-mail, "Going forward, I have decided that the Police Department budget will be managed by the department internally, specifically by the Resident Trooper Supervisor. I have given him the authority to approve items in accordance with the town purchasing policy."

Schuster explained this week the resident trooper supervisor manages the police department budget just as any other department head. Ultimately, however, managing the budget rests with selectmen and the Board of Finance. He noted the Police Commission recently signed off on an operating policy that dictates the resident trooper supervisor has "daily management of the police department budget."

"This does not undermine any of the authority of the Police Commission and by adopting the recent Police Commission Operating Policy, it seems that everyone agrees," Schuster said in an e-mail this week.

Still, Camilleri ended his conversation with an e-mail to Schuster, saying he planned on

resigning from the Police Commission.

After his resignation, the Police Commission interviewed six applicants and unanimously voted on Aug. 23 to recommend Edward Fusco, Patrick Mickens and John Carroll to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

However, appointing a new commissioner did not make the following September selectmen meeting agenda. Former Police Commission chair Glenn Morron questioned this delay in an e-mail to Schuster, who replied, "Since the Police Commission took over two months to interview and recommend candidates, I'm sure you won't have an issue with waiting a few weeks until we iron out the policy."

Schuster explained last month the "policy" was a Police Commission operating policy and he wanted to have it ready before applicants were interviewed by the Board of Selectmen.

"Everyone that interviews needs to know exactly what their roles would be," Schuster said at the time.

Next, John Jones left the commission, and selectmen approved his resignation at an Oct. 7 meeting. At the time, Jones said the time commitment had become too great.

Later that month, selectmen interviewed Frank Jackter, Stanley Nolan, Robert Kanaitis, as well as the Police Commission's two recommendations, Fusco and Carroll, at a special meeting on Oct. 26. The third recommendation, Mickens, was listed on the agenda to be interviewed, but was absent, according to the minutes. No one was appointed to the Police Commission that night, as selectmen typically wait two weeks to make decisions.

In the meantime, the commission lost one more member, after Don Philips did not seek reappointment once his term ended on Nov. 1. This left the commission with two members,

Morron and Parlee, which was not enough for a quorum. Morron noted the commission's recommendations of applicants that were made in August might have changed, had there been a quorum to vote.

Then, at a Nov. 18 selectmen's meeting, the Police Commission lost its chairman, but gained two new members. In a two-two vote, Morron did not receive his reappointment from selectmen (selectman Stan Soby was absent). Schuster released a statement explaining his vote, saying "a change in leadership is needed."

Fusco and Nolan were unanimously appointed to the Police Commission that night.

With three members, but no chairman, the Police Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting the following week, on Nov. 22, and Soby, the Board of Selectmen liaison to the commission, acted as a non-voting chair.

Immediately the new Police Commission set to work and unanimously voted to hire a certified officer to the Colchester Police Department and promote Officer Rob Suchecki to sergeant.

However, there was some question from selectwoman Rosemary Coyle as to whether Soby was legally eligible to act as the Police Commission chairman. At a Dec. 2 selectmen's meeting, she requested that the board seek legal opinion regarding the matter; however, the board took no formal action on her request. Schuster said he would ask town counsel.

Attorney Mary Jo Blain Andrews replied to Coyle's concerns in an e-mail, noting she had not done any legal research and was just sharing her thoughts.

"Selectman Soby's role at the Police Commission meeting appears to be more analogous to this type of facilitator role. ...his participation consisted of ministerial/facilitator functions," Andrews wrote.

"To avoid confusion and questions, the better practice would be to press the three members to appoint one of their number to call the meeting to order and run the meeting," she continued.

At the Dec. 16 selectmen's meeting, Coyle noted Andrew's "thoughts" were not legal opinion and reiterated that Soby "shouldn't be running the meeting."

"I'll be monitoring that and if things don't change I'll keep bringing it up," she said.

However, at a special Board of Selectmen's meeting held Dec. 22, the board rounded out the Police Commission and appointed Jackter and Steve Petty, who was interviewed by selectmen at the Dec. 16 meeting. According to the minutes, though, Coyle moved to appoint Mickens, and received a second from selectman James Ford, but it was voted down by the other three selectmen.

Jackter received a three-two vote, and Petty's was unanimous.

Then, at the next Police Commission meeting on Dec. 27, Parlee was appointed chairman by commissioners.

Parlee, a former Colchester constable, was appointed to the Police Commission on June 4, 2009, to finish out Bill Otfinoski's term that was set to end Nov. 1, 2009. (Otfinoski resigned from the commission in May of that year, due to "internal conflict" between him and other commissioners regarding an Ethics Commission complaint.) Parlee's current term will end Nov. 1, 2012.

"I believe Rob is going to do a great job as chairman and I look forward to working with him and the other commissioners," Schuster said in a statement last week.

The Police Commission is scheduled to meet Jan. 31.

New Shop in East Hampton Aims to Be ‘Good Place to Hang Out’

by Claire Michalewicz

Anyone looking for a cozy place to pass the cold winter days need look no farther than the village center. 70 Main Coffee House and Art Gallery, which opened last month, offers coffee, food, art and above all, a place to relax and meet new people.

