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Breakfast with Santa...All are invited to come greet Santa and his elves at Marlborough Congregational Church's annual "Breakfast with Santa" program Saturday, Dec. 3. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee. Cost is \$5 for adults and children one year and older. The church is located at 35 S. Main St. One more line added for copy. The breakfast is part of a full day of holiday-themed events in Marlborough. See related story on page 36.

Police Union Urges Reimondo to Resign

by Joshua Anusewicz

The latest development in the story of embattled East Hampton Police Chief Matthew Reimondo unfolded this week, when the town's police union asked him to resign.

On Sunday, the union, International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO) Local 524, filed an official "vote of no confidence" against Reimondo regarding his "ability to effectively lead the East Hampton Police Department." All 14 members of the union were present for a "re-sounding" 11-3 vote to support the no confidence vote, and have asked for Reimondo's "voluntary resignation."

"The basis of this vote was the egregious and indefensible practices that you have employed over the course of many months," said union president Michael Salafia in a letter sent to Reimondo on Monday. These practices, Salafia wrote, include "blatant, unnecessary, and unjust disparity in discipline," "obvious favoritism that benefits certain officers," "gross mismanagement of departmental resources and taxpayer dollars," "threats, intimidation, and retaliation directed toward certain officers," "failure to instate needed policies and refusal to identify and abandon ineffective policies" and "untruthfulness during recent public comments."

The letter continued: "Your continued lack of effective leadership has brought discredit to

yourself and the East Hampton Police Department and damaged its reputation. It is the belief of the vast majority of the union membership that you lack the integrity and management skills to effectively lead the East Hampton Police Department in a positive and forward manner."

The no-confidence vote comes on the heels of a grievance filed by the union against Reimondo on Oct. 28 with the state's labor board, in which Salafia claimed that Reimondo violated the union's contract by "ordering in" officers to supervise a construction project, then threatening Salafia for not filling the position as Reimondo had instructed. The grievance also claimed that Reimondo "unilaterally ended" the practice of officers performing overtime work in Portland. This grievance was filed with the Connecticut State Board of Labor Relations, and a decision is expected to be made in the next month.

Salafia, a veteran East Hampton officer who

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Green Returning to Duty

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Former East Hampton Pound to Become Dog Shelter

by Joshua Anusewicz

When the East Hampton Town Council decided in February to abandon its former dog pound and regionalize its services with neighboring East Haddam, many wondered what would become of the facility on Wopowog Road.

Well, get ready to welcome back Spot and Fido, because it's going back to the dogs.

Starting this weekend, Protectors of Animals (POA), a volunteer animal adoption organization out of Glastonbury, will open a dog shelter at the former dog pound site. About six dogs will be moved from their current location in Cromwell this week to East Hampton, and an open house for the public is in the works for the next month.

"We've always had to put our dogs in private kennels, and that doesn't give us the opportunity to show them off," said Jody Macrina, president of POA. "Our new East Hampton facility will finally give us that."

POA was founded in 1975 and has worked throughout the state to help stray, abused and abandoned cats and dogs and place them in "loving homes," rescuing and placing more than 600 cats and dogs every year. The organization will spay or neuter the animal and treat any injuries or ailments the animal has before it is

put up for adoption – "fluffed, buffed and ex-foliated," Macrina said with a laugh.

Since 2000, POA has maintained a cat shelter in East Hartford, but has never had a place to keep their dogs. Macrina said that the lack of space has forced POA to put their dogs in private kennels, which has become a challenge through costs and dealing with emergencies.

Now, the new facility in East Hampton will be able to house about six small dogs at any one time, and will give people the opportunity to visit with the dog they hope to adopt. Macrina hopes that this will lead to the organization's ultimate goal of combining their dog and cat shelters into one facility.

"We're so excited," Macrina said of the organization, which includes over 250 volunteers from throughout the state. "This is just one more step to prepare for our own shelter. We've proved the organization has staying power, and our own shelter would really go a long way."

Macrina said that the organization only takes animals from Connecticut, mostly because their donations come "from the people of Connecticut."

POA is a member of Independent Charities of America, which Macrina said is a testament to the organization "spending [their] money

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Protectors of Animals is opening a dog shelter in East Hampton this weekend. The adoption agency has been finding homes for dogs and cats since 1975. Pictured is Chester, a Labrador-Vizsla mix the organization found a home for earlier this year.

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has held the union president position for several months, first made claims that Reimondo was running the department with “fear and threats” at a Town Council meeting in September, where he asked the council for help within the department regarding Reimondo’s leadership in the department. Salafia also criticized Reimondo for his treatment of Sgt. Michael Green, who was put on paid administrative leave in August stemming from an internal affairs investigation into three separate incidents from last year. (It was announced this week that Green would be returning from leave next week; an article appears elsewhere in this issue.)

Despite the lack of confidence at the department, Interim Town Manager John Weichsel, who is in charge of personnel decisions for town employees, said Wednesday that there is “no provision” that forces him to act on the union vote, and that he lends “very little credence” to the union’s decision.

