



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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An extremely rare October nor'easter pummeled Connecticut last weekend, wreaking havoc throughout the state. More than 831,000 Connecticut Light & Power customers lost power due to the storm, and scenes like this one, on Route 85 in Hebron, were a big reason why. *Photo by Geeta Schrayter.*

Autumn Nor'easter Leaves Connecticut in the Dark

by Geeta Schrayter

Two seasons collided on Oct 29 as an autumn nor'easter moved through Connecticut, prompting individuals in the online community to dub the month "Snowtober."

The winter storm dropped close to two feet of snow in some portions of the state, but from the beginning, the amount of snow expected wasn't the main concern. Rather, it was the threat of outages due to the heavy, wet snow clinging to trees and leaves which might cause them to break and fall.

That concern proved valid, as close to one million Connecticut residents were left in the dark by the storm's end.

At a press conference Governor Dannel Malloy held Thursday morning, Jeff Butler, president and chief operating officer at the Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) stated they had crews from 15-20 different states as well as places such as Vancouver and Quebec helping with the restoration.

"We're doing everything possible to restore customers as soon as possible," Butler stated, adding, "I know people are frustrated but I think

we're doing a very good job getting people re-stored."

On Thursday morning, an estimated 13 percent of Hebron and 3 percent of Andover customers were still waiting for their lights – and heat – to come back on. This number was down significantly even from the day before, when 20 percent of Hebron and 15 percent of Andover was in the dark.

"We're in a lot better shape than the rest of the state," stated Hebron Town Manager Bonnie Therrien on Wednesday. "Some towns still have roads blocked off – people can't even get out of their homes."

Malloy said Wednesday that an estimated 77 percent of the CL&P service area had been affected. On Thursday morning, that number had dropped to 34 percent, but that's no consolation for those who are still waiting.

In Heather Walsh's yard in Amston, bright construction tape blocked off the area where a giant branch lay across wires on Monday.

"I'm going to go to a hotel and board the animals," she said. Adding while she had par-

tial power on Sunday, everything had since been shut off for safety.

"It's just a real drag," she stated. "But I found a hotel; it was hard, they were all booked."

On Martin Road in Gilead, Karen Ford came home from Pittsburgh, PA, to no power. "We'll probably stick it out," she said, looking down the road at the crews working on cleanup and adding "It's promising that they're already [out there working]."

And it's not just linemen who could be found on the scene. Justin Adams, who is normally "an office guy" with Northeast Utilities, was a part of "Storm Patrol" Monday night and was parked in Andover at the end of Ryan Road in front of a giant downed tree resting on fallen wires. His current job was to remain there for a 12-hour shift ensuring no one got too near the wires.

"[Our message is] don't touch it, don't drive through it – making ourselves an obstacle so people have to swerve," he said, adding that everyone at CL&P was helping. "The whole company is really doing something," he said.

Janine Saunders, spokeswoman for CL&P said that's one of the inspiring aspects in working for the company.

"When we have an event like this, it's just amazing. Everybody pulls together . . . you'll have people typically assigned to an office out guarding wires and helping," she said.

"We take our responsibility to public safety very, very seriously," Saunders added. "You know how on St. Patrick's Day everyone's Irish? During a storm everybody's focus is restoration. We want power back."

Saunders added she thinks people forget CL&P employees are customers, too.

"We've got people working 16-hour days going home to cold, dark houses as well. It's not that we have no idea what people are experiencing, because we're living it as well."

As CL&P worked to restore power, town officials were doing their best to help as well. Numerous shelters were opened throughout the state including one at RHAM. It closed early Thursday morning, but throughout the week it

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The wrath of last weekend's winter storm spared no area of the state. Above are two Portland scenes, snapped by town's technology coordinator Dave Kuzminski, posted on the town website, portlandct.org. Trees across the road and over power lines were unfortunately a common sight after the storm.

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was a place where residents of surrounding towns could come for hot showers, food, a place to sleep, charge their electronics or simply hang out.

Donna Lanza of the Hebron Town Manager's office stated about 75 people used the shelter for showers on Sunday and people had been going through all day Monday.

Sandi Soucie of Marlborough was there Monday evening for a shower and stated it had become a "family evening routine."

Janine Cooley and her husband Thad Risley were also taking advantage of the opportunity for a hot shower with their three kids, and said they were "just so thankful" for the shelter.

Jake Colli, 16, of Andover, a member of the RHAM Community Emergency Response Team was there to check people in. While his family had also lost power, a generator kept him from needing the shelter, but he said it was nice to have for people who didn't, to "let people have a sense of normalcy – a place to hang out, shower, eat [and] work."

While frustrating in itself, the lack of power wasn't the only result of Saturday's weather. Malloy stated Wednesday there had been six storm-related deaths – one of which was in Hebron. Amston resident Linda Peddle, 51, died Saturday when her car collided with another vehicle on Route 85, just before Niles Road, State Police said. Police attributed the crash to slippery road conditions due to the weather.

Peddle's obituary appears this week on page x.

Malloy also stated three of the other deaths were due to carbon monoxide, and Saunders emphasized the importance of ensuring generators and gas grills are kept outdoors.

Bringing them inside is a "recipe for disaster," she said.

Another concern as a result of the storm and power outages was water. An updated list of public water systems under boil water advisory was released Wednesday that contained 94 systems throughout the state, including three in Hebron, two in Andover and one in Marlborough. (For the complete list, visit ct.gov/dph).

Though only three of the *Rivereast* towns had public water systems placed under boil water



Shown here is a tree that fell in the yard of Amston resident Heather Walsh's Brennan Road home. Photo by Geeta Schrayter.

advisories, all of *Rivereast*-land was affected by the out-of-season storm – some more than others.

In Portland, 27 percent of the town was still without power Thursday morning, according to CL&P. Fire Chief Bob Shea, who also serves as the town's emergency management director, said the majority of the town had sustained "major damage" along the roads, including main roads like routes 66 and 17.

Shea said that at one point after the storm, there were 15 different roads in town that the fire department could only access by ATV. He said that during the storm, the town also had to enlist the help of Glastonbury Fire Department to assist with Route 17, which Shea said was "the hardest-hit area."

The Public Works Department, Shea said, began clearing on Sunday afternoon and "has been going day and night" since then, but has had to wait for CL&P to remove "hazards" from power lines.

Shea has also been one of the many volunteers serving at the shelter at Portland High School, which has offered showers, water, snacks and cots if residents preferred to stay. As of Tuesday, Shea said that a few hundred residents had used the shelter and that roughly 20 had stayed overnight.

"I can't say enough about the volunteers," Shea said. "It really shows how tight-knit our community is."

Shea said that during the storm, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was open at the Buck Foreman Community Center. Also, the fire houses have been offering water to any residents that need it.

After being closed Monday through Wednesday, it was announced Wednesday night that Portland schools would be closed for the remainder of the week for safety reasons.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said the town has been "working tirelessly" since the storm to get the town back up and running. As of Tuesday, most of the major roads have power; Bransfield said that getting the businesses on Main Street and Route 66 back with power was a priority, giving residents a chance to get needed services.

"And the businesses have been doing very well," Bransfield added, as people have been

traveling from Middletown and Glastonbury to use Portland's businesses.

Bransfield said that since the storm, the town has been utilizing its "reverse 911" system to notify residents of school closings, shelter information, and where services are available. She also urged residents to sign up for the Connecticut statewide alert system at ctalert.gov (a link is provided through Portland's website, portlandct.org).

Bransfield said that this storm was "much, much worse" than Tropical Storm Irene in terms of damage, with more outages and downed trees than Irene.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Bransfield said that there were eight CL&P crews in town, working on restoring power and clearing trees. She said that she has been in contact with the town's CL&P liaison "twice a day" to get updates on restoration, and has had regular meetings with Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen, Public Works Director Rick Kelsey and Lt. Ron Milardo of the Portland Police Department.

Bransfield said that although she has been in communication with CL&P, the company needs to do more to serve its customers. "[The residents] pay for their service, and they deserve a prompt response from CL&P. The process has been slow."

At Wednesday's Board of Selectmen's meeting, Kelsey said Public Works had begun picking up brush, but the transfer station was quickly running out of space to store the brush. He said he has received numerous calls from residents about brush pickup, but said that the amount of brush caused by Irene has put his department "way behind the eight-ball."

"We're going to have some unhappy residents," Kelsey admitted. Bransfield said that due to the increase in brush, the town has looked into contracting a third party company to help with brush disposal, as it's "way over the normal amount."

Aside from the storm damage, Bransfield said that at least one positive came out of the storm, as a "trunk-or-treating" event was held on Halloween on East Main Street. Residents that had candy prepared for Halloween were invited to park their cars and give candy away to children who went car to car. Bransfield said that the parking lot was "filled to capacity," as social networking brought out many residents for the event.

"It was a great alternative and a really nice event," Bransfield said.

East Hampton saw its power restored relatively quickly; according to CL&P, only 10 percent of residents were still without power as of Thursday morning. Acting Interim Town Manager Anne McKinney said Tuesday 12 roads had been blocked by downed trees or wires during the storm, but that all of them had been cleared. On Tuesday, public works crews were working on Hog Hill Road, which McKinney said was in "tough shape."

McKinney said Tuesday there was one line crew and one tree crew from CL&P working with the town's public works department to restore power and clear hazardous trees. "We're certainly in good shape compared to other towns and a lot better shape than we were after Irene," McKinney said.

McKinney commended the job that the pub-

lic works department had done in the aftermath of the storm, calling it "wonderful." She also said the town's CL&P liaison, LuAnn Dinahanian, has been "helpful" in supplying crews for the town, putting public works "ahead of the game" with their restoration.

From Monday to Wednesday, East Hampton High School was utilized as a shelter for residents, providing shelter, warmth, water and snacks. Schools were closed on Monday and Tuesday, but reopened Wednesday.