“This was all just kind of an experiment in fun,” co-owner Chris Page explained. “Money is not our goal. A good place to hang out is our goal.” To get people to sit down and stay a while, the coffee house offers free wireless Internet, and keeps books and board games on hand. Customers are invited to add their graffiti to an old wood coffee table, and Page keeps an acoustic guitar on hand for anyone who wants to play it.

And, he added, the coffee house is planning on hosting events, starting with a poetry jam scheduled for next Thursday, Jan. 13.

70 Main is a collaborative effort between married couple Kim and Chris Page and two longtime friends, Melissa Briere and Mindy Maynard. Opening a coffee shop was a long-time goal, Kim Page explained. She had worked in restaurants for years, but always wanted a coffee shop where people could stop in and relax. The shop, its purple walls decorated with paintings and other art, is full of eclectic furniture, Kim said.

One of 70 Main’s chief focuses, she said, was to be as environmentally-friendly as possible. Keeping with that theme, almost all the furniture and appliances in the shop are secondhand, many of them donated or loaned by friends and local residents. Antique maps of East Hampton decorate the walls, and Kim said she’s always looking for more local memorabilia.

The shop opened at the beginning of December, and celebrated its all-day grand opening on Dec. 18. After being open for a month, both Pages said business has been going well.

Kim Page said the town had seen many businesses come and go over the years, and the village center was lacking a comfortable place for

people to stop in for a coffee or a snack.

“It’s such a cute little town,” she said. The village center, she said, could be a vibrant area with lots of thriving businesses, and she’s hoping the area will attract more people. So far, Chris added, most of the customers have heard about the café by word of mouth, and the word seems to be spreading. Kim said one of the biggest surprises of working there was her meeting people she’d never encountered before, despite living in town for more than 20 years.

70 Main is committed to being locally focused and environmentally friendly, she said. Their “organic, artisanal, fair-trade” coffee comes from Bean & Leaf, a coffee roaster in New London, she explained. Kim said coffee is always fresh – when the owners order a batch, Bean & Leaf roasts it immediately and has it delivered the next morning. In addition to drip coffee, 70 Main should have espresso soon – the Pages said they’re expecting their machine to arrive this week.

Connecticut produce can be difficult to find in cold weather, Kim said, but she expects local fruits and vegetables will be easier to find in the spring and summer. She and Chris have a small herb and vegetable farm, she said, and the 70 Main is interested in joining a community-shared agriculture scheme, buying a share in the farm and receiving boxes of fresh produce.

“There’s so many local farmers willing to work with you,” Kim said.

The café’s menu keeps with the local theme – all the sandwiches and wraps are either named after bygone local restaurants like the Ivy and the Hathaway, or have names like the Bellringer or Princess Pocotopaug. In addition, they offer bagels, soups and salads, and a variety of pastries including cupcakes and fresh cannoli. The menu includes a variety of vegetarian options, as well as several items for meat eaters.

In the adjacent room, the white walls are covered with framed paintings and photo prints, created by local artists and offered for sale. 70 Main charges a small amount of rent for the



70 Main, a new coffee house and art gallery in the Village Center, opened last month. The shop is a joint effort between Chris, center, and Kim Page, right, and two of their longtime friends. At left is their son, Dalton, 16, who’s helping out in the shop.

gallery space, but charges only a 15 percent commission on any art sold – much less than most galleries, Chris said. In addition to the paintings and photos, 70 Main also sells handcrafted furniture, jewelry and scarves.

Kim said the idea for the separate gallery room came when the prospective owners were looking at the building, which used to house an antiques business. The landlord was explaining that if the coffee shop set up in one room, they would have to share bathroom facilities with the business in the other. Initially, she said, the idea was to feature one local artist on the coffee house walls each month, but with the

gallery, they’re able to accommodate many more.

Mindy runs the gallery portion of the business, Chris said, and so far, she’s spoken to several local artists about showing their work. So far, he said, all but one of the featured artists have sold some of their pieces.

70 Main is open seven days a week. Hours are currently 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m.-9 p.m. on Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. However, Kim said hours may change, depending on business. The daily specials are posted on the café’s Facebook page.

Doyen Proposes Zero Percent Increase in Portland Budget

by Claire Michalewicz

Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen presented a proposed \$18.096 million 2011-12 budget to the Board of Education this week. The spending proposal represents a zero percent increase over the current year.

The school board is expected to vote on the spending package next week. If approved, it would go to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, who would then incorporate it into her overall town budget proposal.

Although the bottom line is identical to the one the town adopted last year, expenses within the budget have changed.

One of the largest budget reductions was in the salary account, although the budget does not call for any employees to be laid off. Six employees – one administrative, three certified and two non-certified – are expected to retire. Salary expenses will decrease by \$76,114, a savings of .68 percent.

Doyen said she was able to avoid a budget increase largely because of concessions from the teachers’ and custodians’ unions. In addition, she said, the town received about \$250,000 from the federal Education Jobs Fund earlier this year. The district was using that money to help pay for staff in the upcoming school year.

Another large decrease comes from an ex-

pected drop in utility costs, with electricity and natural gas expenses decreasing by 4.54 and 4.32 percent, respectively. Heating fuel usage, meanwhile, is expected to go down by 40.48 percent. Less-expensive utilities, along with savings in other areas, reduce the cost of supplies by 4.98 percent.

