

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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**And They're Off!...More than 150 people went "freezin' for a reason" in East Hampton's Lake Pocotopaug last Saturday. The brave souls were participants in the second annual Turkey Plunge, which raised more than \$16,000 for the East Hampton Food Bank. A story about the plunge appears on page 16. Photo by Joshua Anusewicz.**

## Controversy Already Brewing On Council

by Joshua Anusewicz

Less than 24 hours after being sworn in to their elected positions, tensions were already high among East Hampton Town Council members last Thursday, after newly-elected chairwoman Sue Weintraub announced Interim Town Manager John Weichsel would be returning this week.

According to Weintraub, who was appointed chair at a Town Council organizational meeting last Wednesday, Nov. 9, she had a phone conversation with Weichsel on the morning of Thursday, Nov. 10, to discuss the recent election results and when Weichsel would be able to return.

Weichsel had been on leave since late September due to medical reasons.

Weintraub said Weichsel's doctor had cleared him to return, so she asked if he would be able to come back Monday, Nov. 14. It had been announced by Acting Interim Town Manager Anne McKinney at that Wednesday's meeting, however, that Weichsel would not be able to return until Monday, Nov. 21.

After Weichsel confirmed that he would return on Nov. 14, Weintraub and councilor Kyle Dostaler met with McKinney at Town Hall later that morning and informed her that Weichsel would be returning earlier than she had announced. Weintraub said she offered McKinney an opportunity to be part of a "transitional"

meeting with Weichsel and Weintraub to bring Weichsel up to speed with the town matters, and said that the tone of the meeting was "congenial."

The problem, however, was that the other five members of the council had not been notified that the decision to have Weichsel return was being made.

"Absolutely no idea," said councilor Ted Hintz Jr., a Republican, last Thursday. "And the other councilors I spoke with didn't know. This group [the Chatham Party, which Weintraub and Dostaler are a part of] ran their campaign preaching open government and moving the town forward. There was no communication."

Hintz Jr. said his understanding was that Weichsel wanted to return on a "short week" – the week of Thanksgiving – so he could ease back into the position, but said that Weintraub and Dostaler told Weichsel "he needed to come back."

Councilor Barbara Moore, a Democrat, said Wednesday that Weintraub should have called a special meeting last week to discuss the matter with the rest of the council, adding that Weintraub "needed to follow process." She said the controversy could have been avoided if she had done this, stating that Weintraub "probably

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## Veterans Day Assembly Teaches Appreciation

by Geeta Schravter

At a heartwarming assembly at Hebron Elementary School last Thursday, Nov. 10, students were enthralled by the stories of local veterans – and also expressed their appreciation for all they have done.

Approximately 60 veterans attended the assembly, from those who had served in World War II "right through to a young man who's leaving to Afghanistan in December," said school secretary Jan Tuttle, who helped with much of the planning.

"It was a really great turnout," she said. The ceremony was filled with patriotism, appreciation and educational opportunities.

Hebron Elementary School Principal Kevin Hanlon explained the history of Veterans Day in his opening remarks, and assistant principal Amy Campbell read excerpts from this year's Presidential Proclamation.

"Our men and women in uniform are bearers of a proud military tradition that has been dutifully passed forward – from generation to generation – for more than two centuries," she read. "In times of war and peace alike, our veterans have served with courage and distinction in the face of tremendous adversity, demonstrating an unfaltering commitment to America and our people."

Introductions were made of all the veterans in attendance, including Colonel Kim Mitchell, Ret., who served 30 years in the United States Army. It was Mitchell's fourth year attending the Veterans Day ceremony at Hebron Elementary School, and he said he's "just amazed at what a great job they do."

"When I came back from Vietnam, we didn't get this kind of reception . . ." he said, adding it made the ceremony extra meaningful. "It would have been nice to have been appreciated the way we are now back then, but it was a different time."

Mitchell stated he enjoyed his time in the military – and he enjoys his time at the school ceremony as well.

"I absolutely love it," he said. "I love the whole experience of being here and having an opportunity to talk to the kids, listen to the

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Hebron Elementary School students applauded enthusiastically and held out their hands for high-fives from veterans at the end of last Thursday's assembly.

### Early Deadline

Due to Thanksgiving next week, the Rivereast will publish Wednesday, Nov. 23. As a result, the deadline for all copy will be Monday, Nov. 21, at noon.

No exceptions will be made.

**Holiday Shopping Guide Inside**

## Controversy cont. from Front Page

would have gotten the votes” to do so.

Moore also said that she was informed by McKinney that Weintraub offered to pay McKinney for the week that she had planned to work, which Moore said she did not have the authority to do. In McKinney’s contract, Moore said, McKinney would have to be given seven days notice before the contract was terminated.

McKinney did not return calls for comment for this story.

When asked if she had spoken with Weintraub about the matter, Moore said she had hoped to schedule a special meeting of the council this past Tuesday, Nov. 15, for the entire council to discuss what occurred. According to the drafted agenda, which was submitted by Moore, Hintz Jr. and councilor George Pfaffenbach, the council had hoped to discuss the actions by Weintraub and Dostaler, the duties of the council chair and individual members and the town’s code of conduct. Also, the drafted agenda included a final report from McKinney and an executive session to discuss the recent investigations into the police department.

Moore said Weintraub would need to call the meeting based on a line in the town charter that states that only the chair has ability to do so. Moore said Weintraub only consented to the executive session, but ultimately canceled the meeting because the town’s labor attorney, Sheldon Myers, could not attend.

“I think she’s afraid of what Anne was going to do” regarding the police department, Moore said of Weintraub’s actions. “We’re all waiting for Anne’s report to see what she has to say [about the department].”

Moore said she hopes to include some of the items that were on the draft agenda for this past Tuesday on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting, scheduled for next Tuesday, Nov. 22.

The police department has been put under intense scrutiny over the past few months after two sergeants were disciplined by Police Chief Matthew Reimondo and the town’s police union president spoke out against Reimondo’s handling of the situation and the working conditions at the department. An internal affairs investigation into Sgt. Michael Green, who is currently on paid administrative leave, showed deficiencies at the department that spurred the former Town Council to ask McKinney to look into the matter and report back to the council. Per the Town Charter, it is the town manager’s duty to supervise and direct “the department heads and other trained staff” of the town.

On top of the report by McKinney, police union president, Officer Michael Salafia, pro-

vided the town a petition from the majority of the police department, requesting that Green be reinstated. Recently, Salafia also submitted a formal complaint to the Connecticut Board of Labor Relations regarding Reimondo allegedly violating the union contract and threatening officers in the department (a full story on this complaint appears elsewhere in this issue).

On Wednesday, Weintraub said she felt her actions were “a non-issue” and that what Moore said happened was “not the case.”

“We need to get back to business,” Weintraub said. “We have things to deal with where we need John Weichsel’s expertise desperately. I don’t understand the issue.” Weintraub added that she thought the situation was a “win-win for everybody. John could come back, Anne could go back to retirement and the town could have an experienced town manager back.”

Regarding the attempted meeting on Tuesday, Weintraub said she would have held the executive session if Myers was available, but “nobody checked” to see if he was. Weintraub said she asked for input from Weichsel and the town’s attorney Jean D’Aquila and said that both advised her to hold the executive session on Tuesday. She also added that “some” of the issues that were addressed in the drafted agenda would be on the agenda for next Tuesday’s meeting.

When asked if she made the decision to avoid McKinney’s report on the police department, Weintraub dismissed it, saying that she was “not afraid of any information that is truthful.”

“I’m not afraid to deal with it, but we need someone with the expertise to deal with it,” Weintraub added. “That person is John Weichsel.”

Weichsel said Wednesday he did have a “tentative plan” to return on Nov. 21, but said he was “feeling recovered” enough to return to work earlier. When Weintraub asked him if he could come back on Nov. 14, Weichsel said he “would be glad to.”

Now back, Weichsel said he will be working three days a week for a few weeks, and will slowly transition back into working a full week. He said he has reached out to McKinney this week and offered her a chance to fill in his position when he is out, but he has not received a response.

When asked how he felt about how the situation was handled, Weichsel said that “everything seems to be going okay now.”

“Whatever may have occurred [involving the Town Council], that’s not something I plan to be involved in,” Weichsel added.

Next Tuesday’s Town Council meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 20 East High St.

Hawkapella, a select chorus group at HES, comprised of 5th and 6th graders also sang “Thank You, Soldiers.”

Prior to the principal’s closing remarks, a video from The Gratitude Campaign was shown as well. The campaign was started to teach people how to express gratitude to military members through a specific hand gesture that originated in 18th century France and translates into “thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Founder Scott Truitt explained on the campaign’s website, [gratitudecampaign.org](http://gratitudecampaign.org), that he “wanted to share this sign with people as a means of expressing their gratitude when circumstances did not allow for a verbal ‘thank you,’ or when they weren’t comfortable approaching a stranger.”

Since 2007, the video explaining the campaign has spread – millions of people have seen it and now use the sign.

The words “it’s not about politics,” spread across the screen as the video played, showing various images of military members. “It’s about service, and sacrifice, and it’s about gratitude.”

At the video’s end, students and guests had no hesitation showing their gratitude to the veterans present with the gesture.

“I hope all of you who are here today have the same feelings I do,” Hanlon said at the assembly’s end. “Which is great pride – great pride in the people who have served for us, and we want to thank them.”

As the ceremony came to a close, veterans proceeded out of the gym to hoots and hollers, outstretched hands for a “high-five” from students, and an enthusiastic applause of thanks that lasted over two minutes – up until the final veteran had left the room, presumably without a doubt their service was appreciated.

## From the Editor’s Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I know you all are wondering as much (he says, dripping with sarcasm), so I’ll just address this right out of the gate:

I have my cable back.

It returned at some point last Thursday. It was still out when I left for work in the morning, but when I returned that evening . . . .there it was.

The next day, I called my cable provider, Cox Communications, as it had announced last Wednesday it would be crediting people who lost their cable/Internet/phone services during the storm. Cox didn’t even mind if your cable remained intact but you lost electricity; as long as you couldn’t see cable TV or go online, you’d get a credit.

It was a nice move, and Cox couldn’t have made it easier to get the credit. All I had to do was simply call and say my cable had come back. I know other customers of other cable companies who had to do a lot more jumping through hoops. When all was said and done, I got more than \$50 taken off my bill.