“I don’t plan to elevate this to a level of importance,” Weichsel said when asked if he planned to look into the matter further. Weichsel said he had spoken to Reimondo “briefly” this week, and that he decided that the two were “not going to react to [the vote].”

Reimondo’s attorney, Leon Rosenblatt, said Thursday that he felt the same way as Weichsel, stating that he “really [had] no response” to the vote.

“It’s meaningless, from a legal point of view,” Rosenblatt said. When asked what the union could do legally to handle the situation, Rosenblatt said that “there are remedies,” including the previously-filed grievance, but there is no assurance that “it will get them anywhere.”

On Wednesday, Salafia said the purpose of the no confidence vote was “to put out the message of how the officers are feeling at the department because of [Reimondo’s] leadership.” He added that if Weichsel does not plan to take any action against Reimondo, the officers “will be disappointed.”

“We’re just going to keep going down the same track, and that’s going to make for even lower morale,” Salafia said. “The only thing we can do is stick by our union, if nobody else is able to help us.”

With the decision on any action in the hands of Weichsel, the Town Council has not said whether they will discuss the matter in executive session. Councilor Barbara Moore said Thursday that the matter “is out of our hands at the moment.”

“We’ve discussed [the issues at the police department] before,” Moore said. “We all have our opinions, as citizens.” Moore added that most of the residents she has spoken with have “expressed displeasure” over Reimondo’s leadership at the department.



Among the dogs POA currently has for adoption is Frankie, a Chihuahua mix. For more information on Frankie, e-mail anayab27@msn.com.

organization also takes donations, which would include household items like storage bins, shelves, cleaning supplies, chairs, towels, blankets and, of course, food.

For more information on adoption, Macrina said you can visit poainc.org and browse the animals that are shown on the site. Contact information for each animal is available and, if interested, you can set up an appointment to meet the dog to see if it’s a fit. (She recommends that if you have another pet, bring it with you to see if they are compatible.)

On the website, you can also find ways to donate or get involved with POA. You can also call POA at 860-569-0722. The address of the new facility is 216 Wopowog Rd.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

As I write this Tuesday night, reports out of Boston are that the Red Sox have hired Bobby Valentine as their new manager. It’s an inspired move; I think he’ll do a great job.

Most recently, Valentine has served as an analyst on ESPN’s *Baseball Tonight* and on the cable channel’s *Sunday Night Baseball* broadcasts, and before that he enjoyed much success as a manager in Japan, leading the Chiba Lotte Marines to a championship.

But, for me, the team I’ll always associate Valentine the most with is the Mets. He helmed the team from midway through the ’96 season until the end of 2002. After very nearly making the playoffs in ’98 (the Mets missed the postseason that year after losing their final five ballgames), they went to the NLCS in ’99 and to the World Series in 2000.

Those playoff teams in ’99 and ’00 featured just one bonafide, sure-thing Hall of Famer: Mike Piazza. To be fair, they had a decent amount of above-average players: Robin Ventura, Al Leiter, John Olerud, Todd Zeile, Edgardo Alfonzo. But in terms of high-wattage stars, they weren’t the Yankees. And yet in the playoffs those years, the Mets – who both years got in the postseason as a wild card team – trounced squads with better records. You look at the rosters of those Mets teams, and you can argue that they played better than they should have played. And a lot of credit for that has to go to Bobby Valentine.

Valentine was able to wring success from guys that, for the most part, nobody’s heard from since – hitters like Benny Agbayani, Jay Payton, Joe McEwing, Rey

Ordonez and Daryl Hamilton; pitchers like Bobby Jones, Turk Wendell and Rick Reed.

Yes, Valentine’s Mets were something of a ragtag bunch, and yet he won with them, consistently, even making an improbable – though ultimately unsuccessful – run at the playoffs in late 2001 with an injury-riddled team. (In fact, the only year that was an outright dud was 2002 – Valentine’s final year with the Mets – when the brass made a horribly misguided decision to remake the team with a bunch of past-their-prime stars, like Mo Vaughn.) That says something about the guy.

Also, while he certainly had his moments, Valentine was more than capable of dealing with the media during his six-plus years in Flushing. That will no doubt come in handy up in Boston – the only media market as tough as New York.

Plus, there’s the undeniable fact that Bobby Valentine has a load of personality. One standout example of this came in 1999 when Valentine got ejected from a game after arguing a call. Instead of going into the clubhouse and watching the rest of the game on TV, like most tossed managers do, Valentine donned a Groucho Marx-like fake moustache and returned to the dugout.

Major League Baseball was not amused – fining Valentine \$5,000 and suspending him for two games. But Mets fans loved it, and we still do.

So congrats, Red Sox fans; you’ve got yourselves a fine manager. A great handler of talent.and a pretty good showman too.

* * *

See you next week.

Hebron ĩ Colchester ĩ Hebron ĩ Colchester ĩ Hebron ĩ Colchester ĩ Hebron

Land Swap Almost Complete

by Geeta Schrayter

A deal over 10 years in the making is finally nearing completion.