Public Works Director Keith Hayden agreed with McKinney on Wednesday, stating that East Hampton was one of the more "fortunate" towns in the area in regards to damage. He said this storm produced less damage than Irene, which he said trapped some residents in their homes for almost a week.

"Nobody is trapped right now," Hayden said Wednesday. "We can get a vehicle in and out of every road and reach every home."

Hayden said his crews began preparing for the storm on Saturday afternoon and worked "straight" until Sunday afternoon, plowing roads that were passable. He said Wednesday that public works crews were still out clearing brush, and the town had contracted a bucket truck to help clear "hangers" – branches that were suspended over the roadway. He said his department has done their "assessment" of the damage of the wires, adding that CL&P has been "good addressing the problems" they've assessed.

McKinney said that one of the side effects of the storm was that the gas stations in town "were really backed up" with vehicles from surrounding towns looking for fuel. "It's one of those commodity issues that you don't always think about before an emergency," she said.

As for trick-or-treating, McKinney said that the town sent out an advisory for residents to use "discretion and common sense," adding that parents were advised not to allow their children out unsupervised. She said that some of the town's Halloween celebrations, such as Paul's and Sandy's Pumpkintown Parade on Monday, went on as schedule and were "well-attended."

Richard Klotzbier, the town's emergency management director, said Wednesday that the shelter was opened on Monday and roughly 100 residents used the facility. He said the usage "decreased gradually" and the shelter was closed on Wednesday.

Klotzbier said that during the storm, the fire department received "numerous calls" for downed trees and power lines. He said that although some of the calls were attended to right away, much of the town's damage wasn't realized until the weather cleared on Sunday.

Klotzbier also said that CL&P has been helpful, but added that their response was slower than he would have liked – although, he added, "it was better than Irene."

"I wish they had more crews come sooner," Klotzbier added, "but that seems like it's been an issue throughout the state."

Aside from the damage and power outages caused by the storm, the tree in the town's Village Center that was adorned with yellow ribbons was destroyed by the weather and cut down. The yellow ribbons represent the East Hampton residents who are currently serving in the military.



At left is what remains of a tree in East Hampton's village center that had been adorned with yellow ribbons representing the East Hampton residents who are currently serving in the military. The tree was destroyed during the storm. At right, clean-up crews work on London Road in Andover after the storm. East Hampton photo by Josh Anusewicz; Andover photo by Geeta Schrayter.



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Ann McLaughlin, the chair of the Welcome Home Committee that started the yellow ribbon program, said Tuesday the ribbons were salvaged by the members of the VFW Post 5095. She said that she has spoken with the East Hampton Congregational Church, across the street from the downed tree, and plans are being made to tie the ribbons on a tree at the church.

McLaughlin said Tuesday that she was happy the ribbons were saved, but was disappointed that the tree, which had become a point of pride for the town, was destroyed.

"Of all the trees in town, I can't believe it happened to that one," she said.

The storm left Colchester 30 percent without power. Crews were out all night, clearing snow and making sure the roads were cleared, said Derrick Kennedy, the first selectman's executive assistant. In fact, unlike the case in most *Rivereast* towns, Colchester schools were able to open on Monday – albeit with a 90-minute delay.

While Monday's delay was due to icy road conditions, the 90-minute delay continued Tuesday and Wednesday due to Bacon Academy being used as a place for people to shower and charge their electronic devices. Monday through Wednesday, the school was being used for just these purposes from 6-8 a.m. and 5-10 p.m. (The library was also open 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday for anyone who wanted to charge their devices or just enjoy being in a place with power.) To accommodate those using it, Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle decided to keep the 90-minute delays going.

"We wanted to keep instruction going, but we also wanted to support those families," she said. Loiselle said the delays gave people time to get ready in the morning, but also meant she did not have to cancel more days of the school year. While it was ultimately her decision, Loiselle said she consulted with her administrative team, specifically Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein, to make sure she was doing what was best for parents, teachers and students.

"We feel fortunate in Colchester that we were able to hold school," she said, adding that "keeping the structure of the school day is very im-

portant." Loiselle said the school system had already lost days because of Irene and she wanted to make sure kids got out early enough to enjoy the summer months. She said she has already received positive feedback from families that were affected by the storm and was happy with the decision she made for her town.

As of Thursday, 99 percent of Colchester residents had seen their power restored, according to CL&P.

Tropical Storm Irene left 96 percent of Colchester in the dark; First Selectman Gregg Schuster said the town was luckier this time around, as there were not nearly as much damage.

"All the roads were cleared very quickly," said Schuster.

Schuster said the town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was opened briefly Saturday night. Schuster, Fire Chief Walter Cox and members of the Public Works department were at the EOC to dispatch any calls. Usually the EOC does not handle fire calls, but Schuster said he wanted all calls going through the center.

"We wanted to have coordination," he said. The EOC was open for several hours but was then closed down as it was not needed.

After Irene, there was much public outcry over CL&P's response to the power outages. This time around, Schuster said, CL&P had some improvements "in the area of communication." However, Schuster said, until the utility company can move a lot more resources, such as line crews, in at a quicker pace, they still have much room for improvement.

"The ability to get resources is an area that needs a lot of improvement," Schuster said. He said he recognizes how hard these storms have been on people and how hard it is to be without power for days at a time.

"I'm glad people are being patient" in such hard circumstances, he said.

While Colchester wasn't hit nearly as hard as it could have been, the storm left Marlborough 100 percent without power. First Selectman Bill Black said CL&P's first priority was to restore power to the Marlborough Medical Center; fortunately, the facility got its power back by 9 a.m. Sunday. The restoration of power to the medical center also brought power back

to the center of town, which allowed traffic lights and businesses in town to be up and running again. As of Thursday, the town was still 17 percent without power.

Black said town crews worked with CL&P to help with the removal of trees and clearing of roads. CL&P made sure it was safe for town crews to remove trees, sometimes by shutting off power to the lines, and then town crews were able to dispose of trees. Black said the work by town crews was very important to Marlborough – and not something every town does.

"It's not done everywhere," he said. Black added that the crews have done "excellent" work and the town has a good relationship with CL&P. Black and resident Ann Kilby – who is also the town's registrar of voters – worked out of the town's emergency operations center (EOC) Sunday. Kilby, who works out of the EOC during the emergency situations, has been giving "timely updates," said Black, and has been in contact with EOC counterparts in Hebron.

RHAM High School in Hebron was open as a shelter for those who needed it, providing food, showers, beds and a warm place to stay for the night. Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School was also open as a shelter for those who were in need of it by the Ambulance Association. This came about because chief of the association, Mark Merritt, felt Marlborough residents needed their own shelter. Merritt found people who were willing to volunteer, both at the shelter and going door-to-door to check on people. There were around 25-30 volunteers, 5-6 who worked at one time in the shelter; this included Boy and Girl Scout volunteers.

"It's a core group of people in town...that are really committed" and wanted to help, said Merritt. He said he and this group took similar action during the aftermath of Irene to make sure everyone was getting the help they needed. Merritt said he felt it was especially important to have a shelter in town this time around because of the temperature. "We just do what we can do."

There were 75 people who ate at the shelter Monday night and Merritt was glad they had a place in town to go to. This included not just town residents but citizens from East Hampton as well, who did not have their own shelter to go to. He also said Dave Bates, the chef at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall, gave up a lot of his own time, not charging what he normally would but just charging for the food provided.

Merritt said he was glad to help – but added he feels this is something the town should have done. Merritt said he has been in town for 45 years and misses the old mentality of "Marlborough taking care of Marlborough." He said he understood times are economically tough but "it just seems like there could have been a little more" done by the town.

"We can get sidewalks in town that go nowhere, but we can't find a few dollars for people in town who need it," Merritt said.

Normally, the Marlborough Senior Center is used as a shelter but this was not possible due to flooding, said Black. One of the toilets at the center backed up sometime during the storm, but water kept being fed to it, resulting in flooding that was not discovered until Monday morning, Black said. This is why Merritt moved the shelter to Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall.

"That's significant," Black said. "I give Mark

a lot of credit."

Black said having a shelter for those who need it most is very important, and that it is a priority of the town to get those residents who are in need most power back the soonest. Black said this means coordinating with CL&P and letting them know where these residents live.

"We will utilize that" and get those people in the most need power first, he said.

With the school being used as a shelter, and with so many people still without power, Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall was closed to students from Monday through Wednesday. It reopened Thursday.

"We are thrilled to be back tomorrow," Principal Scott Nierendorf said Wednesday afternoon. Nierendorf said he was glad to be back so students could get back to their normal learning schedule and to restore some normalcy to family life. He lamented yet another interruption to student learning, on top of students already missing nearly a week at the start of the school year due to Irene.

"This is core learning time," said Nierendorf.

As far as making up the days they missed on the school calendar, Nierendorf said it was "something we will continue to wrestle with." He said the calendar had 183 days built in for students, but only 180 days are needed, so the Board of Education voted to forgive those three days to make up for Irene. Now the board will have to look into where the three additional days from the winter storm will be made up.

Nierendorf is far from the only school official tired of the lost learning days. Andover Elementary School lost three days this week, before finally opening on Thursday. Andover Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia said they've already reached their limit.

"We have lost seven school days," stated Maneggia, adding that, according to the calendar adopted by the Board of Education, any days after seven would be taken from April vacation.

If this winter proves similar to last year's, snow days seem likely. The school will take away all of April vacation, after which the academic year would be extended, said Maneggia.

"Last year was an unusual winter," he said. "Let's hope we don't have anything like that [again]."

But before any thought can be given to the upcoming season, getting everything back to normal after the Snowtober storm is in the forefront of everyone's mind. As of 7 a.m. Thursday, 433,000 customers in the state were still without power, but CL&P had close to 1,500 line and tree crews working to restore it, the company said in a press release. Butler stated he expects 99 percent of customers will have their power back by Sunday night.