Doyen said electricity costs were going down because the district had paid off new lighting systems in the schools. She said heating costs had decreased in recent years because all but one of the town’s schools are now heated by natural gas instead of oil, and the schools have not been using up their entire heating budget.

These reductions, along with a small projected decrease in maintenance, bring the cuts in the budget to \$140,283 – exactly the amount needed to offset increases in other areas.

Budget items that increased include employee benefits, purchased services (which include waste removal and building inspections), student transportation, magnet school tuition, textbooks and software.

While the budget proposal features no new initiatives, Doyen stressed there are no major reductions either. “We won’t have any cuts if this goes through as is,” she said.

Overall, Doyen seemed pleased she was able to present a no-increase budget.

“I think it’s the result of everybody really working very hard to be frugal and to purchase only what we need to purchase,” Doyen said. “Everybody realizes that we are not adding anything new next year.”

But, she cautioned, the budget always included variables that could increase costs, like unplanned medical absences, fluctuating utility prices, and unexpected special education costs. Doyen said the board realizes that many Portland residents are struggling financially, and they’re making an effort to keep costs down for that reason.

Doyen also said the budget proposal maintains class sizes, which she said has been a top priority for the Board of Education.

The board passed a budget with a zero-percent increase for the 2009-10 school year, Doyen said, while the budget for the current school year increased by 2.26 percent.

Under Doyen’s leadership, Board of Education Chairman Christopher Phelps said, the district has been able to rein in budget growth in the past few years.

“This simply reflects the need to continue to

tighten our belts,” he said. “It’s a frugal a budget as you can get.”

“I think it’s reflective of the times,” said board member Rosemary Weitowitz. “I’m happy to see, at this point in time, that we’re able to keep our programming and staffing.”

Weitowitz said she was thankful for the givebacks the teachers and custodians gave in their contract negotiations. Those sacrifices, she said, helped prevent cuts from being made in other areas.

On Tuesday, Doyen said, Bill Knies, Director of Student Services, and Paul Bengston and Director of Buildings and Grounds, explained the line items in their portions of the budget. The board met again yesterday, Jan. 6, after press time, to hear presentations from the five school principals about their budgets.

Phelps said board members were asking questions about the budget, but if they were going to go to make any changes, they would probably do so next week.

The next budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. in the high school library. Another session is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 13 at the same time and place, if the budget does not pass Tuesday.

Lego Robotics Team in Colchester Takes Top Prize

by Katy Nally

Four Lego robotics teams made up of Colchester students made it to a state competition last month, and one of them came home with a first-place finish.

The Robotics of Colchester (ROC) won first place for the Most Creative Presentation Award at the 12th annual First Lego League Competition, which was held Dec. 12 at Central Connecticut State University.

Also, the Rock 'n Robots won the judges' award for overall excellence at the event. Competing alongside them were the MegaWhats and the Biomedical Brainiacs, also made up of Colchester children. All four of the Colchester teams had won awards at regional competitions.

ROC coach, fifth-grade teacher Thom Bech, noted the camaraderie between the teams, as well as its members. ROC was made up of mostly students from Jack Jackter Intermediate School, but Bech had help this year from a veteran member, Kameron Kirby, who is a seventh-grader. Teams can have up to 10 members in grades four through eight.

All four teams were sponsored by Dominion, which owns Millstone Power Station.

This year's theme for the 12th annual First Lego League Competition was biomedical engineering. Kids on ROC decided to tackle dehydration as their issue and invented the Hydro Cuff.

Bech explained the Hydro Cuff allows patients to be treated for dehydration without using needles and IVs.

He said the kids first researched different health problems, and brainstormed ways to combat them. When they settled on dehydration, the kids collectively agreed there had to be a better way to treat the problem than using needles.

"The kids winced at the idea of an IV," Bech

said.

And so the Hydro Cuff was born.

The cuff acts like a medical patch that distributes water into the bloodstream directly through the skin. Unlike the IV, the cuff doesn't need to be administered in a hospital, so there are no needles, it's portable and pain free.

However, to make the Hydro Cuff plausible, the ROC kids addressed the fact that skin is naturally water-resistant, which poses a problem. So, to use a medical patch to distribute water, the Hydro Cuff had to contain a chemical that eroded the keratin layer of skin.

Bech said the ROC kids presented their Hydro Cuff idea to judges in a commercial, which featured one student "writhing in pain" as a needle approached.

"It was just very creative how they went about it," Bech said.

This type of out-of-the-box problem-solving is typical for the annual competition, Bech said.

"The kids really wouldn't have thought about this stuff without this competition," he said. "It gets them doing something they wouldn't think to do, or think they could do."

Past themes included increasing the efficiency of moving objects, conserving energy and next year's theme will focus on food and nutrition.

In addition to the presentation, the ROC kids also built and programmed a robot to carry out certain biomedical tasks.

During the state competition, the 52 teams accumulated points as their robots worked to perform specific tasks. Bech said the ROC kids noticed they were not tallying as many points as other teams, but "they were really hoping to get an award for their presentation, and they did."

All in all, Bech said the event was "an absolutely great experience."



Four teams from Colchester made it to the state finals for the 12th annual First Lego League Competition last month. Above is the Robotics of Colchester team. In the back row from left are Nicki Tyler, Abby Gustavsen, Mira Pianta, Alex Manolev and Ryan Stollman; in the front row are, Jakob Behlke, Kameron Kirby, Cameron Killiany and Nash Mendlinger.