An exchange of land between Hebron and Colchester that’s been on and off the table for over a decade came one step closer to being finalized on Nov. 17, when Hebron residents voted unanimously to accept a nine-acre parcel from Colchester in exchange for a 9.5-acre parcel Hebron currently owns.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that now, Colchester needs to hold a similar meeting.

“The only thing left is, Colchester has to have a town meeting,” after which it’s “just the paperwork, that’s it, and then it’s a done deal,” she said, adding attorneys from both towns were already working on the paperwork.

The land given to Hebron is along the Air Line Trail, and is already maintained by the town, Therrien explained.

“We’ve been maintaining the Colchester piece along the Air Line Trail for years and years,” she said, adding “it just doesn’t make any sense” for it to remain with Colchester.

Hebron Town Assessor Bob Musson said along with the maintenance, “[the town] covers it as far as any emergencies – if anyone gets hurt using it and such,” adding the swap is mutually beneficial.

He said the deal had been in the works for so long because changes in administration kept

preventing it from happening.

“It just sort of fell through the cracks,” he said, stating he’d been working with Colchester Assessor John Chaponis over the years to make it happen.

“We managed to get it back on the front burner,” he stated, adding he brought it to Therrien’s attention, who then discussed it with the town planner and the Planning and Zoning Commission, which voted favorably in May to recommend it to the Board of Selectmen.

Colchester First Selectman Gregg Schuster felt positively about the swap, saying “it’s just strategically beneficial to both towns.”

Like Therrien, Schuster noted that Hebron has been maintaining the portion they’ll receive, and added Colchester will be able to “retain the piece of property that gives us a buffer with our existing landfill.”

It “makes sense with both towns to go ahead and do it,” he said.

Schuster stated Colchester will hold their meeting sometime in the next two months.

“I have a couple other things that require a town meeting,” he said, stating he was going to bundle them all together and the meeting would probably be held in January or February.

He also added there would be no costs apart from attorneys’ fees.

“It’s just a straight land swap,” said Schuster – albeit a land swap a long time coming.

Portland Writer's Personal Touch on Poetry

by Joshua Anusewicz

Whether it's been as a teacher, a traveler or a grandmother, Sheila Murphy has always been able to find inspiration to write poetry all around her.

"It's very personal to me," Murphy said of her poems, which touch on themes like her family, Portland, the locations around her summer home in Kingston, MA. "It's a way to save my memories."

Although much of her poetry is personal, it has garnered her plenty of attention from notable writing organizations. Recently, Murphy was awarded first prize in the 2011 Connecticut Writing Project Writing Contest through the University of Connecticut for a poem about a salt marsh near her summer home. The award was open to those involved in the National Writing Project, which seeks to improve the teaching of writing in the schools throughout the country.

Murphy's involvement with the program began in the 1970s, when she took a job in the English department at Glastonbury High School. When she started, she worked with Ralph Wadsworth, the director of English for the entire Glastonbury school system. Wadsworth, who Murphy called a "remarkable inspirational leader," was one of the co-founders of the Connecticut Writing Project and asked Murphy to get involved.

"When teachers teach writing, they become better writers themselves," said Murphy of finding her passion for poetry. That mantra led her through a successful 27-year career at Glastonbury High School, and after she retired, she became a co-director of the Connecticut Writing Project.

During her last decade of teaching, Murphy's passion for poetry got a boost, when she had the opportunity to work with Leo Connellan,

the second poet laureate of Connecticut. A guidance counselor at Glastonbury High School, Gary McManus, was a personal friend of Connellan and recommended that she have him work in the classroom with the students. Murphy said she loved his poetry, which focused mainly on his poor upbringing in Maine and his "hardscrabble life," and jumped at the opportunity.

For five years, Connellan visited Murphy's classroom at different times during the year and spoke to students about anything and everything involved with poetry. Murphy said she felt there was a connection with the students because Connellan became a poet because of his high school English teacher, and she hoped it inspired the students.

Two years after Murphy retired in 1999, Connellan passed away. Hoping to preserve his career, the state's third poet laureate, Marilyn Nelson, expressed interest in a newspaper article of writing a collection of Connellan's poems and essays. When she read this, Murphy contacted Nelson and asked if she could be involved in the project.

Not only could she be involved, Nelson told Murphy, but she wanted Murphy to be a co-editor and author of the book.

"I was shocked," said Murphy, who even added her own essay in the book about Connellan's time at Glastonbury High School. "I had admired him so much, and I hope that his legacy will help others get into poetry."

This summer, the collection of Connellan's works, titled *Fair Warning: Leo Connellan and His Poetry*, was released and was very popular in his home state of Maine, Murphy said. The book is available on amazon.com and will be available in the libraries of all state colleges and universities in Connecticut, she said.

But while *Fair Warning* is her biggest release so far, Murphy also published a book of poems titled *View From A Kayak In Autumn* in 2008. It contains poems about her Irish heritage, Portland, her summer home in Massachusetts, but, most importantly, her family. The book contains poems about her two grandchildren, Cianan and Cecilia, who both passed away in infancy from spinal muscular atrophy (SMA).