Rivereast reporters Joshua Anusewicz and Bailey Seddon contributed to this story.



Pictured is a fallen tree limb on Ryan Road in Andover. Photo by Geeta Schrayter.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

So, yeah. *That* happened.

Late last week, reports started coming in forecasting a Saturday storm that could dump as much as six to 10 inches of snow in the area. *What?* I thought. *In October???* Yes, it's Connecticut, and snow happens, but it's not supposed to happen in October. (In fact, before last weekend, the all-time record for October snowfall at Bradley was a whopping 1.7 inches, which occurred Oct. 10, 1979.)

Last weekend showed why snow *isn't* supposed to happen in Connecticut in October.

Turns out the weather forecasters underestimated the snow; 12 inches actually fell at Bradley, and close to two feet in some parts of the state. The heavy, wet snow piled on branches that still had leaves on them, and the result was countless amounts of snapped limbs and splintered, even fallen trees; when the snow departed early Sunday it left a path of destruction worse than that of Tropical Storm Irene just two months ago.

It also caused massive power outages – more than, as everyone knows by now, the number of outages caused by Irene. More than 800,000 Connecticut Light & Power customers in the state were left in the dark; interestingly, the number of outages kept rising during the day Sunday, as snow melted and tree limbs popped back up and sometimes hit power lines as they rose.

I have to admit I was completely unprepared for the power outages. Yes, I'd heard they were predicted, but I thought that was just the meteorologists and news crews being overcautious. It's snow, I thought; we don't lose power in snow.

I was wrong. Not only did I have little in the way of food, I had little in the way of gas for my car. Fortunately, Sunday afternoon I found one of the I think two gas stations in Manchester that didn't lose power. The line was absurdly long; so long, in fact, that I literally ran out of gas while waiting to get gas. (Fortunately, a friendly *Rivereast* staffer who lived nearby was able to come with a gas can and give me just enough gas to get me through the line.)

I then was able to go to the grocery store – I think the only one in town that was open – to stock up on bread, peanut butter, tuna, etc. Good thing I did; as I write this, it's Tuesday night and I'm still in the dark, as is much of Manchester. Fortunately, however, power came back on at the *Rivereast* offices in Glastonbury Tuesday afternoon.

So, I guess there are two lessons to take away here: one: next time I think I'll pay more heed to the power-outage predictions (better safe than sorry, no?), and two: heavy snow and October do not mix.

And the thing about this storm is the global warming deniers are going to use it as an example of why global warming doesn't exist; they'll point to the word "warm" and just roll their eyes. When in reality extreme weather events such as this – and nearly two feet of snow before Halloween in Connecticut is pretty extreme – are a perfect example of why climate change (perhaps if we all just used that instead of global warming folks would be less confused) does indeed exist.

Due to the storm, the governor declared this week the deadline for people to sign up to vote in next Tuesday's election has been changed. The deadline is now next Monday, Nov. 7, at noon. Anyone who hasn't yet registered should call their respective town hall for more information.

Okay, so the World Series didn't exactly turn out the way I wanted it to – with the Cardinals winning instead of the still championship-less Texas Rangers – but you know what? It was a heck of a series. And Game Six last Thursday night was perhaps the best game of the bunch.

A back-and-forth game saw the Rangers take the lead in the ninth by a score of 7-5,

only to see the Cardinals – down to their final strike – tie the score. In the very next inning, the Rangers' Josh Hamilton hit a two-run blast to make the score 9-7. This one was sure to put the game out of reach; but once again, the Cardinals came roaring back. Down to their last strike – again – the Cardinals' Lance Berkman hit an RBI single to tie the game and send it to the 11th. The Rangers didn't score in the top half of the inning, and then the Cards' David Freese hit a home run to center to win it, and force a winner-take-all Game Seven.

Now, they say in baseball momentum is only as good as the next game's starting pitcher. There are times, though, when you have to look that adage in the eye and say "What a bunch of crap." Because after the way Game Six ended, the Cardinals winning Game Seven was practically a *fait accompli*, much the same way the '86 Mets were never going to lose Game Seven after their shocking come-from-behind ("Behind the bag! It gets by Buckner! Here comes Knight and the Mets win it!!") Game Six victory two nights before.

Simply put, there was no way the Cardinals were going to lose Game Seven. And yeah, I got my hopes up after the Rangers jumped out to an early lead, but I was hardly shocked when St. Louis took the lead back, and held on.

I wasn't at all thrilled to see the Cardinals win yet another World Series (the franchise's 11th; only the Yankees have more rings to their name), but like I said, it was one heck of a series.

Speaking of baseball, I recently learned an interesting piece of information. A friend told me during the World Series that George W. Bush, who used to own the Rangers, actually wanted to be commissioner of Major League Baseball. Going into politics was actually his fall-back plan.

That sounded too unbelievable to be true, so I researched the matter further. And according to former MLB commissioner Fay Vincent, it's true: Bush really wanted to be the commish.

Vincent told *Vanity Fair* in 2000 that, in the fall of 1992, shortly after being ousted from his job as baseball commissioner, he received a call from Bush. Bush asked Vincent, "What would you think of me becoming commissioner?" Vincent told Bush he thought he'd be terrific, but added, "However, I don't think it's going to happen." At the time, Bud Selig, then-owner of the Milwaukee Brewers and one of the people who helped remove Vincent from his post, was baseball's acting commissioner.

But Bush said he had talked to Selig and Selig said he'd support him. Vincent said Bush had told him Texas Republicans were pushing him to run for governor, against Ann Richards. When Vincent tried to push Dubya in that direction, Bush replied, "I think I'd rather be commissioner than governor."

Vincent told *Vanity Fair* Bush's desire to be MLB commissioner was so strong he stalled for a year, waiting to hear from Selig. He called Vincent again in the fall of 1993, and said, "Selig still says he wants me to be commissioner, but nothing's happening. I told them I have to decide in a couple of weeks."

Bush then made one last, sad call to Vincent, wherein he told him, "You're right; nothing happened. I'm going to run for governor." A short time later, Bush officially announced his campaign.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

So, there you have it. We could have been spared Bush's disastrous presidency if Selig had let him be commissioner. Not that I can fault Bud; perhaps he knew something the rest of the country – at least at that time – did not.

See you next week – when hopefully we all will have electricity.

East Hampton Animal Control Officer Sues Reimondo

by Joshua Anusewicz

East Hampton Police Chief Matthew Reimondo has found himself mired in another legal matter, as a resident has filed a lawsuit against Reimondo for allegedly sharing confidential information about his job application for animal control officer.

The lawsuit, which was filed on Thursday, Oct. 20, at Middletown Superior Court, claims that Reimondo sent e-mails to his wife, Kathie, town Parks and Recreation Director Ruth Plummer, town librarian Sue Berescik and Renee Ghent, which contained personnel information from resident Michael Olzacki's job application that was submitted in October 2009. Confidential information was gathered through a background check, which is conducted for any prospective employee under the direction of the police department.

In March 2010, Olzacki was informed that he was not hired for the job; however, Olzacki was hired as East Haddam's animal control officer, and became East Hampton's animal control officer when the towns regionalized the position earlier this year.

According to the suit, in October 2010, Olzacki requested Reimondo's e-mail, text and phone records between November 2009 and July 2010 through the Freedom of Information Act. A month later, he also requested the same information from Plummer; for this request, the timeframe was between September 2008 and November 2010.

The suit states that through these e-mails, Olzacki was able to determine that Reimondo had disclosed the confidential information. The exact content of the e-mails, however, has not been disclosed.

In the town's employee handbook, the suit states, it "emphasizes the importance of maintaining confidentiality regarding personnel issues." It also states that employees should refrain from "discussing confidential information with outsiders" and, in the town's e-mail policy, that e-mails should only be used "for town purposes."

On top of the alleged e-mails, Olzacki also states that Reimondo also disclosed confidential information about him at a public town meeting in October 2010.

The suit states that Olzacki is accusing Reimondo of defamation and libel, and is seeking monetary compensation for damages, attorney's fees, and "further relief as the court deems just." Olzacki claims that since Reimondo allegedly sent the e-mails, he has been questioned regarding his "political associations, ability, integrity, work history, and level of professionalism." He also states that his reputation has been questioned in town meetings and the media, his children have been questioned regarding the matter, and he has been questioned about the matter when seeking other employment.

Neither Reimondo nor Olzacki's attorney, Ken Barber, could be reached for comment.

The matter was discussed at a Tuesday, Oct. 25, Town Council meeting, but was held in executive session. Chairwoman Melissa Engel said Wednesday no action was taken on the matter, but the council "reviewed the suit and its possible ramifications." She said the suit is in its "early stages" and there is no timetable for any sort of resolution.

Three Arrested in East Hampton for Vandalism at Center School

by Joshua Anusewicz

East Hampton Police arrested three men Sunday, Oct. 30, for vandalizing Center School with offensive words and symbols, Sgt. Garritt Kelly said Wednesday.

According to Kelly, Scott Jackson, 19, of East Hampton, James Kozikowski, 19, of East Hampton, and Brennan Gibbons, 19, no known address, were arrested and charged with first-degree criminal mischief, first-degree criminal trespassing, and intimidation based on bigotry/bias.

Kelly said that at roughly 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, police received a call from a resident that three "masked individuals" were at Center School. Officers Hardie Burgin and John Wil-

son responded to the scene and found approximately 25 windows and doors spray painted with "anarchy-type symbols," as well as "intimidating and biased phrases."

After canvassing the area, Kelly said the officers were able to find the three men, one of which had a backpack that contained the same spray paint that had been used in the vandalism.

Currently, there are no estimates on the cost of the damage, Kelly said.