I’m glad to have my TV and Internet back, but getting 50 bucks back . . . .that’s pretty sweet too.

\* \* \*

Speaking of TV: A few weeks back I wrote fondly of NBC’s *Community*, and encouraged folks to check it out. Well, the clock’s ticking; earlier this week, the Peacock Network released its mid-season schedule – and *Community*’s not on it.

At least it’s being replaced in the Thursday night lineup by another quality show; the still-good (though I fear past its creative prime) *30 Rock* will finally make its season debut. But still, the fact that come January *Community* will be gone from the schedule altogether is fairly disconcerting.

I suppose it’s not altogether surprising; of the four comedies that air on NBC Thursday nights, *Community* is consistently the lowest-rated (a distinction that used to be held, bafflingly, by *Parks & Recreation*. I don’t get people’s tastes sometimes). But its ratings have always been rather low, and NBC has stuck by it – even, somewhat surprisingly, allowing it to lead off the night. Why NBC has seemingly lost patience with it all of a sudden isn’t quite clear.

I do, however, think the show will return. From what I’ve read, NBC is committed to producing all 22 episodes of *Community* it had ordered for this season (by the time the show leaves the lineup in January, only 10 of those episodes will have aired), and I can’t quite see them waiting until next summer to unceremoniously burn them off. Like I said, NBC has been pretty loyal to the show since its 2009 debut, sticking with it when other networks might have scrapped it due to ratings; it’s hard to believe the network has completely fallen out of love with the show.

Plus, this is NBC; something will probably bomb sooner or later. The network isn’t exactly living high on the hog these days. (Word

of another cancellation came this week: *Prime Suspect*, which you could tell NBC had high hopes for.)

Unless something’s an instant dud, though, it looks like *Community* will be off the air for an extended period of time. And that, dear reader, is a bad thing.

\* \* \*

Continuing with the TV theme: I’ve written in the past about my fondness for *America’s Got Talent*. It’s a fun little summertime competition show. To me, it’s more enjoyable than *American Idol* and all the other *Idol* clones out there because it deals with more than just singers. From magicians to dancers to ventriloquists to high-diving artists, the show offers a nice bit of variety.

However, the series was dealt a blow last week when judge Piers Morgan, who has been with the series since its debut six summers ago, announced he was leaving the show to concentrate fully on his CNN talk show *Piers Morgan Tonight*. It’ll be interesting to see how *America’s Got Talent* recovers from Morgan’s departure – if, indeed, it even can.

Sharon Osbourne and Howie Mandel, the other two judges on the show, are fun and everything, but more often than not Morgan was the judge who told it like it was. His criticism always seemed to be the most fair, the most thought-out – and the most valuable for the contestant being critiqued. (“I’m not sure this is what America wants, but, hey, I could be wrong” – a typical Howie comment after a performance he didn’t care for – doesn’t really provide the contestant with a whole lot to think about.)

Simply put, week in and week out, Morgan seemed to be the judge who took the job most seriously.

And that’s what a show like *America’s Got Talent* needs; a judge that isn’t afraid to hurt the feelings of a contestant (or draw boos from the studio audience) if it means helping said contestant improve his or her craft. Morgan consistently *was* that judge. For *America’s Got Talent* to work, it needs someone to fill those shoes.

\* \* \*

One quick last note: Since next week is Thanksgiving, the *Rivereast* will publish a day early, on Wednesday instead of Thursday. This won’t impact when you receive it in the mail; you’ll still get the paper on Friday. However, this does impact the deadline for next week’s issue. Simply put, everything’s moving up a day.

All copy – letters to the editor, church/senior center/library listings, news releases, etc. – *must* be submitted by noon Monday, Nov. 21. Due to the volume of submissions received, no exceptions will be made to this deadline.

The staff of the *Rivereast* wishes everybody a happy Thanksgiving.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Portland High School Honors Veterans

On Thursday, Nov. 10, the Portland High School social studies department held its second annual Veterans Day program. The presenters of this year's program were teachers in the Portland school system who are also military veterans.

The program opened with a video depicting the history of Veterans Day, followed by a welcome address given by Michelle Stotler, the head of the social studies department. Portland High School students Tyler Anderson and Jason Lesick, both members of the Civil Air Patrol, presented the colors, as sophomore Megan Errichetti sang the National Anthem.

Four panel presenters joined the moderator, high school teacher James Stotler, on stage to explain, discuss and enlighten the students on their military experiences. Tim O'Connell, a social studies and French teacher at PHS, spoke about his experiences as an MP in Europe and his time in basic training.

Kathleen Burke, a Valley View Elementary School kindergarten teacher, spoke about her memories of being a black and white photographer for the U.S. Marine Corps in Washington, DC, during the Vietnam era. She also spoke about the veteran activities she is still involved with in the town.

Steve Davis, a technical education teacher at Portland Middle School, informed the students about his time as a hospital corpsman in the Navy and even shared a memory of performing CPR to save the life of a Master Chief Petty Officer aboard a ship.

Bob Hayes, also a technical education teacher at the middle school, was the only veteran at last Thursday's assembly who had been drafted into the military. However, he told students that even though he was drafted, it was a commitment he would surely make again.

James Stotler, dressed in his U.S. Navy uniform, told the students that he enlisted after Sept. 11 and spoke of his tour in Iraq.

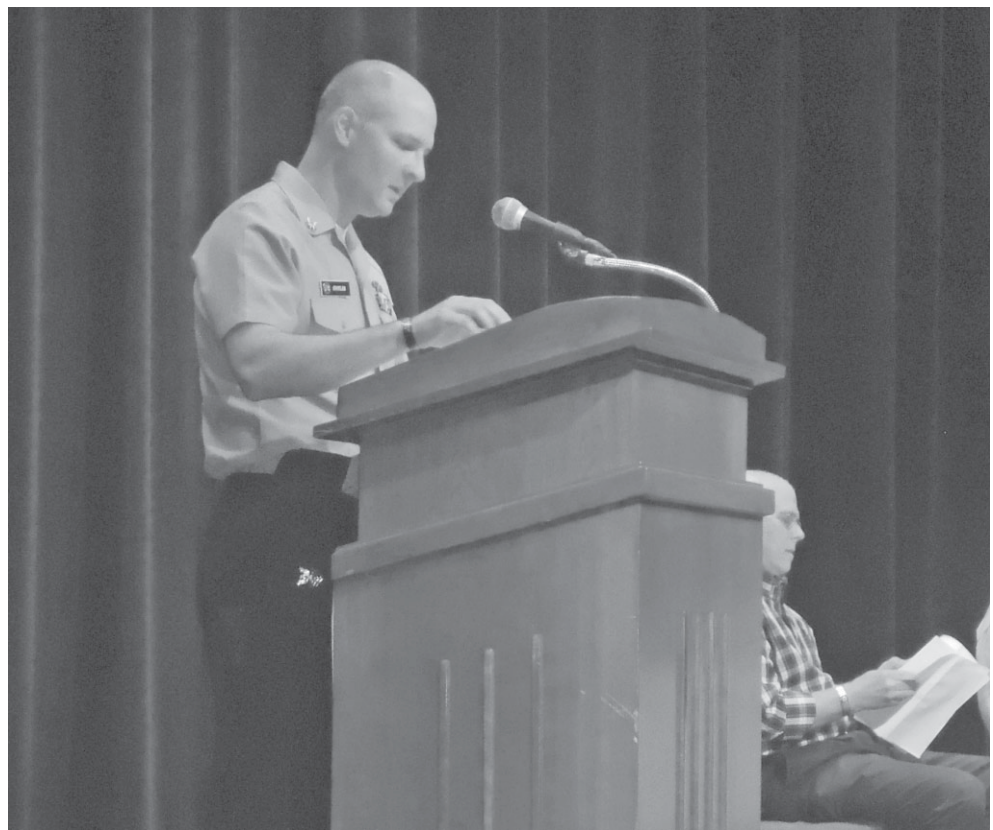
After the panel answered some general questions about their time in the military, the floor was open to student questions. Many hands were immediately raised asking questions about military officers, post-traumatic stress and their thoughts when they look at the American flag. Emphasis was placed on the strength and confidence the military gave each of the veterans, and the veterans explained to the students how public opinion on the military has changed from the Vietnam era to today's world.

Hayes and Blake told the students that they remember soldiers not receiving the warmest of receptions when returning home, whereas James Stotler, who was deployed most recently, spoke about how grateful he was for the tremendous amount of support he received, not only from his family, but from the community.

The program ended with closing remarks by Michelle Stotler, informing the students that the social studies department will be collecting donations for the Connecticut Cookie Platoon, a group that sends baked goods to soldiers serving overseas. Closing the program was a video about thanking a veteran and the playing of "Taps" by PHS senior Alex Kidd.

Preparation for the program began in the U.S. History classes and follow-up continued with students throughout this week. Michelle Stotler said her department was "thrilled at how well the program ran and grateful to the presenters for their time and efforts."

"It is hoped that students were left with an appreciation of Veterans Day and recognize that it is much more than just a day off from school," she added.



Portland High School held a Veterans Day program last Thursday, Nov. 10, which included discussions with faculty members throughout the district that have served in the military. The moderator for the event was James Stotler, seen here, a high school teacher that enlisted in the Navy after Sept. 11 and did a tour of duty in Iraq.

## Union President Files Complaint Against Reimondo in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

Just over a month after accusing Police Chief Matthew Reimondo of running the East Hampton Police Department with "fear and threats," police union president Michael Salafia has filed a formal complaint against Reimondo with the Connecticut State Board of Labor Relations.

The complaint, which was submitted Oct. 28, levies that Reimondo violated the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the town and the town's police union, International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO) Local 524.

According to Salafia's complaint, on Sept. 26, Reimondo requested that an officer work overtime hours for a construction project on West High Street (Route 66) near Maple Street. Salafia states that he advised the scheduling sergeant that "union felt there were contractual issues over the order-in and minimum hour provisions of the project."

On the day an officer was requested, the post went unfilled. According to the complaint, Reimondo approached Salafia and ordered him to have an officer fill the position. Salafia stated

that Reimondo said, "Listen Salafia, don't f— with me, don't f— with me, I know you called the union and now I'm pissed." Salafia said that Reimondo once again told him to fill the position and file a grievance.