"Everybody had such an awesome time," he continued. "It's all very uplifting."

Kameron's mother, Ursula Tschinkel, agreed the competition was fun for her son, but added it teaches important skills like teamwork.

"They come away knowing it's not all about their decisions," she said.

This was Kameron's third year on the robotics team, and, Tschinkel noted, the younger members really look up to the seventh-grader

as a role model.

"He's a great teammate and he works really hard," Bech said.

In fact, Tschinkel said her son would most likely join the robotics team next year, and perhaps move onto the high school team when he reaches Bacon.

"I think it's a good experience," Tschinkel said.

Andover Selectmen Send Land Use Fees Back to PZC

by Lindsay Fetzner

After nearly six months of tabling action on the proposed amendment of current land use fees from the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Board of Selectmen voted Wednesday to send them back to the commission, with the recommendation to make the fees comparable to other area towns.

The fees, initially brought up at the July 7 meeting of the board, were approved by the PZC back in June. The new proposed fees, if adopted by the board, would mean significant price hikes for services in town.

Currently, special permits are \$140. With the new proposed fee schedule, a special permit/exception without site development would jump to \$350. A special permit with site development would cost \$500. Furthermore, currently there are no fees for many services, including new house inspections, inspections for additions, barns, garages and sheds, temporary zone compliance, release letters as well as regulation amendments.

With the new fees, this would change dramatically. New house inspections would cost \$35, inspections of decks, additions, barns, garages and sheds would jump to \$25, and both a temporary zoning compliance and a release letter from land records would cost \$100. And for

a regulation amendment, the cost would be \$500.

Some of the selectmen felt that the fee increases of many of the proposed changes were too high, and would essentially make the town less business-friendly.

"These fees are just unbelievable," said selectwoman Linda Knowlton.

Selectwoman Elaine Buchardt agreed.

"Andover is making itself more expensive than other surrounding towns," she said. "That's not business-friendly at all."

Buchardt said that if the town wants businesses to come to Andover, having land use fees that are above the surrounding towns of Columbia, Bolton, Hebron and Coventry would not help in the matter.

"It doesn't make sense that we're all of a sudden the most expensive town," Buchardt said. "I don't want to be the most expensive zoning town in the whole region."

According to information provided by the PZC, the base fee for subdivision administrative costs is \$200. Lots one through three on an existing road are \$25 each, lots three through 10 on an existing road are \$50 each and lots on a new road are \$100 each. The new proposed

fees would increase to \$500 plus \$100 for the first three lots and \$150 for each additional lot.

In Columbia, the cost is \$50 per lot, with a minimum fee of \$250. In Hebron, the cost is \$250 plus \$125 per lot/unit plus \$150 per 100 feet of new roadway or common driveway. In Coventry, the base fee is \$50 per lot plus supplemental fees ranging from \$100 for lots one through five to \$400 for 81 or more lots.

The proposed fees for special permits would also show where Andover would be at the top for fees. Currently, a special permit with site development is \$140 with a \$60 state fee. The proposed fee from PZC would increase to \$500 with a \$60 state fee. Again, prices in surrounding towns are much lower.

In Columbia, special exceptions are \$250. In Hebron, the price is \$200 plus \$125 per 1,000 square feet of new construction. And in Coventry, the cost is \$150.

As a result, the board voted to send the proposed fee schedule back to the PZC with the recommendation to set the fees comparable to the surrounding towns of Columbia, Coventry, Bolton and Hebron.

* * *

Also Wednesday, the selectmen unanimously

voted to use Vision Appraisal Technology for the revaluation and reappraisal for the October 2011 Grand List at a cost of \$60,000. First Selectman Bob Burbank said the bid was "well within budget" and informed the board that the town has used the company before.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m., at the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd

There will also be a town meeting on Thursday, Jan. 20, to vote on a number of items. Included on the agenda is determining whether to continue providing a tax abatement for the Hop River Homes. The meeting will also address whether the town will accept the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant of \$250,000 originally allocated for a new senior center but reallocated for a new recreation field in addition to accepting a \$200,000 STEAP grant for the recreation field. The last item on the agenda for the meeting is to act on recommendations of the Ordinance Review Committee for the amendment/repeal of several town ordinances.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Town Office Building.

Police Search for Colchester Laundromat Robber

by Katy Nally

State Police are searching for a man who allegedly attempted to rob the Clothes Pin Laundromat, located at 67 Lebanon Ave., on Sunday, Dec. 19.

Currently Troop K in Colchester "holds an active arrest warrant" for Rudy T. John, 28, whose last known address is Atlantic Court in Groton, for the charges of criminal attempt to commit first-degree robbery and second-degree threatening, according to a press release.

At 3:12 p.m. that Sunday, Troop K received a call of a robbery, saying a man had entered



Rudy John

the Laundromat, placed an "unknown object" against an employee's neck and demanded money from the cash register, police said.

He then left the scene in a blue 1998 Buick Century, which has since been seized by Troop K.

Police said the initial investigation indicates the robber might be carrying a gun.

John was reportedly last seen wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt and dark pants. He is believed to be "involved" in several other armed robberies that occurred in the area, police said.

According to State Police Lieutenant J. Paul Vance, the suspect did not make off with any money, and is being charged for criminal attempt at robbery.