According to the state's judicial website, all three were released on promise to appear, and are scheduled to appear in New Britain Superior Court on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at 10 a.m.

Election Day is Almost Here in Marlborough

by Bailey Seddon

The weeks of fervent campaigning are about to come to a close, as next Tuesday, Nov. 8, residents will flock to Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School to decide who will help run the town for the next couple of years.

The races for first selectman, Board of Selectmen, Board of Education and Board of Finance were detailed in the prior two issues of the *Rivereast*. Republican Cathi Gaudinki is squaring off against Democrat Mike Gut for first selectman; the other candidates for the three-member Board of Selectmen are Republican Dick Shea and Democrat Amy Traversa. However, Shea and Traversa aren't necessarily guaranteed seats on the board. If the loser of the first selectman race collects more votes than one of Shea or Traversa, than he or she will be on the Board of Selectmen.

Board of Finance candidates are, on the Democrat side, Beth Petroni and Evelyn Godbout, both incumbents, and newcomers Lauren C. Cragg and Arron R. Frankum. Republicans are Douglas Knowlton and Ken Hjulstrom, who would both be new to the board. For the Board of Education, the Democrats' slate features Betty O'Brien and Corrinne B. Chappelle – both incumbents – and Glen J. Peterson. Republican candidates are Bob Clarke and incumbents Louise Concodello and Ruth Kelly. Voters can choose any three out of the six.

The rest of the races in Marlborough aren't really races at all; everyone else is running unopposed. These include Republican Nancy W. Dickson, who is seeking another term as town clerk; Republican Barbara C. Murray, who is running for another term as tax collector; and

Republican Mike Turner and Dieter Zimmer (who is unaffiliated), who are each seeking another term on the RHAM Board of Education. All four of these candidates were also cross-endorsed by the opposing political party in town. Also cross-endorsed was Democrat Michael J. O'Neil, who is running for his first term as the town treasurer.

Also running is Democrat Ned Hickey for another term on the Board of Assessment Appeals. On the Planning Commission, incumbent Republican John Larensen is running alongside newcomer Midge Denno, while Republican Sandy Sudduth is seeking her first term as a Planning Commission Alternate. For the Zoning Commission, Republican Kevin Asklar – an incumbent – and Democrat Richard Banbury are running, while Republican Eric M. Colantonio is running for Zoning Commission Alternate. Democrat Alan W. Miller and Republican John Valentine are each seeking their first terms on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and Republican Bob Jackson is running for ZBA Alternate. These last two candidates made an interesting switch, as Jackson is currently on the ZBA and Valentine is an alternate.

"Bob just felt that John wanted a little more time to serve," so they switched, said Republican Town Committee Chairman Ken Hjulstrom.

Hjulstrom said he's confident the Republican candidates bring experience to the boards.

"I'm very optimistic," he said. Hjulstrom said he feels the race for the Board of Selectmen is a "bit of a toss-up right now," but thinks Gaudinski is more prepared and "up-to speed" for the job than her opponent.

"She is current with information and what is

going on in town," said Hjulstrom.

He said he was also "very encouraged" that a majority of the Republicans on the slate are either incumbents or have already served on a board or commission in town.

"I think we have much more experience," he said, adding that "bringing knowledge with you is going to help."

Hjulstrom added that he's been pleased with the race this year.

"I think it's been a very positive campaign," he said, with more focus on the qualifications of the candidates than slamming the other opponents.

Hjulstrom also noted anyone running for a board or commission is a volunteer, and he hopes that residents will respect this by coming out to vote. "I think there is a lot at stake," with the issues Marlborough is going through, and he wants people to support the town by voting, he said.

Democratic Town Committee Chairman Richard Banbury also felt the campaign has been a positive one.

"Both parties are really taking a high road," he said.

However, Banbury still thinks his candidates – particularly Gut – are the best people for the job.

"I really think he is the best qualified candidate we have had in Marlborough," Banbury said of Gut. He said Gut was capable because, when he was working at The Hartford, he managed a \$4 billion budget. He also voiced his confidence in selectmen candidate Amy Traversa, whom he said is very energetic, a good listener and a "no-nonsense person."

Banbury also felt good that there was so much cross-endorsing and that all candidates, with the exception of Mike O'Neil, are incumbents.

"People know these folks" and trust them to do a good job, he said. As for O'Neil, Banbury said the DTC encouraged him to run because he was the treasurer of the town committee for several years before stepping down to run for town treasurer.

"If you know him you have to respect him," Banbury said. Besides being treasurer for the DTC, O'Neil is a certified public accountant, which is why Banbury said he feels confident in his skills.

There are eight empty slots on the Democratic ticket, compared with only one on the Republican side; Banbury admitted the DTC had some trouble getting people to run. He said people are not always willing to volunteer to serve on a board, and said another problem is that occasionally people want to serve but don't necessarily want to campaign. He noted, though, that the selectmen are able to appoint people to serve on boards later on, when openings arise.

"I'm very confident that ... if there are openings we can find people," said Banbury.

The feel-good campaign this year will continue on Election Night, when both the DTC and the RTC will gather for a post-election party at Sadler's Ordinary. The party will be held from 8:15-9:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided, with beer and wine available for purchase at the restaurant.

Elections will be held Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Dr.

Marlborough School Board Discusses New State Standards

by Bailey Seddon

The Board of Education met Oct. 27 to discuss, among other things, the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that will be changing in the next couple of years.

Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School Principal Scott Nierendorf and Vice Principal Dena DeJulius delivered a PowerPoint presentation detailing the new standards which, they said, "will define what Connecticut public schools students should know and be able to do as they progress" from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The CCSS should be fully implemented in the school system for the 2013-14 school year, DeJulius said. With the new standards, the administrators said, students will be better taught what is expected of them in college and the work force. The standards are "internationally-benchmarked to prepare students globally," according to the PowerPoint presentation.

This preparation will include an increased focus on non-fiction texts, so students can be better prepared to read these as they get into higher grades. Nierendorf said there will also be an emphasis on forming an argument and writing about sources.

The presentation next outlined where each child should be by each grade level. For instance, in kindergarten children should be able to fluently add and subtract within the number five. In first grade children should be able to add and subtract within the number 20 and fluently add and subtract within the number 10.

And by second grade students should be able to fluently add and subtract within the number 20. By fluency, said Nierendorf, this means students should "be able to grasp onto things and internalize," them.

Many of the board members were happy with where the standards would take children.

"I think this is great," said Vice Chairwoman Ruth Kelly.

The 2013-14 timetable eyed for the new CCSS coincides with the elimination of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), which will be replaced with a new CCSS test called the Computerized Adaptive Test (CAT). Like the CMTs, the CATs will be administered to students in grades three through six. They will first be administered in the 2014-15 year.

In 2013, 80 percent of the English and language arts curriculum will form to match the CAT, and by 2014, 92 percent of the math will be matched. This change in curriculum to sync with the CCSS will be a "three- to four-year journey," said DeJulius. Nierendorf and DeJulius said they plan to update the Board of Education later in the year on the progress that is being made toward this goal.

Unlike the CMTs, which are administered over the course of one week each year, the school will have three months to make sure all students have taken the CATs, DeJulius said. The tests are done on computers so it is going to take longer to administer to all students, she said.

Not only will the testing change but the re-

port cards will as well. Over the next couple of years Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall will start having CCSS-based report cards. Nierendorf said the report cards will be introduced on a pilot basis by the fall of 2012 for kindergarten and first grade; in 2013 for second- and third-graders; and in 2014 for fourth through sixth grade. By 2015, the new report cards – no longer on a pilot basis – will be fully implemented throughout the school.

Nierendorf also talked of how it can often be difficult for students to catch up if they move from one school system to another. However, the new state standards should help this, he said.

The standards ensure "consistent expectations regardless of student's zip code," Nierendorf said, and provide teachers and students with specific guidelines.

Board member John O'Toole asked what would happen in the new curriculum if a student performs poorly in a particular subject, but still achieves a passing grade. Currently, he said, if students do poorly but still pass, they move on to the next grade level of that subject. This was something he felt was not helping students or teachers.

"Every step of the way you are building something on a really lousy foundation," said O'Toole, who felt that students should not move on to the next level if they are receiving poor grades. Chairman Betty O'Brien agreed.

"It's critical" that students receive good grades before they move to the next level, said O'Brien. This topic was something the board

said they would like to discuss in later meetings.

Nierendorf also talked about how, under the new standards, students would do writing assignments in art and gym. This was something that not all board members were happy with.

"We are supposed to be teaching them to be fit," board member Mimi LaPoint said. LaPoint felt that gym was a time for kids to let their energy out and learn how to be healthy and active, something they could not do if they have to sit down and write. LaPoint said when she was a kid she had gym every day as well as recess. These days, she said, despite such high obesity rates, students only have a couple of gym classes a week – and this should not be taken away.

Kelly agreed.

Art and gym give students "a good sense of self," she said, adding that they are places where kids "can go where they don't have that stress and pressure on them." Board member Carol Shea agreed, saying she felt that art was a time for kids to be able to express themselves in a way many students could not through writing.

Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz said he understood where the women were coming from.

"We struggle with that as well, finding that balance," said Sklarz. "It's a work in progress."

* * *

The next meeting of the Board of Education is Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m., at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

Marlborough Candidates Forum Tackles Tough Questions

by Bailey Seddon

With Election Day less than a week away, residents gathered at the Marlborough Arts Center Thursday, Oct. 20, for a chance to meet the candidates for various boards and ask them questions.

The questions tackled a host of topics, ranging from Marlborough's response to Tropical Storm Irene to the oft-criticized town sewer project.

The Irene-related question was submitted anonymously, via the website of the Marlborough Business Association, the group that organized last Thursday's forum. The question alleged that town government had "failed" in its response to the storm, and asked how the town's new first selectperson – Republican Cathi Gaudinski or Democrat Mike Gut – would make sure this does not happen again. (Current First Selectman Bill Black is not seeking re-election.)