On Oct. 6, Salafia stated that he wrote Reimondo a letter telling him that "threats about [him] exercising his rights to seek union guidance would not be tolerated." During that time, Salafia said that several other officers filed grievances regarding the construction project.

In one grievance filed by Officer Jason Wishart, it stated that officers were "ordered-in to work these special service duties," including an officer that worked a midnight shift that was ordered in the next day to work the special duty job.

"We believe that sidewalk repair is not an emergency situation and officers should not be ordered in," the grievance stated. In a response to the grievance that appears in the document, Reimondo denies the grievance, stating that "in the interest of public safety, I determine... what construction jobs need police protection."

In the complaint, Salafia also states that beginning Oct. 20, Reimondo "unilaterally ended the well-established practice" of having officers work overtime on construction projects in Portland when their officers were unavailable.

Salafia goes on to say that Reimondo "intimidated" and "retaliated" against officers for filing the grievances about the overtime issues, which he said violates the state's Municipal Employee Relations Act.

For relief, the union requested that the board rules that the town reestablishes the overtime relationship with Portland, "cease and desist" the intimidation and retaliation and reimburse the union for legal costs in the case.

As of now, the complaint has been submitted to the labor relations board for review and will be ruled on next month. Interim Town Manager John Weichsel said Wednesday he could not comment on the matter.

This is the latest installment in what has been a tumultuous few months for Reimondo and the police department, where Salafia has recently launched to the forefront. In September, Salafia

accused Reimondo of running the police department with "fear and threats" and carrying out "vendettas" since he was reinstated by a town referendum last November. Salafia also presented the town with a petition signed by 10 of the 14 members of the department requesting the reinstatement of Sgt. Michael Green, who was put on paid administrative leave pending the results of an internal affairs investigation into three separate incidents involving Green that took place last year.

Green is still on leave and the results of the internal investigations are incomplete. Some residents and former members of the Town Council have thought that Reimondo was specifically targeting Green in retaliation for taking Reimondo's place when his position was eliminated last summer.

Also in September, Sgt. Garritt Kelly was suspended for 10 days after sexually explicit e-mails were leaked that Kelly had sent while at work.

Reimondo has been on sick leave since last week and could not be reached for comment.

## Portland House Fire Displaces Three

by Joshua Anusewicz

A house fire on Route 66 last Thursday, Nov. 10, caused extensive damage and displaced a family of three, Portland Fire Marshal Ray Sajdak said.

According to Sajdak, the fire occurred around 8 p.m. at 271 Marlborough St. When the Portland Volunteer Fire Department arrived, Sajdak said that they found a "fully-involved bedroom fire on the second floor that had begun to extend into the roof of the home."

Sajdak said that the firefighters could not attack the fire from the inside at first because of a downed power line that had "burned away" from the exterior of the home. The power line had burned off, Sajdak said, because of fire extending from the windows. Firefighters attacked the blaze from the outside until Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P)

arrived and removed the downed lines, which allowed "interior operations" to begin, Sajdak said.

Sajdak thanked CL&P for its "quick response" to remove the downed line.

The fire was suppressed within 20 minutes, but not after causing extensive damage to the entire second floor and water damage throughout the first floor. Portland received mutual aid from Glastonbury, Middletown and East Hampton fire departments to fight the blaze.

Sajdak determined that the fire was "likely caused by an electrical malfunction within the second floor bedroom." The home was not occupied at the time of the fire, Sajdak said, but the family of three was displaced by the fire and is being provided temporary housing by the Red Cross.

## Three-Car Crash Closes Arrigoni in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

A three-car crash occurred on the Arrigoni Bridge during the morning commute Wednesday, closing the Arrigoni and backing up traffic throughout downtown Portland.

According to Sgt. Scott Cunningham, Portland Police were on the scene at 7:12 a.m. on Nov. 16, after an accident was reported near the foot of the bridge on Main Street. Dana Stemmler, 29, of Portland, was traveling westbound over the bridge when she stopped for traffic, Cunningham said. After coming to a stop, a vehicle operated by Erika Fuery, 40, of Colchester, slammed into the back of Stemmler's vehicle.

A third vehicle, operated by a 17-year-

old from East Hampton, could not stop in time and drove into the back of Fuery's vehicle.

Cunningham said that Stemmler and Fuery sustained minor injuries, and Fuery was transported via ambulance to Middlesex Hospital.

The bridge was closed for "10-15 minutes" while towing crews cleaned up the accident, Cunningham said. The closing of the bridge, combined with the heavy flow of traffic during the morning commute, backed up traffic past the Portland Post Office on Main Street and past Tri-Town Foods on Route 66.

"Happened at a bad time," Cunningham said.

# Birds of a Feather Plunge Together in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

While most residents were sound asleep in warm beds on Saturday morning, over 150 hearty souls braved the cold air and even colder waters of Lake Pocotopaug for the second annual Turkey Plunge at Sears Park. And as the T-shirts for the event read, these plungers were “freezin’ for a reason.”

From individual plungers raising money to local businesses chipping in, the event raised, as of Wednesday, \$16,016 for the East Hampton Food Bank, an incredible figure that will go a long way toward those in the community who are less fortunate.

“It’s amazing,” said an emotional Sandy Fries, the founder of the food bank. “This gets us through the year and made our life a lot easier.”

The “amazing” thing is that Fries had no part in the birth of this project. That distinction goes to the Crean family – Tom and Alexis – and Mary Ann Aitken. Two years ago, the residents were sitting on the Creans’ porch that overlooks the lake, and wondering what they could do to help their community. So, the three devised a plan that they said would combine the town’s two best resources – the lake and the people.

“We thought it was a crazy idea,” Tom Crean admitted.

Fries thought about as much. “They just came in one day and told me about the idea,” she said. “I laughed and said, ‘go for it.’”

But, through word of mouth, the idea gained some steam and roughly 70 swimmers participated in the first Turkey Plunge last year. With the success of the inaugural event, this year’s proved to be even bigger and better.

Residents began signing up several weeks prior to the event, with some local businesses and organizations setting up teams, like Kids of Chatham Organization (KOCO) and Smokey O’Grady’s. On top of that, through the help of the Rotary Club, the East Hampton branch of

Liberty Bank pledged to match each dollar raised with 25 cents, which will bring the total closer to \$20,000.

All of the preparation led up to Saturday, Nov. 12, where those who pledged to plunge had to dive into the chilly waters of the lake. Plungers began streaming in around 8:45 a.m. in all matters of costume, perhaps disappointed that the recent snowstorm dampened the Halloween celebration. Aitken said that the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug organization was the one who started the costume idea, and that it appeared to have “caught on pretty quickly.” While many of the costumes were turkey-related, there was no shortage of variety – pirates, dancers, the Grim Reaper, The Cat in the Hat and even a giant banana roamed the beach in preparation for the late-autumn swim.

In addition to a wide array of costumes, there was also a wide age range of participants. The plungers ranged from Fin Piper, 5, who was dressed as a pirate and had been taking cold showers to practice, to Joan Young, 81, who is a regular at the food bank, and all ages in between.

One of the more inspiring stories from the event was 9-year-old Grace Cronin, who was all smiles in a multi-colored sombrero and a pink feathered boa. Grace attends KOCO, where Aitken works, and jumped at the opportunity to help raise money for a good cause. Aitken said that she told the children about the event on Thursday, Nov. 3; by the following Monday, Grace had raised \$250.

“It helps charity, and it sounded fun,” Grace said Saturday morning. She said she went around to family, friends and neighbors and asked if they would like to pitch in, an effort that earned her the award for Youth Plunger of the Year.

“And it was all small donations – two dollars here, five dollars there,” Aitken said. “It



East Hampton residents splash through the icy waters of Lake Pocotopaug for the second annual Turkey Plunge. Photo by Joshua Anusewicz.

just shows how hard she worked.” Other awards went to Young for Most Senior Plunger, Fin Piper for Youngest Plunger, Smokey O’Grady’s for Largest Team, Families for Food for Best Team Theme, JoEllen Sajek for Volunteer of the Year, Peter Evans Jr. for Adult Plunger of the Year, the “Turkey Trio” for Adult Best Costume, Carys Dinunzio for Youth Best Costume and Tasos Papaglannopoulos of Loco Perro for Largest Individual Fundraiser.

Grace admitted she was “a little” nervous before jumping in the water, but she filed in with the other plungers who lined the edge of the water as the countdown began. And with the song “Born to Be Wild” blaring, the plungers sprinted into the water in a cascade of color, some shrieking as they splashed under the sur-

face, some gently wading out 30 feet from shore as if on Caribbean vacation.

As the swimmers slowly waded back to the beach, the organizers of the event were able to put what the Turkey Plunge means into perspective.

“This event was designed to bring this community together,” Tom Crean said. “It’s East Hampton citizens coming out to help East Hampton citizens. Too often, we read about bad news. We want to see some good news.”

And the good news is that the food bank can now be fully stocked for the holidays and, hopefully, beyond. “All of these people are just so giving and generous,” Fries said. “It’s what we like about our town.”

# Bus Contract Goes to Bid in East Hampton, But Nichols Still Gets It

by Joshua Anusewicz

For the first time in what Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden called “a long time,” the East Hampton school system’s bus contract was put out to bid this year. And although the contract process was different than most years, the company that was awarded the contract will not be.

Nichols Bus Company, which has held the school system’s bus contract for decades, was awarded the contract at Monday’s Board of Education meeting, trumping the offers of two other companies, Illinois Central of Joliet, IL, and M&J of Unionville. According to Chairman Michael Vasquezna, the contract will save the town roughly \$400,000 over the duration of the deal.

“We support this decision financially,” Vasquezna said. “Saving that money is of enormous importance.” The contract will go into effect with the new budget in July 2012 and will last for five years. The exact figures of the contract were not announced, and there will be negotiations for some “relatively minor” changes in the contract, Vasquezna said.

Golden said that Nichols is the only bus company that East Hampton has ever used, so it came as a surprise to many that the contract went out to bid. Longtime board member Donald Coolican has been the biggest advocate for putting the contract out to bid, and said he was pleased with how the process turned out.