In honor of her grandchildren, Murphy has donated \$10 from every book sold to Families of SMA, and has raised over \$400 so far. (Copies of the book can be found at curesma.org.) In 2012, one of her poems will also be found in *Caduceus*, a poetry journal through the Yale School of Medicine that can be found in waiting rooms throughout the medical center in New Haven. The poem is about the mural of tobacco picking in the Portland Post Office.

On top of those distinctions, in 2009, Murphy also won an award from the New England Poetry Club, an exclusive group based out of Cambridge, MA, for a poem on Ireland.

But even with being involved in so many projects, Murphy finds solace being with her family and giving to her community. For several years, Murphy has led workshops at Portland Public Library on writing memoirs for senior citizens. Like her own poetry, she sees it as "a way to save memories." She also pushed for the library to carry the magazine *Writer's Digest*, a monthly collection of writing that she has been featured in.

And as for her family, Murphy said she still takes time to write poems for each of her grandchildren's birthdays, and even for her own children's "landmark birthdays." She said that it keeps her "even closer" to her family, something she has carried on from her mother, who she said read poetry to her as a child.



Portland resident Sheila Murphy published a book of former colleague Leo Connellan's poems this past summer.

Even after a decade of retirement, her passion for poetry and teaching the craft is still palpable. "You don't have to be in a classroom to be a teacher," she stated. "You can teach everyday, by sharing your passion with others and passing it on. Teachers can teach new teachers."

Because of Murphy, there must be a lot of great teachers out there.

Marlborough Has Day of Holiday Cheer

by Bailey Seddon

'Tis the season for carols and decorating and Marlborough is getting in the mood with a day full of holiday-themed activities tomorrow, Dec. 3.

Leading up to the annual tree lighting on the town green is a host of events, starting with the 26th annual Santa Breakfast at the Marlborough Congregational Church. There will be two seatings, one from 8-9:30 a.m. and one from 9:45-11 a.m. Cost is \$5 for adults and children one year and older. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, orange juice and beverages. In addition to getting to eat a delicious breakfast, kids will also receive a special gift from Santa.

Another fun activity for children to take part in is the Girl Scouts Holiday Bazaar. This includes making handmade crafts and goodies with the Girl Scouts. Prices for gifts can range from 25 cents to \$3. The scouts also offer gift-wrapping and can become "elves" to assist holiday shoppers. This takes place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School in the community room.

Kids can also partake in magic lessons at the Marlborough Arts Center from 3-4 p.m. The lessons will be given by award-winning local magician Jonathan Jacques, who puts on more than 200 shows per year, including performances at The Big E and a halftime show for the WNBA Connecticut Suns game held at the Mohegan Sun Arena.

Once residents and their children are done joining in these activities around town they can head over to the green for the main event: The Gathering on the Green. The gathering starts at 4:30 p.m., and there will be a range of activities until the town tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. There will be tables set up around the green where the Boy Scouts will help kids make luminaries for fun or cards for soldiers overseas. It's So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe will also have a table where people can decorate flowers and ribbons to take home with them. The Marlborough Women's Club is also doing a craft with kids.

Citizens can also enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride courtesy of Cedar Knoll Farm in Lisbon. The ride starts at the fire house, goes in front of the green and right down North Main Street, finally turning around in the New England Home parking lot and coming back to the firehouse. There will also be free hot chocolate

and sugar cookies.

Right before the tree-lighting, children can listen to a story told by Linda Garrett, who will sit in her rocking chair just like last year, telling kids the story *Gingerbread Friends* by Jan Brett. Garrett has been a teacher for more than 30 years, educating kids from kindergarten to third grade. She is happy to once again be participating in the tree lighting and even told her students they would get extra credit if they sat in the front row.

"I love to hook the kids on reading," Garrett laughed. She said she loves having a captive audience with whom she can capture their imaginations through books. "I love to see the kids see the words come alive," she said.

After the story, all the children are given bells which they ring as the tree gets lit by the event's emcee, firefighter Mark Merritt.

"It was an honor to be recognized," Merritt said. Organizer Chari Norton said Merritt was dubbed the emcee because of the "tireless effort in organizing relief during the last two storms" by Merritt and the ambulance association.

"We just wanted to honor" the firefighters and all they have done, Norton said.

After the late October nor'easter that knocked out power to much of the town, Merritt led the effort to set up an emergency shelter for the town at the elementary school. Merritt said he was not alone in the work that was done during Tropical Storm Irene and the autumn snowstorm. "We were fortunate to have the [ambulance association's] support to do it," he said. Merritt said the money came from the ambulance association's general funds and the money paid for the meals for the shelter.

Once the tree is lit at 5:30 p.m., residents still have until 6:30 to participate in all the activities on the green. The tree was donated this year by Caffyn Tree Farm in Marlborough and is around 28 feet tall. The tree is already decorated and ready for Saturday's lighting, including an ornament made by the Marlborough MOMS club.