Gaudinski said she thinks town government needs to look at the plan of disaster Marlborough currently has in place. This way she can figure out if it aligns with the actual practice of what the government does during a disaster. Gaudinski said the town is required to have a recovery plan, and making sure it is followed through is important.

"Town Hall wasn't responsive this time," Gaudinski said.

Gut said communication, coordination and responsiveness are needed from elected officials.

"I will be in the office," Gut said. "I will be taking those phone calls."

The second question taken from the MBA website asked how each candidate would aspire not to raise taxes.

Gaudinski said that in the last few years, tax increase has been less than average and that debt service has been reduced by half a percent this year.

"At this point I don't know if you can have zero" tax increase, Gaudinski said, but said she would do her best to spend money only when it is important.

Gut felt much the same way.

"If there is a good reason to spend money, then you spend money," but not unless it's necessary, said Gut. He said he felt that developing the business community would be the best solution to lower taxes for the town.

"We need a vibrant business community," he said. Gut also said the first selectman's office has to be more aggressive and look at more grants.

MBA Vice President Enza Dandeneau asked

what specific ideas the candidates have on bringing businesses to the town, stating that Marlborough is not seen as a business-friendly town to come into.

Gut said there are many unfriendly rules and regulations that new businesses or developers have to go through when they get to town that could be changed.

"We need to get the board to address those issues" and see if Marlborough is doing its best to welcome businesses, he said. Gut also added that young people are leaving the community because there are not as many options for them in town. Gut said his own son has been laid off from the Marlborough Tavern, where he had worked since he was 16, when the eatery recently closed. This was something, he said, that he does not want to see happen to other people.

Gaudinski said it would be prudent to put some of the regulations online, so businesses or developers could know what the zoning regulations are before they come in. She said she also felt that the Economic Development Commission needs to take a more active role in existing businesses in town.

"We need to look like we are here in town" so people do not just drive through, Gaudinski said.

Board of Selectmen candidate Dick Shea said he felt the town could look into getting even more Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants.

"We had a very narrow program," he said. Shea said that the town has a steady source of \$150,000 to \$250,000 a year in grants, but should look into trying to get more for the town.

Dandeneau spoke again and mentioned what she called the "elephant in the room" – the sewer project. Dandeneau said she has known many businesses that have wanted to come to Marlborough, but cannot afford the high sewer rates.

Gaudinski said she had a business in town for five years and can understand how hard it is being a business owner.

"My husband and I learned what town policy can do to a business," she said. Gaudinski mentioned that some new businesses have opened up recently, such as a pilates studio. The problem was that no one in Town Hall did anything to welcome them, she said.

"I think we have to plan for future development and growth," to get more businesses in, she said.

Gut said he felt the business and landowners in town needed to be brought together to see



First Selectman hopefuls Cathi Gaudinski, left, and Mike Gut fielded questions at a candidates' forum on Thursday, Oct. 20, at the Marlborough Arts Center. Topics included storm response, the sewer system and economic development. Gaudinski photo by Bailey Seddon; Gut photo by Jane Boston.

what the town could be doing better to welcome businesses.

Resident Scott Welch echoed Dandeneau, saying the sewers were the only thing the candidates needed to keep in mind when running for office.

The fees associated with equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) are "absolutely killing" landowners and businesses, Welch said. (Indeed, an increase in sewer fees has been cited by the Marlborough Tavern owners as one of the reasons the business was shut down.) Welch said he had previously been to a Water Pollution Control Authority meeting and asked members what would happen if landowners could not pay their assessments because they could not get anyone to rent their property. He said WPCA members replied that they would foreclosure.

"That's just disgusting," Welch said. He said if no one is renting because of the high sewer rates then it is expected that landowners will not be able to pay their assessment. He said he felt that this should not have been the response and that the town should be looking at other ways to pay the sewer bills.

"I think there is some education that needs to occur" on the WPCA, said Gaudinski. She said were she to be elected into office, she would look into making sure the WPCA is running more smoothly.

Resident Susan Kehaya said boards should

get together monthly or quarterly to have better communication. That way better decisions can be made, she said.

Kehaya said the town has built "sidewalks to nowhere" and developed a new town green that no one goes to.

Shea agreed, saying that overall communication between boards needs to be better so that each board can run more efficiently.

Board of Finance member Evelyn Godbout, who is seeking re-election, felt the same.

"It has been frustrating at times on the board," because they did not have communication with the Board of Selectmen, she said.

Resident Jane Boston said the different boards used to have meetings together twice a year, to make sure everyone was on the same page.

"I can't remember the last time we had them," she said.

Gaudinski agreed that boards should meet more as they have in the past.

"I know what a group of people can do working together," she said.

In the end, residents were happy that candidates had come out to try to answer their questions. Welch in particular said he was very encouraged by the candidates that citizens had to choose from.

"If nothing else, you can see there is a passion," Welch said.

East Hampton Parties Ready for Next Week's Election

by Joshua Anusewicz

After months of hand-shaking, door-knocking and politicking, it all comes down to Tuesday, Nov. 8, when the East Hampton municipal elections will take place.

Voting will be held at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St., from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. For those who have yet to register to vote, the date has been extended due to the recent snowstorm. Residents can register until Monday, Nov. 7, at the registrar's office at Town Hall.

This year's election will feature a long list of choices for residents, particularly in the Town Council race. The 15 candidates, which were profiled in last week's *Rivereast*, include five candidates from three different parties: Republicans Patience Anderson, Kimberley Fontaine, Ted Hintz, Jr., Sal Nucifora, and Josh Piteo; Democrats Barbara Moore, Chatham Carillo, James Vick, John Moore, and George Pfaffenbach; and Chatham Party members Sue Weintraub, Kyle Dostaler, Derek Johnson, Angela Sarahina and Glenn Suprono.

One of the interesting aspects of this year's slate of candidates is the variety. The only incumbents are Barbara Moore, Weintraub, and Carillo. Though some have served on boards or committees in the past – including some serving previous stints on the council – most are rookies, running for the council for the first time. Some candidates have never run for po-

litical office in town and are just looking to make a difference.

In the Oct. 21 issue of the *Rivereast*, another diverse set of candidates were profiled for the Board of Education. The race will feature 11 candidates: Chatham Party members Joelyn Leon, Bill Marshall, Scott Minnick, and Elizabeth Whitty; Democrats Carol Williams, Denise Russo, Ken Barber, and Teri Schlosser; and Republicans Donald Coolican, Sheila Wall, and Karen Hintz Lee.

The Board of Finance race was also profiled in the Oct. 21 issue and will feature eight candidates: Democrats Laura Taylor Borg, Tom O'Brien, and Ted Turner; Republicans Maria Peplau and Don Martin; and Chatham Party members Mary Ann Dostaler, Scott Sanicki, and Dave Monighetti.

The slate also includes two candidates for Zoning Board of Appeals term starting in 2011 – Democrat Dennis Wall and Chatham Party member Paul Hoffman; three candidates for Zoning Board of Appeals term starting in 2012 – Chatham Party member Irene Curtis, Republican Lori Wilcox and Democrat Brendan Flannery; and two candidates for Midstate Municipal Planning Agency – Republican Margaret Jacobson and Democrat Andrew Tierney.

Barbara Moore, who also serves as the chair of the Democratic Town Committee (DTC),

said Wednesday that the candidates have a "busy weekend" of waving and door-knocking planned, but said the campaign would be dented back because of the recent storm.

"People have had a bad week," Moore admitted. "We'll be there if people want to talk with us, but we don't want to be in everyone's face."

She said that the campaign as a whole has been a success, adding that she has seen a spike in residents interested in hearing what the Democratic slate has to offer. "When it gets down closer to the election, residents get more interested," Moore said.

Although there are a good amount of newcomers to the Democratic slate, Moore said that the candidates have "developed" over the past few months, as they've gotten more adjusted to being a candidate. Moore said that she has faith in the party's slate, adding that "it's up to the residents to decide what's best for the town now."

More information on the Democratic candidates can be found at dems.info/easthampton/.

George Coshow, the Republican Town Committee chair, said Wednesday the Republican candidates have been focusing more on door-to-door campaigning than placing signs around town. He said that this has given the candidates a better chance to listen to residents and share

their ideas with the town on a personal level.

Coshow said he "really like[s] the slate" that the Republicans have offered up this year, stating that all of the candidates "represent conservative thought and believe that the town needs a more efficient government."

As for the election, Coshow said that he is hopeful that Republicans will gain a "strong representation across all major boards."

For Dostaler – who also serves as Chatham Party chairman – the campaign has been "very, very positive." He said all of the candidates have received "great feedback" from residents as to what they want out of their elected officials.

"They want less drama and more good government," Dostaler said simply.

Dostaler said the Chatham candidates "get along very well" and have been able to effectively display their message because they have "the same understanding of how to move the town forward." He said that the Chatham slate's makeup of Democrats, Republicans and independents – which he called "tri-partisan" – makes it unique.

"We might have different philosophies at the national level, but we have the same beliefs at the local level," Dostaler said. "We all want a better community."

Chatham Party candidate information can be found at chathamparty.org.

Portland Voters Set for Municipal Elections on Tuesday

by Joshua Anusewicz

Though last weekend's storm has admittedly put a damper on campaigning, all of Portland's candidates are prepared for this year's municipal elections to go on as scheduled.

Voting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave. For those who have not registered to vote yet, the deadline to register has been extended to Monday, Nov. 7. Residents can get information for registering at the Town Clerk's office at the Town Hall, 33 East Main Street.