“This is all I ever asked for,” Coolican admitted. “We should be grateful to Nichols for

giving us this rate, and good rates throughout the years.”

Golden said that the district put a Request for Proposal (RFP), which invited companies to bid on the contract. When the district received the three bids, Golden said the Transportation, Buildings and Grounds Committee, chaired by board member Glenn Gemma, used a “check sheet” of parameters the district was looking for and reviewed the bids.

After the review, Golden said that the committee interviewed representatives from Nichols and M&J and asked “fair and equitable questions.” The committee then sent the results of the bids and interviews to the board for review last weekend.

“The process went wonderful,” Golden said, heaping praise on the school district’s business manager Karen Asetta, who she said did “a wonderful job with research through the whole process.”

Golden stressed that the financial parameters of the contract were not her only concern, adding the school system has “public safety responsibilities to the town.”

Representatives from M&J and Nichols were on hand on Monday, along with a group of Nichols supporters that gave a round of applause when the contract was awarded. The company’s owner, Charles Nichols, was also on hand and thanked the board “for all the time [they] put in” during the process.

Although the process eventually yielded the

same result, the board felt that going through the process was a rewarding experience.

“The board learned a lot,” Vasquezna said. “We really learned how to collaborate to address major challenges.”

Coolican agreed. “I think we’re better off,

because now the contract is tighter,” he said.

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The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 28, at 7 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St.

## In East Hampton Recount, Coolican Retains School Board Seat

by Joshua Anusewicz

Monday’s Board of Education meeting was also the last meeting for outgoing members Michael Vasquezna, Deb Robinson and Sheila Wall. It was originally thought to be the final meeting for Donald Coolican, but a recount of votes from the Nov. 8 municipal elections earned Coolican re-election to the board.

“I was surprised the recount made that much of a difference,” Coolican said with a laugh. The recount was between three candidates – Chatham Scott Minnick, who initially received 1,269 votes, Wall, who initially received 1,260 votes, and Coolican, who ini-

tially received 1,251 votes.

After the recount, Minnick had received 1,213 votes, Coolican had received 1,205 votes and Wall had received 1,198 votes.

“I enjoy being on the board,” Coolican said. “I feel I can make a difference, and I’m glad I can continue doing that.”

Also joining the board is Democrat Ken Barber, who initially received 1,519 votes and 1,448 after the recount, and Chatham Bill Marshall, who initially received 1,326 votes and 1,282 after the recount.

# Mansfield Man Charged With Sexual Assault in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

A Mansfield man was arrested last Tuesday, Nov. 8, stemming from a three-month investigation into an alleged rape that took place at an East Hampton apartment in August, East Hampton Police Sgt. Garritt Kelly said.

Scott Marvel, 29, of 23 Nowlet Drive, Mansfield, was arrested and charged with first-degree sexual assault, first-degree unlawful restraint and third-degree assault, said Kelly. The investigation was headed by East Hampton Police Off. Jason Wishart.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit on file at Middletown Superior Court, the incident took place in the early hours of Aug. 18. The alleged victim told police she had recently moved into the apartment at the time. She said she did not know anyone in the building, but tried to meet some of the residents that would congregate on the back deck.

On Aug. 17, the woman invited two female friends over for “dinner and drinks” on the back deck area, where several other residents – including Marvel, his girlfriend and his son – were socializing. The alleged victim stated that after a while, the other group of residents left the deck except for Marvel (who was living in the building at the time) and his son, whom she invited to sit with her and her friends. After having what the woman told police was a “friendly

conversation” until around midnight, her friends left and Marvel’s son returned to the apartment. At that time, the victim stated that Marvel offered to help carry her dishes from dinner back to her apartment.

The alleged victim stated that, once in the apartment, Marvel asked if he could take a look around because “he said he used to live in her apartment.” She said she followed Marvel into the bedroom so “she could see what he was doing” and alleges that, at that point, she was attacked “out of nowhere.” She said Marvel threw her on the bed and pulled off her shorts and underwear, and said she “didn’t remember what happened after that” because she was “going into shock.”

At roughly 7 a.m., the alleged victim stated that she woke up and forced herself to take a shower and go to work, where she confided in a few co-workers that she had been raped. According to the affidavit, her co-workers described her as “uncharacteristically late” for work that day, and added that she was “not her normal self.” They testified the woman “broke down and cried,” was seen shaking, and even “vomited in the bathroom.”

That afternoon, two co-workers brought the woman to Manchester Memorial Hospital, where she had a sexual assault exam completed.

The woman told police that at no point dur-

ing her conversation with Marvel on Aug. 17 was she intoxicated or flirtatious, and that at “no time did she agree to have sex” with him or was interested in doing so. She stated that she did not know him, but that she had heard he “was a big drinker and was sometimes a pain.”

On Aug. 23, Wishart contacted the Manchester Police Department and was able to secure the sexual assault exam and the complete medical report from the hospital. East Hampton Officer Kevin Wilcox delivered the exam to the Connecticut Forensic Science Laboratory in Meriden. Through records, Wishart also found that Marvel had been arrested once in East Hampton for breach of peace, and had several run-ins with the police in Willimantic, where he previously lived, including disputes with neighbors, domestic disputes and incidents involving intoxication and drug use.

On Sept. 2, Wishart went to Marvel’s residence and asked him to come down to the police station. According to the affidavit, when asked by Wishart if he knew why he wanted to speak with him, Marvel replied, “Because of the one-night stand?”

At the station, Marvel confirmed he had spent time talking with the alleged victim and her friends, but that after his son had gone back to the apartment, the woman “started hugging him

and telling him what a good father he was.” He said he helped the woman carry the dishes back to her apartment, where she “started kissing and touching him.” He stated that this led to further sexual acts, but never escalated to sexual intercourse. He stated that after a few minutes, he stopped and told the woman “this was a mistake” and returned back to his apartment.

A week after the incident took place, the alleged victim officially moved out of her apartment. However, she “refused to go back into her apartment” and had her friends move her things out “so she didn’t have to go back into it,” the woman told police.

Marvel was released on \$150,000 court-ordered bond after being arraigned on Nov. 8. According to the state’s judicial website, Marvel will enter his plea on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at Middletown Superior Court at 10 a.m.



Scott Marvel

## New Pet Shop Comes to Colchester

by Bailey Seddon

Jen Lowy has been linked to animals her whole life, which is why she opened Colchester Pet Shop, located at 111 Loomis Rd., a month ago.

“I can’t get [animals] out of my system,” Lowy said.

Growing up, Lowy worked in her parent’s pet store, Magic Pet in Wethersfield, which opened a year after she was born. She worked there through high school and college, and after graduating from Rhode Island’s Bryant College with a degree in marketing, continued to work at her parents store until they retired and closed their shop in August of this year.

After her parents retired, Lowy began looking for a spot where she could have a shop of her own. She had always seen the location on Loomis Road and thought it would be a good place to set up shop. Lowy herself lives only two miles away, in Moodus, making it an easy commute.

What makes Lowy’s shop different is that she buys her freshwater fish wholesale, from Chung’s Fish Place in South Hadley, MA.

“They’re the best, healthiest fish we have ever seen,” she said, adding that Chung’s is where her parents always bought their fish.

The way she houses her fish is also different from other pet shops. Most shops keep fish on a central water system where the water runs through all the tanks. This means if one was sick with something that some of the other fish could potentially catch it. Lowy solves this problem by having individual water systems for her fish.

“We would not have it any other way, it’s so much better for our fish,” she said.

When it comes to her fish, Lowy also has some unique species. These include both salt and freshwater fish such as: rope, parrot, sword tails, rummy nose, seahorses, clownfish, hippo tang, geophagus, chocolate chip star fish and glofish. The glofish came by its name because of the glow it gives off when it is put under a black light.

The chocolate chip star fish was named such because of its coloring. However, despite its

cool look, Lowy said it is one of the “meanest” fish she has. She also said it’s hard to keep a chocolate chip star fish in a tank with other fish because it will “eat anything in its path,” such as smaller fish, coral, crabs or snails. However, if put in a tank with bigger fish, the chocolate chip star fish may itself get eaten, laughed Lowy.

While Lowy gets her freshwater fish from Chung’s Fish Place, she gets her saltwater fish wholesale from Exotic Reef Imports in El Segundo, CA. Exotic Reef Imports, Lowy said, is also the store that supplies the fish for the Animal Planet reality show *Tanked*.

Lowy also has the normal assortment of fish one would usually see at the pet store: guppies, goldfish, sharks and bettas, the latter of which Lowy said she specializes in. When you walk into her store you can see the assortment of bettas and betta tanks. Lowy also has lucky bamboo, which can be put in with the bettas, and they can eat the roots and get oxygen from it. Lowy said she can also special order fish if a customer could not find what they wanted in her selection.

While fish are the main feature of Colchester Pet Shop, they are not the only colorful thing to look at. Lowy also has live rock from Florida and coral that she grows herself. At home Lowy has a 300-gallon coral tank that is five feet wide, six feet long and two feet wide and is between 76-78 degrees Fahrenheit. There it takes her several months to grow her coral.

“It’s a slow process,” said Lowy. Once she has enough grown she cuts off a piece and puts it in one of her tanks, then waits for the next piece to grow.

Lowy is dedicated to her coral. After Tropical Storm Irene, she lost power at her house for six days. She had a generator, but instead of using it to power her house, she employed it to keep her coral tank at the right temperature.

Lowy also makes her own saltwater for her tanks. She does this with a Reverse Osmosis De-Ionizing, or RO/DI, unit. The RO/DI unit takes everything out of the water, such as unwanted minerals, and Lowy then puts salt in the tank that is “all-natural” from the Red Sea.



Jen Lowy, owner of the new Colchester Pet Shop, tends to her coral at her store, located on 111 Loomis Rd. Lowy specializes in marine life, but her shop also has products for dogs, cats, birds and other pets. Photo by Bailey Seddon.

Salt can be chemically made, but getting natural salt from the Red Sea is “healthier for the fish and the coral,” Lowy said.

While much of her store is devoted to fish Lowy does have a selection of products for dogs, cats, birds, hamsters and gerbils. Lowy has leashes and collars for dogs from Lupine, a company in Conway, NH. She noted the company offers customers a lifetime guarantee, replacing collars even if they have been chewed, said Lowy. She also carries a line of shampoos for pets by Paul Mitchell. On the back of one of the bottles pet owners can find the amusing statement, “Tested on humans first.”