Organizers for the Gathering on the Green are Norton, Wendy Dietz, Stacey Demonsthenouf, Christine Bardanian, Dana Smith and Tracey Neunuth. Last year the event was organized by the Marlborough Education Foundation and the Parent Teacher Association. Dietz said this year the two organizations had a lot



The Christmas tree on the town green will be lit for the season tomorrow night. The tree-lighting is the climax of a day full of holiday-themed events in Marlborough. Shown here is Robert Goodrich of R&R Broadband in Colchester, installing the "topper" on the tree.

going on so the six women decided to take over to keep the tradition running. Last year the Gathering on the Green was three hours, but due to freezing temperatures, residents asked for this year's event to be shortened down a little, which is why this year it is two hours.

Dietz said they wanted to keep it going because it is "a fun event for the whole community."

"We really wanted to have something on our green...that brings the community together," she said. Norton agreed, "It was something that we were missing" in the town.

Norton said Marlborough is a "special place in terms of community," with people coming together for these kinds of events.

While the Gathering on the Green is free, organizers ask that residents bring food or winter clothing donations for the Marlborough Food Bank.

"That went over huge last year," said Dietz. Organizers said the tree lighting was "made possible by community support" thanks to the

following groups: Absolutely Nails, Ace Hardware in East Hampton, Caffyn Tree Farm, Christmas Electric, Smart Computer Repair, Dance Elite, Dino and the No Names, Doug's Barber Shop, Dunkin Donuts in East Hampton, Elegant Body Spa, Inspirations by Robin, It's So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe, Keller Williams Realty, Liberty Bank, Marlborough Arts Center, Marlborough Boy Scouts, Marlborough Education Foundation (MEF), Marlborough Food Bank, Marlborough Girl Scouts, Marlborough Martial Arts, Marlborough Pilates Plus, Marlborough Pizza, Marlborough PTO, Marlborough Women's Club, McDonalds in East Hampton, Melted Madness, MOMS Club of Marlborough, New England Home, R&R Broadband LLC, Sadler's Ordinary, Superior Leisure Products, Taylor's Touch, Three Fellas Pizza, Town of Marlborough and Village Green Pizza.

The rain date for the tree lighting is Sunday, Dec. 4.

Manchester Man Gets Five Years for Assault in Marlborough

by Bailey Seddon

A Manchester boxer was sentenced Tuesday to five years in prison for an assault that took place in Marlborough last year.

Matthew Remillard, 25, of 114A Ambassador Dr., pled guilty in September to a charge of first-degree assault, stemming from a fight at an Ogden Lord Road home in January 2010 that left a 20-year-old man with two skull fractures and injuries to his left arm.

Initially, Remillard was one of four people charged in connection with the incident. Danielle Napolitano and her brothers Adam and Richard had each been arrested on various assault and conspiracy-related charges. The charges were later dropped.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit obtained by the *Riverast* in March 2010, Danielle Napolitano invited Remillard over to her house on Ogden Lord Road for dinner at about 8 p.m. on the night of Jan. 5. Danielle Napolitano's ex-boyfriend said he saw Remillard's car and followed Remillard to her house, the affidavit said. Danielle Napolitano told police her ex-boyfriend had been following her since the couple broke up the previous November, and that she was in the process of obtaining a restraining order against him.

When he showed up at her house, the ex-boyfriend said he asked Danielle Napolitano what she and Remillard were doing together, and soon a fistfight ensued between the two men, the affidavit said. As a result of the fight, according to the affidavit, Remillard's left eye was bruised and swollen, as well as his left hand, and there was dried blood on his left ear.

The ex-boyfriend left soon after the fight was over and, according to the affidavit, he said he received a text message from Danielle Napolitano asking him to return to the Ogden Lord Road home. Danielle Napolitano did not mention texting the ex-boyfriend in the affidavit, and said she took a shower just after her ex-boyfriend left the house.

But, according to phone records at the time, the ex-boyfriend received three text messages from and sent four to Danielle Napolitano's cell phone between 8:33-8:39 p.m. that night, the affidavit said.

The ex-boyfriend returned and told police that when he entered the house for a second time he was hit in the face with a baseball bat. He said Remillard was using the bat and hit him in the face and left arm. He also claimed both Adam and Richard Napolitano punched him in the face, the affidavit said.

Remillard said he did not hit the ex-boyfriend

with a baseball bat, but said he did punch him. He said he was a boxer and could throw a "solid punch," the affidavit said.

The ex-boyfriend said he ran to his car, and Remillard and the Napolitano brothers followed him to the driveway. Remillard then began to attack the ex-boyfriend's 2007 BMW, the affidavit said.

According to the ex-boyfriend, Remillard smashed the windshield and sunroof with the aluminum baseball bat, and was also trying to hit him, the affidavit said. He said Richard Napolitano was kicking and punching him on the side of his face and Adam Napolitano was pounding on the windows and car doors.

Remillard said he, Adam and Richard Napolitano all hit the BMW with the bat. But neither Adam nor Richard make any mention of assaulting Evans or damaging the car, according to the affidavit.

According to the affidavit, Adam and Richard Napolitano told police they were home at the time of the assault, but were uninvolved. Adam Napolitano said he "heard a scuffle" but did not "see anything." Richard Napolitano said he was upstairs at the time and heard something downstairs, but was "not sure what had happened," according to the affidavit.