The ballot will be headlined by the race for first selectman, which was profiled in last week's issue of the *Rivereast*. Democrat Susan Bransfield is running for reelection against two challengers: Republican Don Bascom and Independent Lambros Lambrinides.

The Board of Selectmen race, which was also profiled in last week's issue, will feature seven candidates running for six spots. All four Democratic candidates will be seeking reelection: Brian Flood, Mark Finkelstein, Kathleen Richards and Fred Knous. The Republicans will run three candidates: incumbent Carl Chudzik, Ryan Curley, and Peter Clark.

The Board of Education race was featured in the Oct. 21 issue of the *Rivereast*. All three candidates will be elected to the board, as three

spots are available. The candidates include Democrats Chris Phelps and MaryAnne Rode – both incumbents – and Republican Brenna Kosicki.

Rounding out the slates for both parties are four candidates for the Board of Assessment Appeal – Republicans Peter Castelli and Matthew Rice and Democrats Richard Murphy and David O'Brien; two candidates for Zoning Board of Appeals term starting in 2011 – Democrat Donald Snyder and Republican Cheryl Dion; and two candidates for Zoning Board of Appeals term starting in 2012 – Republican Kurt Peterson and Democrat Kenneth Kearns. The slate also includes cross-endorsed Bernadette Dillon for town clerk, a position she has held for 44 years.

Republican Town Committee (RTC) Chairwoman Cindy Varrichio said Wednesday the Republicans are offering up an "excellent" slate of candidates that she believes is a "good alternative" to the Democratic ticket. She said the candidates have been actively speaking with residents and knocking on doors, but that the candidates have put the campaign on hold since last weekend's "natural disaster."

Varrichio said the Republicans biggest challenge will be winning over residents in a town

that predominantly supports their opponent. "It's always tough because Portland is mostly a Democratic town," said Varrichio. "But we're optimistic."

As for the response from residents, Varrichio said that the candidates have received "great feedback" and was pleased that citizens have taken the time out to speak with the candidates about issues or concerns.

Chudzik, the Republican mainstay on the Board of Selectmen, said Wednesday that the Republican candidates promise to "represent the citizens with honesty" and hopes to continue "working hard for the people of Portland."

"I hope we all get the chance to work together to achieve the same goals," Chudzik said of the Republican slate. All of the candidates have listed increasing economic development as a priority, while keeping taxes low and maintaining Portland's small town charm.

"It has to be a balance," Chudzik said. "I know we can do it, and I hope we have that opportunity to continue working towards that goal."

More information on the Republican candidates can be found on Facebook by searching "Portland CT GOP."

Richards, who also serves as the chair of the Democratic Town Committee (DTC), said Wednesday that the Democratic campaign has also been "disrupted" by the recent storm, but has been a "good campaign overall."

Richards said she was "happy" that most of the Democratic candidates will be running as incumbents, stating that the "continuity is good for the town."

"We've done a lot of good work for the town," Richards said. "Residents we've spoken with are happy with how things are going in town. We've tried our hardest to keep taxes low, and people recognize that." Richards particularly commended the work of Bransfield, who she said has done "a lot to improve the town" in her eight years as first selectwoman.

As for Tuesday's elections, Richards used the word "optimistic" to describe the Democrats chances. She believes that the candidates' viability lies in the work they've done over the past few years of serving on their boards, and she knows residents have taken notice.

"Because I think we have the experience, we will succeed," Richards said. "Residents have seen what we've accomplished, that we've worked well together, and I think we'll get back in."

Election Day Comes Next Tuesday in Colchester

by Bailey Seddon

With the power mostly restored in town, and the roads mainly cleared, residents should have no problem flocking to their respective polling places for next Tuesday's municipal elections.

Candidates for first selectman were already featured in last week's *Rivereast*. The candidates are Republican and current First Selectman Gregg Schuster and petitioning candidate James McNair III, a Democrat. The Board of Selectmen candidates were also featured last week; Democrats are incumbents James Ford and Rosemary Coyle and Republicans are incumbents Stan Soby and Gregory Cordova. Also running is Democratic petitioning candidate Tearice Peters.

Also profiled last week were the Board of Finance candidates. Running to fill four-year vacancies are Democratic incumbents John Ringo and Bruce Hayn, Republican Art Shilosky and Democratic petitioning candidate Linda Hodge. Voters can choose any two of the four candidates. The Board of Finance also has two two-year vacancies; Democrat Thomas Kane and Republican incumbent Rob Esteve will automatically get elected, as only two out of four possible candidates ran.

Board of Education was featured in the Oct. 21 issue of the *Rivereast* and, like the Board of Finance, also has two- and four-year terms. Democratic incumbents Mike Egan and Mary Tomasi and Republican incumbent Brad Bernier are all up for full terms and are all guaranteed spots. Republican incumbent John Reeve is filling a two-year vacancy and is also guaranteed a seat.

Also running unopposed is Democratic incumbent Nancy Bray for town clerk and Demo-

cratic incumbent Gregg LePage for town treasurer.

Residents do have some options in the Board of Assessment Appeals and tax collector races, however. On the Board of Assessment Appeals, Democrat John F. Malsbenden and Republican incumbents Dave Anderson and Jeff Brainard are running. Residents can choose two of the three candidates.

For tax collector, Democratic incumbent Tricia Coblentz is facing Republican Betsy Ciccone.

The tax collector race has sparked some interest this year, with several Colchester residents writing in letters to the editor to the *Rivereast* supporting one candidate or attacking another.

Coblentz has been the tax collector for four years and Democratic Town Committee Chairwoman Dorothy Mrowka feels she brings the experience to the job that is needed.

"I think Tricia has done a terrific job," she said.

Coblentz said she feels she has worked hard and is looking forward to being elected to another term.

"I love my job; I love the people," she said. Coblentz mentioned how hard she works to keep the mill rate down and how difficult it can be collecting taxes from people in such a bad economy. This is why she said she works hard to work on payment plans for people who need them.

"I'm definitely a very active tax collector," said Coblentz, who mentioned that an experi-

enced staff is needed to do this work, something she provides.

As for Ciccone, she said that if she were tax collector she would do her best to work with people and improve the tax collection rate. (According to Town Hall, the most recent collection rate available is for 2010, which was 98.6 percent.)

"I have experience working for the town...interacting and working with the people" and would like to continue that experience, she said.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Brenden Healy said he felt she would make a good tax collector because, "she has her finger on the pulse of the town" and has experience, he said. This experience includes a 2001-11 stint on the Board of Education.

As for the other candidates, Mrowka said she feels Malsbenden brings a lot of experience for Board of Assessment Appeals from his job as a retired school teacher.

"He's a wealth of knowledge," she said.

Overall, Mrowka said she feels the Democrats "have outstanding candidates" that bring a lot to the table. She said she feels her candidates have a lot of experience and understand what is going on in the town. She felt they have this experience because so many of them are incumbents.

Mrowka said this campaign season has been hard because of all the distractions from Tropical Storm Irene and last weekend's snowstorm.

"It's been difficult for people to get out to campaign," Mrowka said. Despite this she still

thinks people will come out to give their vote on Tuesday. Mrowka also felt this has been one of the better campaigns with not much bickering between the candidates. She said the Democrats have tried to "give a positive image."

"I think our Democrat team has got it all," she said. "It's all about people and not politics."

Healy agreed that the campaign has been a good one.

"It has been a positive campaign and hopefully will continue to be so in the last few days," he said. Healy also said he feels confident in his party's candidates.

"I think we have a strong chance" because the Republican candidates have a lot of experience, said Healy. Healy mentioned Rob Esteve, whom he said has been active in financial matters for many years.

"I think he will be a great member in the Board of Finance," he said. Healy also said he felt Art Shilosky is a good candidate because he has been active in the town for many years.

Healy felt much as Mrowka did, that it has been hard because of all the weather issues. Still, he said, he hopes people turn out for elections to vote for candidates, especially on the Republican side.

"I hope we do well," he said.

Elections are Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Depending on which district residents live in, the voting will take place at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.; Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave.; or the Assembly of God Church, 85 Skinner Rd.

Andover to Honor Veterans Next Week

by Geeta Schrayter

Andover has never had a Veterans Day ceremony; next week, however, the town will break that tradition.

The town will hold an observance ceremony at Andover Veterans Monument Park. The event will take place at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 11, giving it the unique date of 11/11/11 at 11 am.

Program organizer Dianne Grenier stated the day as a reason to hold the ceremony.

"I thought this would be a great opportunity," she said, adding with a laugh, "along with the fact that our Veterans Monument Park is looking so good."

But more than the date or location, the purpose is to honor and give thanks to local veterans. The program includes a variety of traditional activities including raising the flag, fife and drums, bagpipes, a three-gun salute, a history of Veterans Day, singers, and guest speakers.

First Selectmen Bob Burbank is one such speaker, and he stated it's only fitting to honor veterans.

"We never in the past have had a ceremony, so we thought it might be appropriate," he said, adding that veterans had "really put out a lot in the last few years," and some serve time and time again.

Burbank also happens to be a veteran himself, having served in the Navy during the Vietnam era, and Burbank's brother Theodore lost his life in a plane crash while in the Air Force. Burbank's son Michael is presently serving in the Air Force.

State Representative Pam Sawyer is also a guest speaker, and wife of Major Eric S. Sawyer, ret., who was a helicopter fighter pilot with the U.S. Army during Vietnam, and then a member of the National Guard.

"I deeply appreciate observances of Veter-

ans Day as a way to express our gratitude for so many who have put their lives on the line for our freedom," she said.

Sawyer added the Veterans Monument Park is a special place, as it has monuments for wars going back as far as the Revolutionary.

"Most towns don't go back that far," she stated.

Sawyer also added that the area along the Route 6 corridor is where French troops marched on their way to Yorktown.

"They met with George Washington in Connecticut three times that we know of" to plan the battle of Yorktown, Sawyer said, adding a bit of historical mystique to the site.