While Lowy can be found with her fish at the pet shop, she does have pets of her own at home. Lowy has been riding horses since she

was nine and has a 13-year-old German Warmblood horse named Indiana Jones. She also has two Corgi dogs: Honey, 9, and Lucky, 8, and a cat, 10-year-old Lo Mein. Lowy laughed at the last name, saying that her husband agreed to get a cat only if he could name it.

There is “never a dull moment,” at her house, said Lowy.

Colchester Pet Shop is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lowy is also in the store at times on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; anyone wanting to stop by can just call ahead.

For more information, call Lowy at 860-365-5275 or search for Colchester Pet Shop LLC on Facebook.

# Elephants Come to Colchester

by Bailey Seddon

Colchester resident Andrew Gates didn't set out to write a book, but that is what he ended up doing while he was living in Australia two years ago.

Gates graduated from Bacon Academy in 2003 and then went on to Marist College in Poughkeepsie NY, where he graduated in 2007 with a major in English literature. After graduating, Gates worked at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center for six months, but quit to live in London, England.

Since then, Gates has been quite the globetrotter, going to many countries with work visas, including Ecuador, Italy and Ireland.

"There's so many cities and places that I want to see," Gates said this week. He said he enjoys meeting new people and seeing new places, which is why he has been traveling basically non-stop for the past four years.

One of Gates' stops on his world tour was in Australia, when he spent seven months working in a café, starting in November 2009. Gates already had a story in mind and had been thinking of writing it when he walked into a Melbourne shop run by Christine Mathieu. The shop was filled with artwork and books she had previously published on her own. Mathieu had started a printing company several years before, called Littlefox Press. For Gates, this seemed like the perfect opportunity. He sat down and told Mathieu his idea for a book, and she agreed to publish it. That is how 26-year-old Gates came to write *The Elephant of Eastbury*.

The book was written for Gates' late grandmother, Johanna Armentano. Armentano used

to take Gates and his sister to Eastbury Pond in Glastonbury when he was younger, memories he knows he will never forget.

"It was an important place for me in my childhood," Gates said. Because of his trips with his grandmother, Gates decided to write the book. "I just thought to myself, I would really like to write a book for her memory," he said.

The book is not a story but a poem, something Gates decided to do because he liked the idea that people could interpret it differently. As for how he interprets his poem, Gates said it is hard to explain, but much if it is about memories. Gates said the time people spend with those important to them is "precious," and the memory of those people is important. Gates said the book is also about being alone with one's own ideas or thoughts, thinking about memories and good times they had with people, and "how you cherish those," he said.

While Gates knows the meaning of his poem, he does not feel that everyone has to read it the same way. "It can be anything," that people interpret, said Gates.

Besides being the inspiration for his book, Gates said his grandmother was also his inspiration for traveling. His grandmother loved to travel, as Gates does now, and would often bring back souvenirs for her family. On one such trip, to Istanbul, his grandmother brought back a relic of an eye with an elephant hanging down from it, which Gates kept.

"I think that influenced me," he said.

Gates had his inspiration and his publisher, but he also needed to get an illustrator. Mathieu helped with that too, e-mailing several artists

she knew who she felt could do the illustrations. One of the artists, Laura Mitchell, took up the job filling the book with colorful elephants.

Gates knew the circulation of his book would be small, but he said he only cared that it got published. Littlefox Press uses solar energy and each book is handmade, and thus takes more time to publish than books that are factory-made. Gates said there is a lot of work that goes into the making of books and he was very happy to have found a publisher willing to do it.

Communicating with his publisher and illustrator wasn't always easy either. Gates returned to the United States in June 2010, and had to contact Mitchell and Mathieu through phone or e-mail. Along the same lines, Mathieu lives in Melbourne and Mitchell in Perth, which are at almost opposite ends of Australia.

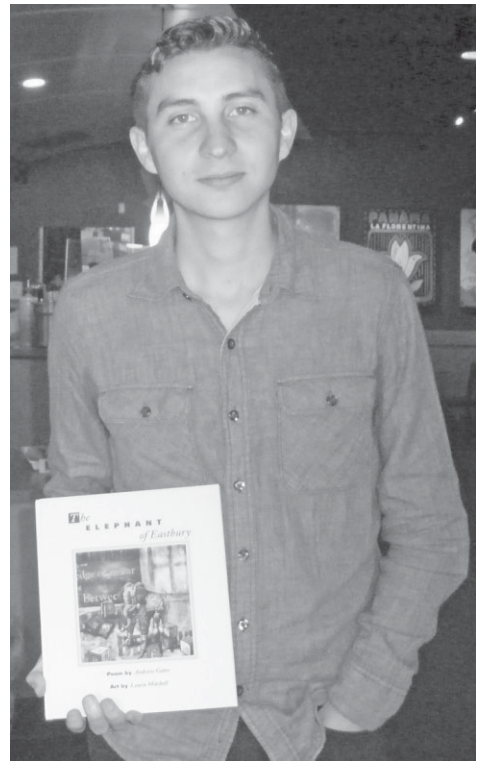
However, after two years of work and communication, his book was finally published.

"It's pretty amazing" that these two women took on the project of his book, said Gates. "I'm so grateful to them." Gates said he also learned a lot from his experience about publishing.

"It's been really interesting, watching the process," he said.

While he loves his book this is not what Gates wants to do for a living; for him it is a creative outlet, he said. As for the future, Gates is not sure exactly what he wants to do for a job, but he knows he will always want to travel. This is why he is going to the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, for graduate school.

"It's another excuse for me to be able to move



Andrew Gates

to another place," he said. While in Canada, Gates will major in information library studies and enjoy exploring another new city.

For more information on Gates or to purchase *The Elephant of Eastbury*, visit [www.lifelete.com](http://www.lifelete.com).

# Efficiency a Theme at Hebron Board of Education Meeting

by Geeta Schrayter

A new parent notification system, enrollment projections and the dismissal and pick-up of students at Hebron Elementary School were among the items talked about by the Board of Education at a meeting Nov. 10.

Discussion took place on the adoption of SchoolMessenger, a parent notification system that would replace eNotify, the current communication system the school has in place.

With StudentMessenger, notifications could be sent via e-mail, text message, tweet or call to a house phone or mobile number. Under the present system, notifications are sent via e-mail.

William Mazzara, director of finance at Hebron Elementary School, said the system has "a lot of good benefits" and explained it allows surveys, an unlimited number of calls and the ability to target specific groups to receive a particular message.

Superintendent of Schools Eleanor Cruz said the system is more flexible than eNotify, reduces overhead costs "significantly" and allows for greater communication.

Board of Education Chairman Mark Allaben said he thought it sounded "like a good idea," and added the school would receive a discount. The system will cost \$2,000 for its first year. After that, the cost will be based on the number of students enrolled and \$1.84 per student.

Mazzara said this week the funding for the new system will be taken from various accounts in the school budget that have a surplus; this year, he said, the money is projected to come from the salaries account.

The plan is to begin using the service, and gradually phase out the use of eNotify.

"There might be some overlap because we

want to get it now, but then we would be replacing the old system," Cruz said.

Mazzara said this week the goal is to implement the new system within the next two weeks – hopefully, before the next major snowstorm.

At last week's meeting, Board of Education member Kathy Shea stated a new system is necessary.

"Given the last two weather systems, we need a better system," she said, later adding, "I'm all for it," and she considered it "a good catch-all."

"I think the timing is perfect," Cruz said.

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Based on enrollment projections from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC), enrollment in Hebron is expected to decline. NESDEC compiles 10-year projections based on the number of students who are already enrolled, children who are already born and an estimation of births in future years as a way to assist boards and administrators with "effective planning and allocation of resources," according to the council's website.

Next year, it is projected there will be 95 kindergarten students, compared to 119 during the current school year. For the 2013-14 year, the number is projected to drop to 84, before increasing to 106 the following year. From that point forward, enrollment is estimated to be less than 106, fluctuating between 99 to 104 kindergarten students throughout the next seven years.

The current projection runs until the 2021-22 academic year; however, NESDEC states the projection should be updated on an annual basis, and projections for years 1-5 are more reliable than years 6-10. The projection doesn't take into consideration future town develop-

ment.

Allaben said at the meeting the information was helpful for planning purposes, and the declining enrollment means hard decisions in the future.

"We're anticipating that we're going to have to make some hard decisions in regards to losing staff," he said. "We're going to hover around 80-100 kids coming in over the next five years, and as our bigger classes move out . . . groups get smaller and smaller. We technically could lose three to four teaching positions."

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Pick-up and dismissal was a topic of much discussion at the meeting, as those present discussed traffic, parking and bus route issues.

Hebron Elementary School Principal Kevin Hanlon explained when all staff is present, there are only 43 unassigned parking spots. Additionally, some of those spots may be taken up by student teachers, student interns, substitutes and piles of snow during the winter months.

On average, 100 to 110 parents pick up and drop off their students. In the afternoon, this poses a problem because the current routine requires parents park their cars and wait outside for students to be released.

In the morning, there is a drop-off line in the south parking lot which creates significant traffic.

As solutions to these problems, various possibilities were presented. These included hiring paraprofessionals to allow for earlier drop-off, hiring constables to direct traffic, creating a parking area and driveway where the fourth-grade modulars are presently situated and examining the possibility of redoing bus routes.

By the end of the discussion, Allaben noted three possibilities he considered promising. The first would be to have paraprofessionals work an additional 15 minutes in the morning to allow for earlier drop-off from 8-8:15 a.m. Using a mid-range salary, the approximate cost of this action was placed at \$2,357.20.

The second is to create a parking area and driveway loop where the fourth-grade modulars are located to help with traffic flow and the lack of available parking space. The estimated total cost of this action was placed at \$37,500, including the removal of the modulars.

Thirdly, utilizing software to redo the bus routes so they're more efficient was recommended. The length of time it takes some buses to complete their routes was mentioned as a reason behind the inefficiency of parent pick-ups and drop-offs.

"I think parents would use the buses if they felt it would be a community thanksgiving service," said Cruz. She said she would like to see the school work with the town planner on architectural changes that would be helpful for the department. She said she would like to see the school work with the town planner on architectural changes that would be helpful for the department. She said she would like to see the school work with the town planner on architectural changes that would be helpful for the department.