Vance said the incident is under investigation, and anyone with more information is asked to contact Troop K at 860-537-7500.

Teens Hospitalized After Crash

Two 16-year-olds were sent to the Marlborough Clinic as a precautionary measure early Dec. 26 after hitting a deer, State Police said.

The teens, both of Marlborough, were driving a 1999 Chevy Cavalier on Jones Hollow Road, near the intersection of Heritage Road, when a deer jumped in front of the car, State Police said. The 16-year-old turned to avoid the deer, lost control of the vehicle and struck a concrete storm drain.

Both boys were taken by their parents to the clinic "to be checked out," police said. They were both listed as not injured in a police news release.

Andover Police News

12/21: Nick Galarza, 21, of 25 Mansfield Ave., Willimantic, was charged with DUI and operating a vehicle with tinted windows without a sticker, State Police said.

12/21: Carmelo Ramos, 22, of 198 Brick Top Rd., Windham, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

12/23: Jason Tetro, 32, of 8 Aspinall Dr., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

12/21: Chase Delaware, 18, of 506 Wall St., was charged with failure to appear, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

12/21: Matthew Webb, 31, of 104 Heatherwood Dr., was charged with second-degree harassment and breach of peace, Colchester Police said.

12/21: Matthew Gillis, 26, of 7A Tolland Tpke., Willington, turned himself in for second-degree criminal mischief, State Police said.

12/24: Someone broke into a storage shed on Shady Brook Lane and stole numerous power tools, Colchester Police said.

12/24: Ryan Gagne, 19, of 332 West Rd., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, Colchester Police said.

12/29: Allan Dziekan, 48, of 8 Union Ave.,

East Hampton Police News

12/13: Kevin Ringrose, 18, of 19E Middletown Ave., was arrested for operating an unregistered ATV, operating an ATV on a public highway and interfering with a police officer, East Hampton Police said.

12/16: A 17-year-old of East Hampton was issued a summons for breach of peace and third-degree assault, police said.

12/18: Thomas A. Foley, 19, of 311 Cox Rd., Portland, was arrested for possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

12/19: Michael John Bartolotta, 33, of 83

Hebron Woman Injured in Car Crash

by Lindsay Fetzner

A two-car accident last week sent one Hebron resident to the hospital, State Police said.

At approximately 3:22 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28, Sharon Thomas, 48, of Hebron, stopped for traffic on Lake Road in Andover, police said, and was rear-ended by Elisabeth DeJesus, 41, of Willimantic.

Thomas was transported by Andover EMS to Windham Hospital for complaints of back pain. On Tuesday, Windham Hospital staff said that Thomas was no longer listed as a patient. DeJesus was not injured, according to police.

DeJesus' 1994 Toyota Corolla DX had front-end damage, police said, and Thomas' 2002 Dodge Stratus had rear-end damage.

Marlborough Police News

12/25: Robert Saltus, 28, of 18 Middletown Ave., East Hampton, was charged with second-degree false statement, breach of peace and second-degree reckless endangerment, State Police said.

12/28: Michael Skinner, 37, of 6 Harlan Pl., East Hampton, was charged with disobeying the signal of an officer, DUI and speeding, State Police said.

Portland Police News

12/24: Rodney Wright, 33, of 41 Draper Ave., Meriden, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, Portland Police said.

1/3: Gregory Glass, 29, of 28 Tuccitto Rd., was charged with four counts of third-degree burglary and fourth-degree larceny, police said.

Windham, was charged with DUI and failure to have lights lit, State Police said.

12/29: Joshua Fuller, 31, of 726 Trumbull Hwy., Lebanon, was charged with threatening, violation of probation, disorderly conduct and first-degree harassment, Colchester Police said.

1/1: Brett St. John, 19, of 80 Wildflower Dr., Hebron, was charged with possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

1/1: Edward Nai, 45, of 288 Broadbrook Rd., Apt. 2A, Enfield, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

Midwood Farm Rd., was arrested for two counts of violation of probation, police said.

12/20: Christopher A. Scaplen, 26, of 24 Flanders Rd., Apt. 1, was arrested for violating a protective order and disorderly conduct, police said.

12/21: Colin Kilpatrick, 28, of Portland and Kristine Haswell, 54, of Cromwell, were involved in a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Maple Street and West Hight Street, police said. Kilpatrick was arrested for DUI and following too closely, police added.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Muriel Nowsch Fuller

Muriel (Spencer) Nowsch Fuller, 79, of Marlborough, died Saturday, Dec. 25 at Marlborough Health Care. Born July 27, 1931 in West Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Edward and Louise (MacCallum) Spencer.

Muriel was predeceased by her husband of 45 years, Richard Fuller, and by her husband of five years, Wesley Nowsch.

Muriel lived most of her life in Marlborough and was a charter and life member of the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Women's Auxiliary, and was a member of the American Legion Post 197 Women's Auxiliary.

She is survived by her two sons, Joel Fuller of Marlborough, and Steven Fuller of Colchester; two daughters, Kathleen Stein of Marlborough, and Diane Cavender of Marlborough; a brother, Kirk Spencer; a sister, Lynne Sandahl; five grandchildren, Randy Fuller, Jessica Poulin, Zachary Fuller, Kristen Cavender, and Kelly Cavender; six great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

She was also predeceased by her step-mother, Lillian Spencer; her son-in-law, Eddie Cavender; her daughter, Sharon Magri; and two brothers, Morton and Karl Spencer.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 28 in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. The Rev. Robert Faulhaber officiated. Burial followed in the family plot in Marlboro Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home Tuesday morning.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Recreation Department of Marlborough Health Care, 85 Stage Harbor Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447.