Grenier stated they sent out invitations for local veterans to attend the event, and thinks the program "has all the right elements."

"I think it's something Norman Rockwell

would be proud of," Grenier said after describing aspects such as the wreath-laying and singing of "God Bless America." "It's your basic small New England Town Ceremony."

Burbank said he hopes they'll be able to hold some kind of ceremony annually.

"I hope we'll be able to get volunteers to serve and do some kind of an honoring on an annual basis," he stated.

After the program, a reception will be held in the basement of the Congregational Church on Route 6, co-hosted by the Church and Friends of the Library with sandwiches, snacks and a tribute to local veterans. The Andover Historical Museum will also be open.

Transportation will be available, and individuals in need of a ride should call Municipal Agent Cathy Palazzi at 860-742-8088.

Hebron Candidates Focus on Cooperation

by Geeta Schrayter

Election Day is less than a week away, and for the first time in more than a decade, the elections are quiet. With the exception of the Zoning Board of Appeals, this year there are no competitive races.

In the beginning of October Donna McCalla, chairwoman of the Republican Town Committee, and Bill Rudis, chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, released a letter to residents explaining the situation. In it, they stated “each town committee has endorsed the allowed number of candidates” for all boards excepting the Zoning Board of Appeals, and “all candidates are focused on working cooperatively together for the betterment of Hebron’s future.”

The candidates were mentioned as “experienced, knowledgeable, and willing to sacrifice their personal time . . .” to serve their community.

“This is a unique situation in that there’s only one competitive race,” McCalla said Wednesday. She added it was in everyone’s best interest to focus on the candidates and how well they’ll work as a team “for the good of Hebron.”

“I see that a trend is already started to find ways to save money and work together cooperatively,” she said, adding that she hopes it continues.

“Both of the town committees this year have been supportive of the idea that this is an unusual situation,” said McCalla. “And this is a unique opportunity for the various members of the boards and commissions to show Hebron residents that they can work together for everyone’s good.”

All three candidates for the Board of Selectmen – Republicans Jeff Watt and Gayle Mulligan and Democrat Brian O’Connell – are incumbents. The three were profiled in last week’s *Rivereast*. In the profiles, Mulligan and Watt discussed their desire to finish some of the work they had already started and continue working on issues such as economic development and debt reduction. Mulligan mentioned a constant struggle in Hebron between “continued growth and maintaining our rural character” and the importance of listening to residents to make decisions that will help strike a balance between the two. O’Connell discussed his like-minded belief the town should “retain its rural character” along with the need for the board to creatively court new business to Hebron and preserve open space.

The Board of Finance race was also previewed last week. Republicans Lynn Guerriero and Michael Hazel are seeking reelection, while Democrat Paula Verrier will be new to the board. Verrier feels her experience working in accounting, balancing the books for various businesses and managing a household budget will be beneficial as a Board of Finance member.

“I want to try to keep Hebron affordable for everyone,” she said last week.

Hazel, who works as an accountant, and Guerriero, who has worked in the finance industry for 25 years, both acknowledge the town is in difficult financial times and are looking to continue the work they’ve already begun. Hazel stated he feels “continuity is important at this time,” and mentioned some of the biggest challenges will be the reliability of state funding, the impact the budget has on taxpayers and managing spending within the revenue constraints in town.

Similarly, Guerriero has stated she’s looking to keep taxes down, maintain services in Hebron and work on economic development, focusing on long-term financial planning.

Finances were also one of the issues discussed by candidates running for the Board of Education (who were also profiled in-depth in a previous *Rivereast*). Republican candidate Dominic Marino said some of the biggest issues are a need for transparency and the budget. He hopes to add “community-minded common sense” and plans to tackle budgetary priorities that will benefit students and “maintain the heritage of the town.”

Democratic candidate Maryanne Leichter plans to work with other Board members to keep finances in balance while providing quality education to students.

“I think there has always been quality education in this town for the students and I would like to see this continue,” she said.

Stephanie Raymond is running for reelection and has lived in Hebron for 16 years.

On the RHAM Board of Education, the two candidates from Hebron are Democrat Amy D’Amaddio and Republican Tom Tremont.

Tremont has been a member of the board for seven years and believes significant issues include ensuring tax money is spent more on students’ education and less on “trying to keep the

administration happy,” and providing a positive atmosphere for and opportunities for students.

D’Amaddio has not served on the board before, but is looking to share the perspective she gained through working on the design and implementation of initiatives to improve educational opportunities for children across the state over the past 10 years. D’Amaddio currently works with court involved and detained children as the statewide Coordinator of Educational Services. D’Amaddio is also looking to address the school’s dropout rate and bullying.

Republican Clara O’Brien is the only candidate running for the Board of Assessment Appeals, and was first elected in 2003. She has also been a member of the Hebron Republican Town Committee and was elected chairwoman of the Water Pollution Control Authority in 2005. A resident of Hebron since 1993, O’Brien graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institution with a Master of Science degree in health care Management.

Running for the Planning and Zoning Commission are Republican Lewis Hinman and Democrat Frank Zitkus.

Hinman has lived in Hebron since 2001 and was first elected to PZC in 2003, prior to which he was an alternate. Hinman was elected as chairman of the commission in 2009 and is also chairman of the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Committee.

Zitkus has been a Hebron resident for 20 years and has served on the PZC for 13, with most of them as secretary. He also serves as the representative to the Hebron’s Open Space Land Acquisition. He has also served on the CIP Committee.

For the sole competitive race, Democratic candidates Cathleen Murphy and Cynthia Grinnell and Republican Kevin McDonnell are running for the two available seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Murphy believes she brings experience to the commission, having served on the ZBA since 1999. She has held the position of secretary, vice chairwoman and chairwoman.

“I think these years of experience are my biggest asset,” said Murphy, adding it’s important for her to “balance our town regulations with a reasonable use of a home owner’s property.”

Grinnell is running for reelection, and along with the current board, over the years she has also served as tax collector and on the Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, and the building committee for the Town Office Building. She is also the vice chairwoman of the Democratic Town Committee.

McDonnell has lived in Hebron since 2008, and McCalla described him as “exceptionally bright,” with a track record of involvement in his community. Prior to Hebron, he lived in Maine where he was involved in a number of community positions.

“I think Kevin has really got such a breadth of knowledge and experience,” said McCalla, adding she felt he was capable of “smartly” promoting economic development in town.

Running unopposed for ZBA alternates are Democrats Anthony Novak and Donald Masters.

Novak has lived in Hebron since 1987, is seeking reelection and looks forward to continue serving the town. He has been an active member of the Hebron Lions Club since he first moved to Hebron, and says his interest in agriculture and “the preservation of Hebron’s historical and natural assets” led him to seek reelection.

Masters has lived in Hebron for 15 years and feels his background as an engineer allows him to serve as a successful Alternate for the Board. He stated he puts his best effort into all of his pursuits, and feels his advanced degrees allow him to make the correct decisions.

As Election Day approaches, Rudis stated he hopes residents utilize their ability to vote.

“We should not forgo that right,” he said, adding that he was satisfied with the candidates who are running, and just as they’re sure to do their job, he hopes the citizens will do theirs.

“The individuals who have sought to serve the community obviously are doing so because of their keen interest in those types of responsibilities,” he said. “Like anything else, our concern is that the voters understand the continued importance of their role – to go and vote.”

Due to last weekend’s winter storm and subsequent power outages, Gov. Dannel Malloy extended the voter registration deadline to Monday, Nov. 7, at noon. Voting will take place Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.

Colchester Police News

10/27: Patrick Kennedy, 56, of 39 Spruce Ln., Oakdale, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

10/28: Douglas Wilson, 48, of 77 Scenic View Dr. Apt.1, Deep River, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

10/29: Michelene Haagensen, 42, of 232 Boretz Rd., was charged with DUI, evading and traveling too fast for conditions, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

10/21: Sheila Fogg, 49, of 71 No. Moodus Rd., Moodus, was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

10/24: Patrick Salvatore Aiello, 22, of 3 Sears Pl., was arrested for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

10/24: Thomas McCabe, 53, of 15 Park Rd., Colchester, was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

10/24: Pamela J. Cole, 38, of 36 Skinner St., was arrested for violating a protective order, police said.

10/25: A 17-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was arrested for disorderly conduct and second-degree assault, police said.

10/26: Anthony Palazzo, 56, of 102 Comstock Tr., was arrested for failure to respond to an infraction, police said.

10/28: Gary Pawloski, 51, of 15 O’Neil Ln., was arrested for failure to respond to an infraction, police said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Linda Cunningham

Linda Cunningham of Troutdale, OR, formerly of East Hampton, died peacefully at home Sunday, Oct. 30, surrounded by family, after a brave battle with cancer.

Linda was born Dec. 5, 1945, daughter of the late David Villa Sr. and the late Beatrice (Barber) Bisson. She was also predeceased by her brothers, David Jr. and Peter Villa Sr.; her son, Todd Cunningham and grandson Cody Cunningham.

She is survived by her sister, Gail (Villa) DiStefano of East Hampton; ex-husband Noel (Skip) Cunningham Sr. of Lillian, AL; sons Noel Cunningham Jr. of Coventry, David (Matt) Cunningham and wife Bath of East Hampton, and daughters Kari Margeta and husband Dave and Sprague Cunningham of Troutdale, OR. Also, grandchildren Dana, Kellee, Courtney, Noah, Erica, Casey, Latoya, Hannah, Brandon, Olivia, Ashley and Amirah and great-grandchildren Madison, Austin and Alyse.

Her gentle spirit will be missed by all.

Hebron

Martha Whitney Hooker

Martha Whitney Hooker, 94, of Salt Box Road, Hebron, died peacefully at her home Thursday, Oct. 27.