Along with the above, Allaben added he hoped administrators will "continue to think creatively" to solve problems.

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The next Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m., at Gilead Hill School.

# Energy Savings Contract a Possibility in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

Town officials Monday were pitched a proposal that, if acted upon, could lead to significant energy cost savings for the town.

Members of the boards of selectmen, finance and education, as well as the Green Committee and Public Building Committee, were presented with a preliminary energy report for the town by Siemens Industry as well as information on Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) in conjunction with Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Energy Services.

Siemens Industry's report described ESPC as a partnership between a municipality (Hebron), an energy services company (Siemens) and a lender. The report defined ESPC as "an innovative financing technique that uses energy savings from the building owner's existing operating budget to replay the cost of energy efficient equipment and related energy conservation improvements," that are referred to as Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs).

With ESPC, money from a municipality's budget is reallocated and used for new energy-

efficient infrastructure, project financing costs and services such as maintenance; there is no cost to the taxpayer.

Presenter Jerry Drummond, a sales team leader with Siemens Industry, explained "the decision isn't *if* we spend that money, it's *how* we spend that money."

He said Connecticut has the highest energy costs in the country after Hawaii, at 18.06 cents per kilowatt hour, and added that's a valid reason to consider the conservation measures and ESPC. The average U.S. price is 9.83 cents.

There are no upfront costs to the program, Drummond explained. Rather, Siemens would implement the ECMs and be paid during construction from an escrow account. The lender is then paid over time through the energy savings the town receives from the changes - savings Siemens guarantees.

Their guarantee states there will be savings in both energy use and costs, savings must exceed the town's annual payments, and Siemens will pay the town in the event of a shortfall.

In order to determine what ECMs were recommended for Hebron, a preliminary energy audit was conducted. Utility bills were analyzed, "facility operations personnel" were met with and Hebron's schools and municipal facilities were toured by Siemens lead energy engineer, Vijay Srinivasachari.

Afterwards, Siemens compiled the preliminary energy report in which a list of ECMs was recommended "to increase energy efficiency, upgrade mechanical, lighting and water systems, reduce maintenance costs and improve the day-to-day operation of the facilities."

The top five recommendations were lighting controls, building envelope improvements, lighting retrofits, the installation of programmable thermostats and boiler replacement. The list continued on to include seven more. If these ECMs were implemented, Siemens stated Hebron could receive an estimated 20 percent electrical savings and 10 percent fuel oil savings. These reductions would equal the re-

moval of 224.3 cars from the road and 19.8 rail cars of coal each year. The savings would also amount to the preservation of 26.4 acres of forest.

During the presentation, various benefits of ESPC were mentioned, including the above savings, the improvement of air quality, the conservation of natural resources, the ability to avoid the cost of delay and enhanced energy security.

Throughout the program, which will be less than or equal to a twenty-year term, energy savings that exceed the finance payments are available for Hebron to use as desired. After the program ends, 100 percent of the savings go to the town.

If Hebron chose to move forward with the program, the next steps would be to conduct an investment grade audit and design the contract. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said she expects ESPC to be an agenda item at the Dec. 1 Board of Selectmen meeting.

# Andover Resident Leaves More than Memories

by Geeta Schrayter

On Nov. 3, Andover lost a longtime resident and beloved family man described by Board of Selectmen member Jay Lindy as someone who "always treated everybody as they would want to be treated."

Ronald Haverl, wife of selectwoman Julia Haverl, moved to town in 1969, and "he was always involved in the community," said Lindy.

Lindy had known Haverl for close to 30 years. "I was president of the fire department, and whenever we'd have a fundraiser he would come out and he would help us - not just monetary-wise but support wise," he said. "I just can't say enough [about him]."

Haverl was a member of the RHAM Board of Education from 1971-75 and a member of the Andover Board of Finance from 1989-95, but his reach extended well beyond the borders of town.

"He started those four companies," said his daughter, Christina Tamburro, "and I think he did that out of a sense of . . . he wanted to create jobs and he wanted to do something good for mankind."

Over the last 25 years, Haverl founded Scan-Optics, Inc., Mediscan, Inc., and Spetrascan, Inc. with his business partner, Milton Stoller. He also founded Bio-Plexus, Inc., with Carl Sahi of Coventry.

During the 1980s, Sahi said, people were dying from an unknown disease, that later turned out to be AIDS. He said he and Haverl developed a technique to make safety needles that would reduce the chance of spreading fluids and infections from patients to health care workers. Sahi said Haverl was good at making a decision and moving on, not overanalyzing - a beneficial attribute to have as an entrepreneur.

"I think all of us who have had our lives touched by Ron will miss him," said Sahi, "especially the sparkle in his eyes that he had when he was in hot pursuit of a new business opportunity."

Everyone who worked with Haverl - from Sahi to Mark Robinson, who worked on Haverl's Andover home with his late father - had something nice to say about him this week.

"My father worked at Ron's house, now this started about 1970-ish or so, and then when I graduated high school I started working with my dad," said Robinson. "[Haverl] was a very smart man . . . he seemed to be very caring as far as being able to help people, and was very committed to doing that also."

His brother, Robert Haverl, agreed. "He was very considerate of others, did what he could to help people out, he was a great developer and tried to keep everything that he did do within the state to help people here," he said, adding his brother could have easily taken his businesses elsewhere.

"He had great foresight, he had a lot of things going in his head that I'm sure he wished he would have had more time to accomplish," Robert added, explaining his brother had just received funding for a fifth company that "would have been phenomenal" to pull off.

"He was really out to try to do something to make the world better for people," said Haverl's son, Carl. "He was really not about trying to make a quick buck. [He had] really high ethics."

As a businessman, Carl added his father was pretty good at hiding his emotions, which came in handy when dealing with exasperating people.

"He had a pretty adept poker face, and we used to joke that he would tap his finger, and if he tapped his finger that meant he was really, really displeased with the other person," Carl laughed.

While everyone is quick to discuss Haverl's success and dedication as an entrepreneur, the things he enjoyed outside of work were also mentioned as central to Haverl's life.

"He was a big fan of music," said Carl, adding his father was "forward-looking" and one of the first people in the United States to have a CD player.

"He had one sort of brought in from Japan before they were selling them here . . . he ended up with this huge collection of CDs, mostly classical but also things like Bob Dylan."

Carl added his father was also an early adopter of the Toyota Prius hybrid car "before it was cool."

"He really loved good food and good wine," continued Carl, who fondly remembers the trips he used to make from his home in California to the Virgin Islands to visit his parents every January.

"That was something he really looked forward to, you know, getting away in the middle of the sort of dark winter into what's really a tropical paradise," Carl said. "He just loved the beach, loved the food, visiting other people that he knew there . . ."

Then, after the dark winter made way for summer in New England, Tamburro stated her father enjoyed going to the Rhode Island shore with his three grandkids. She added that he took every opportunity he could to provide them with educational experiences, including trips to museums and New York City.

"He tried to get them interested in building and reading, and old movies and Bugs Bunny," she said, adding with a laugh, "he loved Looney Tunes cartoons."

"He was a very kind person," she said. Now that Haverl's gone, Robert stated one of the things he'll miss the most will be the talks they used to have.

"We lost a great guy, that's for sure." Haverl's son agreed. Carl added one of the things he'll miss the most is being able to call his father every week to catch up and talk about what's happening in technology.

"The shocking thing is, you have this idea that your parents maybe will just always be there . . . and then suddenly they're not," Carl said. "So he was like, you know, a resource that you could always turn back to. We all miss him."

As the memory of Haverl will live on with those who were fortunate enough to know him, so will his goals and work as an entrepreneur, as his companies continue to provide jobs in Connecticut and help countless individuals with the items and services they provide.

Haverl received a scholarship to Brown University where he earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering - his son stated Haverl was always thankful for the scholarship and wanted to give back to Brown for the opportu-



**The late Ronald Haverl and his wife, Julia, collecting mushrooms in a state forest.**

nities he felt his education opened up for him. Donations in Haverl's memory may be sent to the Brown University Class of 1957, Box 1877, Providence, RI 02912.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Nov. 26, at 10:30 a.m. at the Andover Congregational Church, Route 6 in Andover. The burial will be private in Townsend Cemetery. Calling hours are Friday, Nov. 25, from 4-7 p.m. at the Watkins Funeral Home, 142 E. Center St., Manchester.

# Awards and Smart Boards Discussed at Marlborough Board of Ed

by Bailey Seddon

The first Board of Education meeting since last week's election started out with a little tension between board members Wednesday night.

The meeting began with Betty O'Brien being re-elected chairwoman and Ruth Kelly vice chairwoman. Board member Shannon Bielaczyc said that while she was fine with the fact that there was going to be no change in these positions, she felt that all members needed to "really listen," and be "open-minded to other people's ideas." Bielaczyc said she has felt that in the past her and other board members have been part of the minority and felt that her ideas were not always welcomed.

Member Mimi LaPoint agreed, saying they all needed to "share in decisions," and be "equal partners of this board."

O'Brien said that every opinion was welcomed, but when things are passed it is done with a majority vote, which is how the board runs.

O'Brien also told LaPoint and Bielaczyc that if there is a personal problem either of them had with another board member, they could speak to her after meetings. That way, said O'Brien, they are not doing it at a public meeting. She said she did not want any board member to feel they could not voice their opinion.

"In the future should you want to change or vote for a particular position you should feel

comfortable," O'Brien said. Bielaczyc said this was not anything personal but just felt that over-all some of her opinions had not always been welcomed in the past.

\* \* \*

Next the board moved on to something of a happier note. Superintendent David Sklarz gave out two awards as part of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS). According to [capss.org](http://capss.org), the award is meant to "be a meaningful superintendent-to-student link." The awards program is approved by the CAPSS Board of Directors and awards go to students that demonstrate "community service and services to others, academic prowess (relative to ability), and leadership service to the school community," the site said. Sklarz chose one girl and boy from sixth grade whom he felt best fit this description.

"This is one of my favorite nights of the year," Sklarz said.