To leave online condolences visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Edward Sefchik

Edward F. Sefchik, 95, died peacefully on Sunday, Dec. 26, at home with his family by his side.

He was predeceased by his wife, Phyllis Popek Sefchik.

He was born April 29, 1915 in Wallington, NJ, son of John and Aniela Wilk Sefchik.

Surviving is his son, Edward R. and wife Janice Sefchik of Colchester; his daughter, Phyllis and her husband Charles Babek of Colchester; grandson, Ronald Sefchik of Salem; granddaughter, Robin and her husband John Roberts of Rocky Hill; a brother, Henry Sefchik of Long Branch, NJ; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were private and there were no calling hours.

Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester is in care of arrangements.

Colchester

Donald Martin Fetzner

Donald Martin Fetzner, 80, left this world peacefully Wednesday, Nov. 17, at his home in Conway, SC. He joined his beloved wife of 54 years, Shirley, who predeceased him less than 18 months before. He was also predeceased by his son-in-law Alex Vasilevsky in August.

Formerly of Colchester, where he and Shirley raised their four children, Don leaves behind three sons: Craig Fetzner of Conway, SC; Robert Fetzner and his wife Anita of Frederick, MD; Kurt Fetzner and his wife Julie of Colchester; and a daughter, Robin Vasilevsky of Westford, MA. He also leaves behind his grandchildren who brought him much joy: Melissa and her husband Rusty, Sarah, Daniel, Collin, Joshua, Garrett, Noah, Maya and Eva, and three precious great-grandsons, Lyric, Lewis and Logan.

Don held a special place in his heart for the friends and family of his early years in Avis, PA, where he was born and raised. He later made his home in Connecticut, where he received an engineering degree at the University of Hartford and worked for Pratt and Whitney for 38 years.

Don loved his country and was a proud Marine. He served during the Korean War and he was awarded the Purple Heart in recognition of his bravery and sacrifice. He was also a longstanding member of the Free Masons and in 1986 was the Grand Master of Wooster Lodge No. 10 in Colchester. Additionally, Don was a member of the Shriner organization and volunteered as the public relations liaison for their pediatric burn unit in Boston.

A graveside service is planned for early spring at Rose Hill Cemetery in Rocky Hill.

Don was a wonderful and loving father, husband, and friend, who was well-known for his animated storytelling and generosity towards others. His exuberant love of life and family will be greatly missed.

Colchester

Mary Ann Garro

Mary Ann (Gargano) Garro, 66, of East Hartford, formerly of Colchester, beloved wife of Robert F. Garro, died Monday, Dec. 27, at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

Born July 9, 1944, in Brooklyn, NY, daughter of the late Frank and Anna (Kutis) Gargano she had lived in East Hartford since 1975. Prior to her retirement in 2008 she was a secretary at the University of Hartford for over 15 years.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her two daughters and sons-in-law, Michele C. and Scott Franco of Warwick, RI, Debra L. and Jon Crowe of Oakville; a brother and sister-in-law, Frank A. and Norma Gargano of Colchester; four grandchildren, Madison, Brooke and Brandon Franco and Katelyn Crowe; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Friday, Dec. 31, at Our Lady of Peace Church, East Hartford. Burial was at the convenience of the family. Friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury on Thursday, Dec. 30.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-91 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

For online tributes, visit mulryanfh.com.

Colchester

Leon Edward Grant

Leon Edward Grant, 81, of Colchester, beloved husband of Angelina (Borletto) Grant, passed away Saturday, Jan. 1, at the Hartford Hospital after a brief illness. Mr. Grant was a designer draftsman for over 40 years, first for General Electric in Pittsfield, MA, and later for Electric Boat in Groton before his retirement in 1992.

In addition to his loving wife of 61 years, he is survived by four children (and their spouses), Janis (Paul) Cunningham of Westwood, MA, Timothy (Rita) Grant of Salem, Martin (Michelle) Grant of Colchester and Gina Brown of Sausalito, CA; eight grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and a host of friends.

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

Portland

Helen Anne Pasquarelli

Helen Anne (Tarnowski) Pasquarelli, 96, of Portland, died peacefully at Wadsworth Glen in Middletown on Friday, Dec. 31. She was the wife of the late Michael Pasquarelli. She was born on July 4, 1914, in Salem, MA, to Walter and Catherine (Gorcyzka) Tarnowski.

She was a Portland resident for most of her life, a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary in Portland and a member of the St. Theresa Society. She worked for many years at Scott & Daniels, retiring in 1979. She was a devoted mother and grandmother who enjoyed playing cards, watching the Red Sox and listening to Polish music. She was a kind and generous person who loved helping out her family and always thought of others before herself.

She is survived by her loving sons and their wives, Richard M. Pasquarelli and his wife Jeanne Milano, Dominic W. Pasquarelli and his wife Cheryl; grandchildren Kerry Darby and her husband Christopher, Jessica Aillon and her husband Timothy and Michael Milano; her great-grandchildren, Cole, Grace, Reid and Evan; also many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her sister, Mary Zawadski, and brothers, Joseph Tarnowski and John Tarnowski.