She was the widow of John J. Hooker, with whom she shared 63 years of marriage. Her son, Thomas Hooker also predeceased her.

She leaves a daughter, Mary Lou Hooker O'Dea and her husband John of Laurel, MD and her son, John (Jack) Hooker and his wife Sandy of Slocum Road, Hebron. She also leaves her two grandchildren, Jeff Hooker and his wife, Anne of Marlborough and Dr. Karen Hooker of New York City as well as two beloved great grandchildren, Teresa and Trevor of Marlborough.

Martha was born and raised in Salisbury, VT, the daughter of the late Edward and Ida (Thomas) Whitney. She was the youngest of 11 children.

She graduated from Brandon (VT) High School and Bay Path Junior College (MA) and moved to Hartford to work in the insurance industry.

She met her future husband, John at a square dance at the Gilead Grange Hall. After their marriage, they lived in Hartford and then moved to Hebron where she lived for over 60 years.

She was a member of the Grange and Gilead Congregational Church.

A service to honor her memory will be held on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m. at Gilead Congregational Church with the Rev. Dr. Denise Esslinger officiating. Burial will follow at Gilead Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank Ida Njie for her loving care of both Martha and her husband John who predeceased her in April.

Memorial donations may be made to the Gilead Congregational Church Building Fund, 672 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248. The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Amston

Linda Lee Peddle

Linda Lee Peddle, 51, of Amston and formerly of Colchester and Middlefield, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Oct. 29, from injuries sustained in a fatal automobile accident.

Born Jan. 19, 1960, in Meriden and raised in the Middlefield/Durham area, she was a daughter of William H. Peddle of Enosburg Falls, VT and the late Joyce (Gowing) Peddle.

Linda was a devoted and loving mother, daughter, sister and aunt, who will be deeply missed by so many people. She will also be mourned by her extended family, both coworkers and customers, from Dunkin' Donuts in Colchester, where she had worked as Shift Manager.

In addition to her father, she is survived by four sons, Timothy Powell of Key Largo, FL; William Marlow of Bunnell, FL; SPC. Cory Marlow, U.S. Army, of El Paso, TX and Taylor Marlow of Bunnell, FL; five siblings, Doris Hayden of Amston, Dora Donahue of Middletown, Darlene Coulombe of Enosburg Falls, VT, William Peddle of Middletown and Dale Peddle of Enosburg Falls, VT; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family members and friends.

Friends called Thursday, Nov. 3, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. A memorial service followed the visitation hours. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the CT Humane Society, 111 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Robert D. Viens

Robert D. Viens, 88, of Colchester, formerly of Glastonbury, husband of the late Cecile (Monty) Viens, died Saturday, Oct. 29, at Harrington Court in Colchester. Born Aug. 28, 1923, in Burlington, VT, son of the late Frank X. and Antoinette (Lanctot) Viens, he had lived in Glastonbury from 1956 until moving to Colchester 10 years ago.

Prior to his retirement in 1982 he had worked for SNET in telecommunications for 35 years. Robert was a communicant of St. Paul Church. After his SNET retirement, Robert became a licensed realtor. He was a former member of the Glastonbury Rotary Club and had served in the US Army during World War II.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Claudia and George Maistrelis of Colchester; a son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Deborah Viens of Hebron; five grandchildren, Carolyn Viens and Brian Viens, both of Signal Mountain, TN, John Maistrelis and Alexandra Maistrelis, both of Colchester, Amy Viens of Hebron; a brother, Joachim Viens and his wife Ellen of Ft. Collins, CO; a sister, Eleanor Beauregard and her husband Paul of Essex Junction, VT; a daughter-in-law, Elaine Viens of Signal Mountain, TN; a sister-in-law, Ruth Viens of Waterville, ME; his godchild and nephew, Kenneth Viens of Waterville, ME; as well as several other nieces and nephews.

His wife Cecile was originally from Burlington, VT and was one of 11 children.

He was predeceased by a son David R. Viens, and a brother Paul Viens.

The family would like to thank Colchester Internal Medicine, Harrington Court Nursing Home and Chestelm Adult Day Care in Moodus for their care and compassion given to their father.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, Nov. 5, at 10 a.m., in St. Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury. Burial with full military honors will follow in St. Augustine Cemetery, South Glastonbury. Friends may call at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury on Friday, Nov. 4, from 6-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Glastonbury Volunteer Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 453, Glastonbury, CT. 06033.

To share a memory, visit mulryanfh.com.

Hebron

Nicholas J. Yetishefsky

Nicholas J. Yetishefsky, 46, beloved husband of Meg Yetishefsky, passed away Monday, Oct. 17. Nick was born in Hartford March 17, 1965, grew up in Glastonbury and has resided in Hebron for the past 20 years with the loves of his life, Meg and his children Emily and Nicholas.

An avid sportsman, Nick excelled in all athletics and coaching sports was a passion for him. His greatest joy was the time he spent coaching Emily and Nicky in Hebron Youth Soccer, Baseball and Basketball. He loved being their dad. Nick was a Glastonbury High School graduate and was currently employed as a supervisor at the Metropolitan District Commission, with coworkers he considered to be great friends.

In addition to Meg, Emily, Nicky and their dog Lily, Nick leaves his parents Robert and Ruth Yetishefsky of Glastonbury, his brother Robert Yetishefsky of Manchester and his sisters Frances Marvin of Manchester, Theresa Andrews of Hebron, and Joanne Devanney and her husband Michael of Florida. Nick also leaves his mother and father-in-law, Betty and William Kuehnel, brother and sisters-in-law William Kuehnel, Beth and Mark Vasil, Katie and Kevin Morse, all of South Windsor and Eileen and Shawn Keane of Cromwell.

Nick leaves many nieces and nephews who loved their Uncle Nick dearly along with a host of wonderful friends who have a lifetime of memories to hold in their hearts. Nick was predeceased by his sister-in-law Maryanne Yetishefsky. Information will be posted to the Mulryan Funeral Home website.

A Funeral Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, Oct 21, at Holy Family Church, 185 Church St., Amston. Burial followed in Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury. Family and friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., on Thursday, Oct. 20.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Yetishefsky Memorial Education Fund, c/o Donna Dadinis, TD Bank, 2461 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033.

For online tributes, visit mulryanfh.com.

Colchester

Robert Walburn

Robert Walburn 84, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family Friday, Oct. 28, at Harrington Court in Colchester. Born on May 21, 1927, in Milton, PA, he was the son of the late Elmer Walburn and Mary (Botts) Walburn.

Robert was a veteran of World War II, serving admirably in the Army. After the service, he worked as a carpenter for over 60 years. He was united in marriage to Patricia (Eiswerth) Walburn on Dec. 21, 1963, in Norwich. She survives him.

Robert was an active participant within the community holding membership in the VFW, Elks Club, Maennerchor Club, and German Club. He enjoyed traveling, cooking, gardening and billiards.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sons, Stephen Walburn and Michael Walburn of Lisbon; daughter, Kathy Walburn of New London; brothers, Harold Walburn of Montgomery, PA, Howard Walburn of Turbotville, PA, and Eugene Walburn of Muncy, PA; sisters, Eleanor (Walburn) Kulp and Mary Alice Walburn; and several nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

Family will receive relatives and friends from 5-7 p.m., with a memorial service at 6 p.m., on Friday, Nov. 4, at Leffler Funeral Home, 30 N. Main St., Jewett City. A reception will follow at the Maennerchor Club, 39 Maennerchor Ave, Taftville. Food offerings may be dropped off beginning at noon.

For online memorial/guestbook, visit lefflerfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Arthur E. Johnson Sr.

Mr. Arthur E. Johnson Sr., 91, of Colchester, passed away Sunday morning, Oct. 30, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. He was the husband of the late Margaret M. (Cherry) Johnson, who passed away in 1992 after 49 years of marriage.

Art was born and raised in Naugatuck. He graduated from Naugatuck High School in 1938. He enlisted in the marines in January, 1942, just after Pearl Harbor and saw active duty in the Pacific at Tulagi, Guadalcanal, Gloucester and Talasea. He returned to Naugatuck where he married Margaret Brennan Cherry and raised his family of two children. He worked in a variety of jobs over the years including the chemical division of Uniroyal and CL&P. He retired from the Bristol Company in Waterbury in 1984. He was a Naugatuck resident for most of his life, moving to Colchester a year and a half ago. He was a member of the Salem Evangelical Church.

Art's curiosity about the world was insatiable. He was a passionate reader and educated himself on every topic imaginable. His shelves were lined with books on art history, science, nature, mathematics, poetry, world literature and civil war history. He bought a microscope and studied microbiology. He was fascinated by DNA and forensics and taught himself all that he could in these areas. It was not unusual to find him huddled over the kitchen table with half a dozen books spread out as he studied his particular new interest. He began using a computer at age 70 and developed carpal tunnel syndrome from too much cruising on the Internet. And somehow through it all, he found time to read his "junk" mysteries just to round things out. "So many books, so little time" was a favorite quote.

He was very proud that at the Howard Whittemore Library's bicentennial celebration, he was honored for the number of years that he held an active library card. For that reason he wished donations to the library in lieu of flowers. The family would like to thank the staff of Harrington Court in Colchester for the exceptional care Art received while a resident there.

He leaves his children, a daughter, Judy Johnson of Amston; a son, Arthur E. "Ted" Johnson of Connecticut; and one niece, Sandra Fogue of Fitzwilliam, NH.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Nov. 3, at the Alderson Funeral Home of Naugatuck, 201 Meadow St. Burial with full military honors was in Grove Cemetery, Naugatuck. Friends called at the funeral home on Thursday morning from 10 A.M. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Howard Whittemore Memorial Library, 243 Church St., Naugatuck, CT 06770.

For further information or to send an online condolence, go to aldersonfuneralhomes.com.