For both students, Sklarz read a combination of quotes from teachers saying why each student best deserved the award. The first student Sklarz called up was Lia Baroncini. Teachers felt she deserved this award because she "is a model student who goes above and beyond the community," read Sklarz.

"Lia enters the building with a smile every

day," and is a "true leader with a fun, charismatic personality."

The second student to receive the award was Garrett Massotti. Garrett's teachers said he is "actively involved in school and community events," such as being the stage manager for the school play *Oliver Twist*. Sklarz said Garritt has also helped students through the peer mediation program at school.

"What is most impressive is his ability to help others," Sklarz read.

\* \* \*

The board next took a "field trip" to the Science Technology and Mathematics, or STEAM, room. This room was added to the school this year to continue to build on children's knowledge of math and science. When board members walked in, math and science teacher Eric Brody was there to introduce the board to the STEAM room.

"What better place to talk about science than the new STEAM room?" joked Principal Scott Nierendorf. When board members walked in, Brody had the classroom's new state-of-the-art SMART Board up, playing a video students had made with a microscope. A SMART Board is an interactive white board that uses touch recognition. Nierendorf asked Kelly to go up and try to guess what she was seeing on the SMART

Board. There were many guesses by Kelly and the board before Brody told them it was a recording of an M&M candy being dissolved in vinegar.

Nierendorf told the board that Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School was trying to keep up with the Next Generation Science Standards, or NGSS. According to the NGSS website, [nextgenscience.org](http://nextgenscience.org), the standards will "be rich in content and practice...to provide all students an internationally benchmarked science education." It also says that NGSS standards are based on the "Framework for K-12 Science Education" developed by the National Research Council.

Nierendorf said the STEAM lab was meant for "not just delivering curriculum, but making sure it is done well." He said the STEAM lab was meant to make sure students have fun and feel comfortable with math and science.

Brody agreed, saying the STEAM room was "getting kids excited about learning again."

Board of Education members were awed with the steam room. "It's pretty impressive," Bielaczyc said.

\* \* \*

The next Board of Education meeting is Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

# Marlborough Residents Speak Out About Sewer District Issues

by Bailey Seddon

Last week's Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) meeting featured a scene that has been a familiar one in recent years – residents expressing their frustration with ongoing issues in the town's sewer district.

At the Nov. 10 meeting, resident David Durel asked WPCA members if they would consider changing regulations for people who are not connected to the sewer system. As of now, residents are being charged a connection fee even though some of them are not yet connected, Durel said. Town Planner Peter Hughes explained this is because those residents were asked to connect but they did not, but they are still being charged the connection fee.

Durel is no stranger to the sewer situation. In fact, he has devoted a whole blog to the topic, located at [marlboroughsewersunfair.wordpress.com](http://marlboroughsewersunfair.wordpress.com). There, residents can find a plethora of information on any new or old information having to do with the sewers or sewer-related issues. On the site, Durel states he started the blog "to bring information to Marlborough residents about these issues." Durel also states he wants to give people details because "sewer information from the town is wishy-washy and confusing."

While she does not have a blog on the issue, resident Stacey Francoline was also concerned with sewer issues facing the town. Francoline mentioned resident Joe Asklar's sewer extension, saying that there were several properties pipes are running under that are not being

charged a benefit assessment. Over the summer, Asklar extended the sewer line 450 linear feet on North Main Street to a house he is intending to build on the lake. The 450 feet of pipes were run under five other houses on the street.

Asklar needed the WPCA's permission in order to extend the pipes. The commission granted it, with the provision that if those residents decided to connect to the sewer system in the future, they could easily do so. WPCA Chairman Jack Murray said residents are not required to hook up, unless they were to have a failing septic system or put an addition on their homes. If they were to connect they would pay for the connection fee, he said. Francoline felt this was unfair because they are not forced to connect as others in the lake district were.

"The difference is we had state financing and state grants" for the first stage of the system, Murray said. He said if the WPCA could connect those people, they would, but the board does not have the money it did then, he said.

"We would be delighted to do so," said Murray. "We just don't have the mechanism."

Francoline, who is one of the residents appealing the sewer connection, also stated that houses on Cheney Road had no pipes running in front of their homes, meaning they are not being forced to connect and are not being charged a benefit assessment. Murray said that as the WPCA got toward the end of the project they tried to get the most equivalent dwelling

units (EDUs) for the money they had available.

"We had just so much money to work with," Murray said. Member Bill Lardi noted the sewer project was reduced in size because there was no money left to finish the project.

Francoline claimed not connecting all the properties in the sewer district would be a violation of a consent order by the state. She also said it was a "disparity of treatment" saying she was charged \$12,000 to connect to the sewers.

Hughes disagreed with Francoline, saying the town was not violating any consent order. "The DEP gave us the money," he said. "They know exactly what we are doing."

Hughes said the consent order stated the WPCA will install sewers over a period of time using funding from the state. He said the state gave Marlborough \$12 million for the project, only 60 percent of which they could get done with the money they had available. Hughes said the WPCA has not yet requested more money from the state to finish the project. He said the WPCA wanted to two years ago but the Board of Finance felt the debt load was too high for the town at the time.

"In the next [few] years we can possibly go back and ask for money to extend," when it is more economically feasible, said Hughes. Hughes also said he has contacted the DEP and asked for the consent order, which he said he will give Francoline a copy of when he gets it.

This did not placate Francoline, who told members, "You did not do what you said you

were going to do."

"When these people connect they will be assessed just like everybody else," Hughes told her.

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski also spoke up at the meeting. She said attorney Robert Elliot addressed the Board of Finance at its Nov. 9 meeting. Elliot owns the plaza Marlborough Tavern used to be located in and where several businesses still remain, including the Marlborough Bakery. The businesses are all in the sewer district.

"He expressed his concern for EDU distribution" for businesses, Gaudinski said. Gaudinski said Elliot told the Board of Finance Hughes had suggested he talk with them about the EDUs. Gaudinski said she felt the Board of Finance was not the suitable board for Elliot to talk to. Murray said this was not completely true. The context of the conversation was that Hughes told Elliot that the WPCA only had so much money to work with, and if Elliot wanted something to change he would have to go to the Board of Selectmen or Board of Finance to get more money.

There are five residential and two commercial sites appealing the sewer systems. A trial date has been set in April and another in June for four of the residential appeals. The fifth is set for pre-trial in January.

\* \* \*

The next WPCA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall.

# Marlborough Plastics in the Midst of Expansion

by Bailey Seddon

The expansion of Marlborough Plastics began eight weeks ago and, according to owner Joe Asklar, it is going well.

Marlborough Plastics Inc is an original equipment manufacturer (OEM), and provides customers with parts that other companies may need for their machinery. Marlborough Plastics first opened its doors in 1938; Asklar purchased it in 1979.

The company is currently located at 226 North Main St. The under-construction facility is located right down the street, at 350 North Main Street in the Dickinson Industrial Park. According to Town Planner Peter Hughes, Dickinson Industrial Park is the name of the subdivision that was purchased by the town in 1976. It runs from the Citgo Gas station on 394 North Main St. to Austin Drive on the east side of the street, said Hughes. Asklar said he bought the property years ago but was waiting for the right time to expand his business.

The new facility will be nearly three times larger than Marlborough Plastics' current building. The new building will be 11,250 square feet, compared with the current one's 4,000 square feet.

Asklar said now is the right time for expansion, because of the return of customers in the past couple of years. Asklar said customers started bringing their business to countries in Asia eight or nine years ago, as it was cheaper to purchase their machinery parts overseas. However, in the past few years countries such as China have seen high inflation causing their customers much higher shipping rates, he said.

These prices "kills the manufacturers," said Asklar. He said that by the time someone is done paying for the packaging of the material, going through customs and shipping it, the

original price could double. Also, if a customer was shipped the wrong part it could be very difficult to get a hold of the company and get the right part, Asklar said. Because of these issues, American manufacturing is once again becoming competitive, he said.

"It justifies an expansion at this time," said Asklar, who added the company is "very, very fortunate," to have customers coming back.

Another new addition to his businesses will be the use of "green machinery." This would include high-efficiency lighting and more efficient machinery.

"The newer technology will make the machinery more efficient," Asklar said.

The construction on the new facility began two months ago and will "hopefully" be finished by February, Asklar said. He said he will still keep the old facility for a while but "everything eventually will be in the new building," and the old one, which is located in a residential neighborhood, will be closed.

"In all fairness to the neighbors, it's time to move," Asklar laughed.

To help fund the expansion project, Asklar applied for a loan from the State of Connecticut's Department of Economic Community Development (DECD). Asklar would not disclose the amount of the loan, as it has not closed yet, but he said the loan process has been "a year in the workings."

"We hope for a closing [on the loan] in the next couple weeks," said Asklar.

For now, the construction of the new building has been done out of Asklar's own pocket. Hughes said Asklar valued his construction at \$250,000 for the cost of labor and material.

"It's a good thing for the town" that Asklar is staying and expanding his businesses, said Hughes.

While he would not discuss the amount of



The future home of Marlborough Plastics, located at 350 North Main St., is eight weeks into construction. Photo by Bailey Seddon.

the loan, Asklar said he was very happy to get the money to expand his business and specifically mentioned getting help from state Representative Pam Sawyer.

"This would not have happened if it wasn't for her," Asklar said. He said Sawyer put his company into contact with the "right people" to make the loan possible.

Sawyer said she was happy to help Asklar. She said dealing with the state is "not always easy" when one does not have the experience to help "cut through the layers." Sawyer said Asklar told her about his wish to expand about a year ago. She said they talked about "state dollars" that were available and she put him in

touch with the "right" people.

"One of the advantages of being in office for a bit" is that you learn about the ins and outs of state government, Sawyer said. "That really seemed to work, putting him in touch with the right people."

Sawyer said she was happy to help not only Asklar but the town of Marlborough, to get more business in town. She said that now is a great time for businesses to be built because rates are low for borrowing money and creating construction jobs.

"It's about jobs right now," to help turn things around, said Sawyer.

## Recount Confirms Coblentz As Tax Collector in Colchester

by Bailey Seddon

While most candidates were either celebrating or lamenting last Tuesday Tricia Coblentz and Betsy Ciccone had to wait a week to find out who was going to be the tax collector.