An officer who investigated the case counted

12 indentations on the BMW that "were clearly caused by a baseball bat," the affidavit said. The estimated cost of the damage was in excess of \$15,000, according to the affidavit.

There was also evidence of a disturbance in the front hallway of the home on Ogden Lord Road. The affidavit said there was "shattered glass and a small amount of blood on the floor." Closet doors also appeared to have been damaged and off track, the affidavit said.

As a result of that night, the ex-boyfriend incurred two skull fractures, multiple fractures to his left eye socket and his left hand/wrist, the affidavit said. In total, he had 100 stitches across his head from ear to ear, seven plates and 30 screws in his head and one plate and eight screws in his left hand. According to the affidavit, the attack left the ex-boyfriend with double vision in his left eye and no feeling in his forehead.

Remillard, or "Sharp Shooter" as he is known in the boxing world, made his pro debut to the boxing world in April 2005. During his professional career he was undefeated in the featherweight division until he lost a match against Miguel Angel Garcia on March 26 of this year.

New Committee Formed in Hebron to Examine Town Government

by Geeta Schrayter

At a special meeting on Nov. 22, the Board of Selectmen unanimously decided to form a Government Study Committee.

The committee, which will be comprised of seven regular members and two alternates, will examine various types of government in the state and across the nation, and report their findings to the selectmen.

The suggestion was brought to the board by selectman Mark Stuart, who said he'd been thinking about the idea for years.

"I've been kicking it around for a couple of years," he said, adding "I know that other towns have their governments formed differently."

Stuart stated some larger towns don't have a board of finance, and mentioned expanding the Board of Selectmen and revising it into a town council with a finance sub-committee as a possible change, although he stated he's "not advocating one way or another."

"That's why I'd like to see an impartial commission," he said, to look into these possibilities.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt said, although he thinks the present form of government is appropriate, it makes sense to examine other options.

"I think the form of government we have right now is very conducive to open communications and checks and balances," he said. "But from a leadership standpoint, I think it's worthwhile to consider any changes just like the prior selectmen did to change to [the current form of government]."

Hebron has been under the town manager form of government since 1990. Stuart said now would be a suitable time to examine alternatives since "there's a lot of talk about opening up the charter for revision."

"The feeling was," said Watt, "we should look at other forms and see if there are other ones that are more effective."

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained the selectmen are hoping some prior members of the boards of selectmen and finance will volunteer to join the committee, and said anyone who's interested should get in touch with her. She also mentioned by state statute, no more than four members can be from the same political party.

Interested individuals can e-mail Therrien at btherrien@hebronct.com or send her a letter of interest at Town Hall, 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248.

Vandalism Suspect Caught

by Bailey Seddon

A 17-year-old teen who allegedly vandalized Blish Park in September turned himself into Troop K in Colchester on Nov. 15, and was charged with two counts of second-degree criminal mischief.

The graffiti included profanity-laced words and phrases such as "F— the police," "weed" and "rollin," as well as pictures of mushrooms and the marijuana-related reference "4:20." The vandalism was a blow to many in the town, particularly the Parks and Recreation Department, which had spent two years raising \$80,000 to renovate the playscape. The renovation was done in 2008.

The renovated playscape was made with Trex Composite decking material – which is composed of a combination of wood and plastic – and not just any spray paint remover could have been used on it, as it could damage the Trex. Due to the graffiti, the town had to spend money for the playscape to be power washed by a company and when that did not completely get the graffiti off it was stained, said Parks and Recreation member Louise Concodello. First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski said this cost the town around \$2,000.

Resident State Trooper Jeff Dunshee said the teen was identified through police investigation.

"Within a week [of the incident] we had developed really good suspects from doing multiple interviews," he said. Dunshee said he narrowed in on the suspect from speaking with him and others, zeroing in on the youthful offender through "word of mouth" about the teen. Dunshee said once police felt they had enough evidence, they issued an arrest warrant. Once he realized the police had enough evidence the teen gave a "full confession" on the vandalism he had done to Blish Park, Dunshee said.

"It's unfortunate that this happened," said Concodello. "I'm glad we caught [him]...but I would like to know why."

Concodello said she could not understand why someone would want to vandalize a park that she and other members had spent so much time fundraising for.

"It's for everybody's benefit" and it is hard to believe that a person would do that kind of damage, Concodello said, and added, "That person must be very, very angry," to be willing to do that to the town. Concodello said she hopes the Parks and Recreation Commission can submit the cleaning bills to court and that the teen is made to pay for it.

"I don't think the taxpayers in town should

have to foot this bill," she said.

Parks and Recreation Commission Chairwoman Barbara Lazzari said she is very glad the police caught the teen that did it. "This is really, really good," she said.

Now that he is caught, Lazzari said she hopes the teen and his family take responsibility for what was done to the playscape.

"We don't have the money to do all this," Lazzari said. Lazzari said she hopes the youthful offender or his family pays the town back for what was done to the park.

"I'll be disappointed if the court system does nothing," said Lazzari. She also said the town needs to look into having security over at the park. "Something has to be done to make sure it doesn't happen again," she said.