Her family would like to thank the staff at Wadsworth Glen Health Care center for the wonderful care given to Helen during her stay there.

Her family received friends and relatives at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Monday, Jan. 3. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 4, at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, proceeding to the Church of St. Mary, where Rev. John F. Ashe celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480, or Portland Fire Department, PO Box 70, Portland, CT. 06480. For directions, or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorial.net.



Hebron

Theodore S. Armata

Theodore S. "Ted" Armata, 82, beloved husband of Mary (Hoar) Armata, of South Windsor, passed away Sunday, Jan. 2. Born in Holyoke, MA, on June 26, 1928, he was the son of the late Frank and Mary (Ondrick) Armata.

He had lived in South Windsor for the past 47 years. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Bryant College and, with his brothers, owned and operated Armata's Markets. Ted established Ted's Market in Hebron, where he along with his sons, Todge and David, became a mainstay of the Hebron community over the last 36 years. Ted was also the president of Armata Realty. He was a member and past president of the Lions Club of South Windsor and received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award from Hebron Lions Club. Ted was also an honorary member of the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department.

Professionally, Ted received Adam J. Bozzuto's Award for community service and in 2008 he was honored with the prestigious Bozzuto's Lifetime Achievement Award for his distinguished service to the food industry. He was a parishioner of St. Margaret Mary Church in South Windsor and was a devoted New York Yankee and UConn basketball fan. His family was always his top priority and his greatest source of fulfillment.

He leaves his wife and best friend of over 60 years, Mary, three children, Susan Young and her husband Robert of Manchester, Todge Armata and his wife Janet of South Windsor and David Armata and his wife Ginny of Vernon; his siblings, Fran and Jack Fitzgerald, Helen and Neal Harrington, Frank and Jean Armata, Eleanor Valencia and Jack and Barbara Armata; five grandchildren, Michael Young, Sarah Armata and her fiancé Jeff Burnham, Matthew Young and his fiancée, Valery Sheridan, and Jennifer and Steven Armata; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Family and friends gathered Thursday, Jan. 6, at the Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Rd., South Windsor, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Margaret Mary Church, 80 Hayes Rd., South Windsor. Burial followed at Wapping Cemetery, South Windsor. Family and friends attended calling hours at Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home Wednesday, Jan. 5.

Memorial donations may be made to Hebron Interfaith Human Services (Food Bank) P.O. Box 634, Hebron, or to the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, 44 Main St, Hebron CT 06248.

For online expressions of sympathy (a photo tribute is also available online), visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Hector 'Eddie' Robitaille

Hector "Eddie" Robitaille, 65, of Marlborough, beloved husband of 44 years to Virginia (Springs) Robitaille, died Monday, Jan. 3, at Hartford Hospital. Born April 5, 1945, in Lewiston, ME, he was the son of Patricia (DesFosses) Robitaille and the late Alpee Robitaille.



Hector had served his country in the U.S. Navy and was retired from Pratt & Whitney after 38 years. He was a member of the National Rifle Association and was an avid sportsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing and loved being outdoors.

He is survived by his mother, Patricia Robitaille of Greene, ME; his wife, Virginia Robitaille of Marlborough; a son, Joseph Robitaille of Enfield and his fiancé Jamie Stanley; a daughter, Amy Watts and her husband James of Barrington, RI; three brothers, his twin brother Victor Robitaille of Maine, Louis Robitaille of Tennessee and John Robitaille of Maine; three sisters, Claudette Lizotte of Massachusetts, Annette Kwiatkowski of New Hampshire, Anita Gove of New Hampshire; five grandchildren whom he loved dearly, Cameron and Chase Watts, Skylar, Jayson and Lillian Robitaille; and a host of wonderful nieces, nephews and friends.

He was predeceased by his father, Alpee Robitaille, and a brother, Alpee Robitaille Jr.

A graveside service with military honors will be held Saturday, Jan. 8, at 11 a.m., in Marlboro Cemetery, Marlborough.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Life Choice Donor Services, 8 Griffin Rd., North Suite 200 B, Windsor, CT 06095-1573.

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

Portland

Harry H. Gould

Harry H. Gould, 82, of Edgewood Road, Portland, died Wednesday, Dec. 29, at Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford. He was the husband of Margaret Ringwood Gould. Born in Berlin Sept. 7, 1928, a son of the late Harry and Carolyn Miller Gould, he was a Portland resident for many years.

He had been employed by the former Raymond Engineering (Kaman Aerospace) for many years until his retirement. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army having served in the 40th Army, 224th Inf., Co K. He was a member of the BPOE Elks Lodge of Middletown for 26 years and was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary.

Besides his wife Margaret, he is survived by his sons Timothy Gould and his wife Linnae of Portland and Stephen Gould and his wife Susan of Anchorage, AK; his grandchildren, Rosemary, Jeffrey, Laura, Caitlin, and Cameron; his great-grandson Kayden Michael; and his sister Patricia Beilman of Florida.

His family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Sunday, Jan. 2. Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 3, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, proceeding to the Church of Saint Mary, where Rev. John F. Ashe celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment, with military honors, followed in St. Mary's Cemetery.