Originally, Democratic incumbent Tricia Coblentz received 1,337 votes and Republican Betsy Ciccone received 1,319, only 18 votes short of Coblentz. In accordance with state law, as there was less than 20 votes' difference between the two, a recount was in order. The recount was conducted at town hall Tuesday and showed Coblentz collected 1,338 votes, to Ciccone's with 1,318. Coblentz will remain tax collector for at least another four years.

"I'm glad it's done," Coblentz said, adding that she was looking forward to getting back to her job without having to worry about the vote. She said she waited two and a half hours Tuesday night while the recount was

conducted, and was relieved when the tally finally came in.

"It was like two election weeks in a row," she laughed.

Coblentz added she is "looking forward to serving the Colchester taxpayers for another four years."

Ciccone said, "I feel disappointed," but she was happy to see the process of elections in action.

"Now it's over and time to go on to other things," said Ciccone.

According to Town Clerk Nancy Bray, the last recount to take place in Colchester was in 2006, in the Second Congressional District race between Joe Courtney and Rob Simmons. Simmons originally had won Colchester but a recount was held. Like this week's recount, the outcome did not change and Simmons still won Colchester – although he lost the district overall.

## April Vacation Likely Cut Short in Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

At the Andover Board of Education meeting on Nov. 9, Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia reminded those present that the number of cancellations allotted on the board-adopted school calendar has already been reached.

"Last year and this year have been horrendous," he said.

During the 2010-2011 academic year, school was cancelled six times. This year, school has already been closed seven times due to Tropical Storm Irene in late August and the recent nor'easter. Maneggia stated it's likely there will be more weather-related closings, meaning days will be taken away from spring vacation.

"If our winters hold true, I would suspect we'll have two or three snow days – which would push us into April vacation," he said.

Total closings for the 2004-2010 school years never exceeded four, but all of them had two or more. And "there isn't really any flexibility," to make up the days elsewhere, he explained, stating there were no more professional days scheduled for the remainder of the year.

Maneggia said the goal is to keep from running into the fourth week of June when the building gets hot and it becomes harder for education to take place. If there were no additional cancellations, the final day of school would be June 22. If there are two more, Maneggia said April 16 and 17 would be taken away from vacation and utilized for instruction, and the students final day would remain on June 22.

"It is what it is," he stated, "and we are subject to what Mother Nature presents us."

## Hebron Driver Flips Car

A man was transported to the hospital when he hit a parked car and flipped his own over on Tuesday Nov. 8, State Police said.

Michael Probert, 32, of 57 Walnut Dr., was traveling east on Route 94 when he left the roadway and struck a parked vehicle. Probert's 2008 Toyota Prius rolled onto its side, causing Probert neck and back injuries. He was transported to Hartford Hospital by the Hebron Fire Department for treatment of his injuries.

Probert was charged with DUI and making a restricted left turn, State Police said.

## Colchester Police News

11/8: Mattio Ingenito, 30, of 95 Stanavage Rd., was charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle when license is suspended and failure to have head lamps, Colchester Police said.

11/10: Armand Gauthier, 26, of 54 Jordan Rd., Willimantic, was charged with reckless endangerment, State Police said.

11/10: A 17-year-old male juvenile was charged with DUI, violation of motor vehicle regulations by a 16 or 17-year-old, failure to have tail lamps, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, carrying weapons in a motor vehicle, possession of alcohol by a minor on a public street, possession of less than half an ounce or more of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia,

## Hebron Police News

11/11: Michael Bergeron, 37, of 541 Wall St., was charged with DUI and failure to obey a control signal, State Police said.

11/13: Terrance A. Altomaro, 20, of 117 Wickham Rd., East Haddam, was charged with DUI and failure to obey a stop sign, State Police said.

Colchester Police said.

11/11: Nicholas Peters, 26, 202 Bull Hill Rd., was charged with failing to have the minimum requirements of insurance coverage, operating a motor vehicle when license is suspended and operating a motor vehicle with unsafe tires, Colchester Police said.

11/14: Colchester Police are investigating a burglary on Orchard Farms Road. Anyone with information is asked to contact Officer Jonathan Goss at 860-537-7270.

11/14: Kyle A. Hair, 31, of 220 South Burnham Hwy., Lisbon, was charged with second and fourth-degree larceny, State Police said.

11/15: Gail Saltus, 47, of 20 Middletown Ave., East Hampton, was charged with first-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

# Obituaries

## *East Hampton*

### Eleanor Goodrich

Eleanor Joyce (Spencer) Goodrich, 84, widow of the late Stewart Goodrich, passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, Nov. 6. Born Dec. 10, 1926 in Greeley, KS, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Hazel (Gwin) Spencer.

She and her husband raised their family in South Windsor and spent several years in East Hampton before moving to Florida. They enjoyed their home in New Port Richey, FL, where they loved the beach and warm weather. Eleanor returned to Connecticut after her husband passed away, living in Middletown and most recently Berlin.

Eleanor loved to paint and had taken several art classes. She also enjoyed playing bridge with her friends. Prior to moving to Florida, she attended Manchester Community College working towards an Associate's degree.

Above all, her greatest pleasure was her family. She is survived by her four daughters, Linda Fulton and her partner John Grello of Wethersfield, Christine and her husband Gregory Emmons of Wethersfield, Clair and her husband Richard Van de Berghe of Fairfield, Janice and her husband Daniel Kycia of Coventry; a sister, Leah Snow; two brothers, Chester and Dean Spencer; seven grandchildren: James Jr., Jessica, Jared, Brianna, Derek, Alison and Richard III; and four great-grandchildren: Mackenzie, Alexis, Carter and Alexander.

A Memorial Service will be held today at 11 a.m. at Marlborough Congregational Church, Marlborough. Burial will be private in the family plot in Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

## *Colchester*

### Daniel Ouellette

Daniel C. Ouellette, 52, husband of Elaine Wilk Ouellette of Colchester, passed away on Nov. 9 in Colchester. He was born Dec. 15, 1958 in Caribou, ME, son of Eva D. Ryder Ouellette and the late Robert A. Ouellette.

Dan was a machine operator and was employed with Aero Gear.

Surviving besides his wife and mother are two brothers, Clayton and Gerald, and his sister Brenda and several nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held today, at 10 a.m. at St. Bridget of Kildare Church in Moodus. Burial to follow in St. Bridget's cemetery. There are no calling hours.

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

## *East Hampton*

### Daniel Victor Crook

Daniel Victory Crook, 67, of East Hampton and formerly of Portland, ME, died Friday, Nov. 11, at the VA Hospital in West Haven. Born July 12, 1944, in Fulton, NY, he was the son of the late Walter and Rhoda (Fobert) Crook.

Daniel was a Vietnam era veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy. Daniel had been employed as a welder for the Operating Engineers Union before his retirement. He was a member of the American Legion in Moodus for many years.

He is survived by his three daughters and their husbands, Cynthia and Ernest Piatti of East Hampton, Vicky and Gary Blake of East Hampton and Carrie and Timothy Stanton of Maine; a brothers, Mark Crook; five grandchildren, Michael DeFronzo, David Larson, Daniel Larson, Patrick Stanton and Garrett Stanton; and one great-granddaughter, Gabriella DeFronzo.

A memorial service and celebration of Daniel's life will be held Sunday; Nov. 20, from 2-4 p.m. at the American Legion Post in Moodus.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

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

## *Portland*

### Cynthia Marie Musshorn

Cynthia Musshorn, formerly of Portland, flew like an angel into Heaven and into God's arms Tuesday, Nov. 1, following a brief illness. Her family was by her side, holding her as she entered into eternal peace.

Cindy had some difficult times during her lifetime, but always fought the battle. She was a wonderful and generous grandmother to her granddaughters and a wonderful companion to her animals; her beloved Peggy will miss her. She was a beautiful soul that heaven and the angels above will be blessed to have in their presence. She is finally in peace and without pain and is dancing among the purple passions.

Cindy was born Dec. 18, 1963, to Kathleen and Carl Musshorn, formerly of Portland.

Cindy is survived by her daughters, Melanie Musshorn of Grand Rapids, MI, and Amanda Musshorn of Cedar Springs, MI; her granddaughters, Breanna, Julia and Belle; her parents, Kathleen Musshorn of Newington and Carl Musshorn of Plant City, FL; sisters Michele Barnett of Newington, Carleen Kalweit of Holton, MI; and nephews Jacob Barnett, Joshua Barnett, Tyler Avery and Ryan Avery.

Honoring her wishes, a cremation has already taken place.

## *East Hampton*

### Frederick H. Payne Sr.

Frederick H. Payne Sr., 88, of East Hampton, passed away Monday, Oct. 31, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown with his loving wife of 69 years, Margaret (Jones) Payne, at his side.

Frederick was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He started his employment with Connecticut Power Company in Unionville and retired as a shift supervisor in central dispatch from CL&P in Hartford after 38 years of service. For 50 years he belonged to the Masonic Order, Village Lodge No. 29 AF & AM of Collinsville.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his two sons, Franklin J. Payne and his wife Tammie and Frederick H. Payne Jr. and his wife Maria; his loving grandson, Michael A. Payne and granddaughter, Victoria I. Payne and a great granddaughter, Angelina; his half sister and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a son, Stephen George Payne and his parents, George W. Payne and Mary (Zimmerman) Payne.

There are no calling hours and graveside service and burial will be private in Simsbury Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. Vincent Funeral Home of Simsbury is caring for the arrangements.

Visit Mr. Payne's "Book of Memories" at [vincentfuneralhome.com](http://vincentfuneralhome.com) for online condolences.

## *Colchester*

### James Louis Wallington

James Louis Wallington Sr., 63, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Oct. 20. He was fondly known as "the Old Man." He was born in Grand Rapids, MI, to Richard and Martha Wallington.

He is survived by Barbara, his loving wife of 44 years. In addition to his wife he leaves three sons, James Jr., Scott and his wife Maryanne and Gunny Sgt. George and his wife Charity. He also leaves five grandchildren, Victoria, Brady, Kyle, Tyler and Ryan.

He was predeceased by his brother Richard and leaves his sisters Christine, Cindy and his brother Roger.

He was a former Marine and served in Vietnam.

A Marine Honor Ceremony will be held Saturday, Nov. 19, at 10 a.m., at State Veterans Cemetery on Bow Lane in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Veterans Hospital in Newington.