Lazzari said she has been a volunteer on the Parks and Rec. Commission for over 18 years. She said she and other members and residents worked very hard to make Blish Park nice and when it was vandalized it was "very, very disheartening," to all those who worked hard to build it.

Gaudinski said she hopes the apprehension of the alleged perpetrator "will send a message to young people that it is not acceptable." Gaudinski said everyone in town should respect property because people spend a lot of time working on such places as the park to make it nice for everybody.

Gaudinski also said residents should be vigilant and look out for anyone who may be engaging in illegal activities. If anyone sees anything suspicious, Gaudinski urges them to call the police to try to prevent vandalism such as this from occurring in the future.

As for what her office is doing in response to the vandalism, Gaudinski said she is trying to be more vigilant during her term as first selectman than the previous administration. "Open eyes and ears" is a policy Gaudinski said she plans to have.

In September, Gaudinski's immediate predecessor, Bill Black, said the town looked into obtaining grants for cameras to put in the park two years ago, and also considered pricing motion-sensitive lighting and other ways of "getting eyes on the scene."

Gaudinski said this is something the current administration will start looking into in the next month or so, but added it is something that will not happen for a while. The town will have to get pricing and make sure they have money for the lights in the budget, Gaudinski said.

This is something "we should have been doing already," she said.

Portland Man Killed in Marlborough Motorcycle Crash

by Bailey Seddon

A Portland motorcyclist was killed Saturday when he struck a motorcycle in front of him, was ejected and then hit by another car, State Police said.

According to police, at around 2:30 p.m. Paul Hubbard, 46, of 4 Grove St., Portland, was driving his 1954 Panhead Harley Davidson on Route 66 in Marlborough when he came upon two vehicles that had come to a stop. Keith Worthington, 46, of 520 Trumbull Hwy., Lebanon, was waiting to turn left onto Blackledge Drive, and behind him was John Denehy, 44, of 130 Main St., East Hampton, police said.

Hubbard struck the left rear portion of Denehy's motorcycle and was ejected from his vehicle. Hubbard landed in the west-

bound lane, in the path of Worthington's 1999 Chevrolet Suburban. Worthington's vehicle struck Hubbard, causing "fatal head trauma," according to a press release issued by Troop K in Colchester.

Hubbard was pronounced dead at the scene, said firefighter Mark Merritt, who added that Hubbard was not wearing a helmet. Worthington and Denehy were not injured in the accident, police said.

As a result of the crash, Merritt said, Route 66 was closed for four hours on Saturday from Buck Road in Hebron to Johnson Road in Marlborough.

The case is still under investigation, police said.

Dress Code Again Discussed by East Hampton Board of Ed

by Joshua Anusewicz

At the request of board member Donald Coolican, Tuesday's meeting of the Board of Education – the first one featuring the newly-elected board members – included a discussion of his proposed dress code.

As part of proposing a “standardized dress code” for students at East Hampton Middle School, Coolican pitched the idea of sending a survey to parents of middle school students to gather their opinions on school uniforms. Coolican, who also pitched the dress code in October, said that the problem with the school's policy right now is that it's not strictly enforced.

“In warm weather, you can walk around the middle school and high school and see it's not enforced,” Coolican said. “I feel that a better dress code will make it as easy as possible for parents, administrators and teachers.”

Coolican has said that he proposed school uniforms for three reasons: students, “particularly girls,” dress inappropriately; it would curb “clothes-bullying” at the schools; and would help parents, mostly financially, as they can be ordered at a better price than buying designer brands.

The board has yet to make a decision on the matter. When Coolican brought the matter up

in the past, it was referred to the policy committee but never made it to the board for a vote.

According to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden, the school board had considered looking into adding a question about school uniforms on the state-mandated school climate survey that will be going home to parents next year. Golden said the board had expected to receive the survey by now, but has yet to receive it, which will at least push the discussion back to January. The board would then have to ask the state if they could include the question on the survey.

The uniform that Coolican has proposed would include a solid-color polo shirt, khaki pants or shorts/skirt for warmer months, and dress shoes.

When asked by board member Scott Minnick if school administrators had experienced any problems with the existing dress code, both John Fiedler, principal of the high school, and Nancy Briere, principal of the middle school, said they had not.

Golden agreed. “We don't see many violations,” she said, “and if we do, we pull the student aside and address it.” Golden did say, however, that one concern the schools do have is

female students dressing provocatively around male teachers.

There was no action taken on the matter.

* * *

Coolican also asked for another matter to be discussed during Monday's meeting – the inclusion of class rank on students' report cards.

Currently, the class rank for top 50 percent begins appearing on report cards at the end of a student's sophomore year. Coolican has proposed adding the class rank at the end of the student's freshman year, in hopes that it will inspire students and give them time to improve if they have a low rank.

“If students get behind, this would benefit the students and parents,” Coolican said. “This would make it more competitive, and that's a good thing. That will follow them their whole life.” Coolican also said that if students are getting good grades, but have a low rank, they may realize that they should be in a higher-level class.

According to Golden, the idea of starting class rank in the student's sophomore was proposed several years by former principal Dr. Linda Berry. At the time, Berry felt that by adding the rank of all students throughout high

school was “discouraging” to students who are still only 14 or 15 years old.