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

Portland

Justin Lee Hinds

Justin Lee Hinds, born Dec. 8, 1988, age 22, passed away peacefully Dec. 22 at Hartford Hospital, with his mom by his side.

He leaves his mom Athena Ruffino-Neville and stepfather Richard A. Neville, his father Ronald R. Hinds and Dawn Hinds, all of Portland; his brother, Joshua Levi Neville at home; his grandparents, Sebastian (Mike) and Elaine S. Ruffino of Portland; his grandmother, Sandra E. Hinds of Cromwell and the late John R. Hinds; many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Well-known for his warm smiles, kind words and big hugs, and an avid Yankee and Giants fan, he graduated Portland High School in 2007 and was a proud student at Mitchell College in New London. He worked for Habitat for Humanity. He never complained and was always ready to help others (blood drive, food bank, church). While he was going for treatments at CCMC, he would befriend some of the little children, keeping them calm while they were waiting for their treatments. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to CCMC Division of Hematology/Oncology, 282 Washington St. Hartford, CT 06106, in Justin's memory.

There were no calling hours. The funeral was held Friday, Dec. 31, at 11 a.m., at the Church of St. Mary on Freestone Avenue in Portland.

Portland

Carl Everett Miller

Carl Everett Miller, 55, of Portland, beloved husband of Leslie (Pfau) Miller for 35 years, passed away Friday, Dec. 24, at Middlesex Hospital.

Born in Middletown, he was the son of Everett Carl and Theresa (Mrozdek) Miller and lived in Portland all of his life. Carl was happiest when surrounded by family and friends. The highlights of his life revolved around coaching the youth of the Town of Portland. He was employed by NAPA for 36 years.

Besides his wife and parents, he is survived by two sons, Richard Miller and his wife, Jacqueline, of Miami, FL, and Stephen Miller and his companion, Ashley Daniels, of Meriden; and his sister, Deborah Markham of Greensborough, NC.

Funeral services and burial were private. Friends and family called Wednesday, Dec. 29, at the Cromwell Funeral Home, 506 Main St., Cromwell.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Carl's memory may be made to Portland Little League, P.O. Box 91, Portland, CT 06480. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneral.com.

Colchester

Daniel Ventura, Jr.

Daniel Ventura Jr., 54, of Ventura Drive, died unexpectedly Monday, Dec. 27, at William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich. He was born in Queens, NY, on Jan. 13, 1956, son of Virginia R. (Gonzalez) Ventura of Oakdale and the late Daniel Ventura.

Daniel graduated from the St. Bernard's High School in Uncasville Class of 1973. He served his country honorably in the United States Army with the Army Corp of Engineers. Mr. Ventura worked all of his life as a builder in Connecticut. Danny was well known with his friends and family for his warmth, outgoing personality, sense of humor, and practical jokes.

Mr. Ventura was predeceased by his daughter Nicole V. Ventura, who died March 6, 2006, and his father, Daniel Ventura, who died Nov. 11, 2007.

Daniel is survived by his son, Daniel Ventura III of Norwich; his mother, Virginia R. Ventura of Oakdale; his sister, Virginia V. Colburn and her husband Kenneth of Dover, MA; his grandson, Giovanni Ventura of Norwich; a niece, Elizabeth Colburn of Brookline, MA; a nephew, Edward Colburn of Waltham, MA; and a special cousin, Terry Randolph of Oakdale.

Friends and family called at the Cummings-Gagne Funeral Home, 82 Cliff St., Norwich, on Thursday, Dec. 30. A funeral service was held Friday, Dec. 31, at the funeral home. Interment was private and at the convenience of the family.

Memorial donations may be made in his name to SCAAD, 37 Camp Mooween Rd., Lebanon, CT 06249.

Condolences may be shared with the family at cummings-gagnefh.com.

Colchester

Dianne M. Rychlovsky

Dianne M. Rychlovsky (also known by friends as Dianna or "DD"), 50, of Colchester, entered into eternal rest Jan. 3. She was born Jan. 12, 1960, in Middletown.

She was predeceased by her mother, Margaret (Gahrman) Lyman, father, John A. Rychlovsky Sr., and stepmother, Catherine (Przekopski) Rychlovsky. Dianne was also predeceased by her husband, Wayne R. Gravelle, in 2007.

Dianne leaves behind her two wonderful children whom she loved very much, son, Paul August Rychlovsky-Gravelle, 13, and daughter, Sylvia July Gravelle, 12. She also leaves behind her four sisters, June Mainella and husband, John of Salem; Mae Hawley and husband, Mark of New Hartford; April Pozzato and husband, Joseph Jr. of Simsbury; Emma Finley and husband, Mark of Oneco; and one brother, John Rychlovsky Jr., of Voluntown; and many nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly.

Dianne grew up at Amston Lake and attended schools in Hebron. She previously resided in Waterbury, with her husband and children where she was very involved with her son's Cub and Boy Scouts and her daughter's dance classes. Dianne loved camping, fishing, hiking, landscaping, gardening, crafting and spending time with family and friends. She will be remembered for her lively free spirit, contagious laugh and selflessness.

At Dianne's request, a private memorial gathering of family and close friends will be held to celebrate her life at a favorite place along the Salmon River. Arrangements will be made to fulfill her wish this spring. Arrangements have been entrusted to Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.