Golden said that the inclusion of class rank is currently a regulation that would need to be changed by the board, but no action was taken.

Board member Joanne Barmasse opposed Coolican's idea, stating that, when speaking with colleges, she learned class rankings are “taken very lightly.” Instead, Barmasse proposed a meeting between the student, parents, and guidance counselor in eighth grade to discuss future goals for the student and which steps needed to be taken academically to reach those goals.

“I would rather see motivation from that than from a number on a report card,” Barmasse said.

Minnick, who is currently a teacher in Glastonbury, also brought up that by encouraging students to improve class rank, there may be an increase in “parent overrides,” with parents requesting that their children be placed in higher-level classes that they are not fit for.

* * *

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St.

Green to Return from Administrative Leave in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

After nearly four months of being on administrative leave, Sgt. Michael Green is scheduled to return to his position next week.

“I'm very happy,” Green said Wednesday. “I can't wait to get back to work with my colleagues who've been supportive of me.”

Green has been on paid administrative leave since August, after it was announced that an internal affairs investigations was being conducted into Green stemming from three separate incidents that occurred last year. The internal investigation, which was originally being conducted by Sgt. Garritt Kelly of the East Hampton Police Department in January, was handed over to and completed by attorney Eric Daigle of Southington.

In a letter from Police Chief Matthew Reimondo to Green dated Tuesday, Nov. 22, Reimondo announced that, per the recommendation of Daigle, Green has been suspended for 10 days without pay, and will return to work on Thursday, Dec. 8. Reimondo levied that Green was guilty of “conduct unbecoming an officer” and twice guilty of “neglect of duty and responsibility” – once in regards to Green's actions as a “Duty Sergeant/ Shift Supervisor” and once for being “absent from patrol availability.”

According to the report from Daigle, which painstakingly goes over the three incidents and includes interviews with various officers, the charge of “conduct unbecoming of an officer” stemmed from an e-mail that Green sent to a lower-ranking officer where it was judged that he used language that was “derogatory in nature.” Daigle wrote that the e-mail was sent between two private e-mail addresses and that

the two maintain a “friend relationship,” but that the language is not “proper communication” between a supervisor and a subordinate. Daigle ruled that the e-mail was related to a case and ended up in the case file, which could become public and “show a clear lack of professionalism.”

The two “neglect of duty and responsibility” charges came from the same incident, in which a burglary investigation was assigned to a new officer, Hardie Burgin, and Green, as the supervisor, had “limited to no involvement in the investigative process,” Daigle states. The report stated that no progress was made on the case for over a month, until a complaint was made by the resident whose home was burglarized. It also said Green did not check the department's computer system on a regular basis to determine his officers' case loads or statuses, nor did he document any phases of the investigation.

In addition to Green's suspension, Burgin was also suspended for 20 days without pay for his involvement in the case.

The letter stated that Reimondo considered “more serious disciplinary action” regarding Green's actions, including possibly firing Green, and added that Green had exercised “poor judgment” in the past for similar actions; Green was demoted to the rank of Patrolman from September 2009 to February 2010.

“However, rather than recommend the termination of your employment at this time,” Reimondo wrote, “I felt it would be appropriate to give you one final opportunity to turn things around and to be successful as a sergeant within our police department.” He also wrote

that if another similar incident happens in the future, Reimondo will have “no choice but to recommend [his] dismissal.”

While Green said he is glad that he is returning, he admitted that he is not satisfied with the punishment and will be “fighting [the decision] through the union.”

“I feel it's clearly retaliation,” Green said, “and I plan to appeal it with someone who can make a ruling on it.”

Some in town have speculated that Reimondo has been retaliating against Green since the summer of 2010, when Reimondo's position was terminated by then-Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe and the Town Council. Green was promoted from sergeant to a newly-created lieutenant position and ran the department in Reimondo's absence. Reimondo was reinstated in November 2010 after a town-wide referendum to overturn the decision.

Green was named in a lawsuit filed by Reimondo against O'Keefe, former Town Council chair Melissa Engel, and former Vice Chairman John Tuttle, where Reimondo claimed that the four had conspired to remove his position after Reimondo had forwarded sexual harassment claims against O'Keefe from three female town employees to the town's attorney.

The lawsuit was settled this past July, and Green was ultimately dropped from the suit.

Recently, other officers in the department have spoken out against Reimondo's leadership of the department. In September, police union president Michael Salafia spoke in front of the Town Council, presenting a petition signed by 11 officers to return Green back to his position.

At that meeting, Salafia also accused Reimondo of running the department through “fear and threats.”

Two weeks ago, Salafia and the union filed a grievance against Reimondo regarding possible violations of the union contract in regards to overtime, and, this past week, the union filed a “vote of no confidence” against Reimondo, signed by 11 of the 14 union members, and asked for Reimondo's “voluntary resignation.”

“I think with the vote, it's very indicative of the major problems in the department,” Green said. “I hope someone comes to their senses, and realizes that doing nothing is not making it any better.”

Salafia said Wednesday that Green's return will “help the department a lot” and that most of the officers are happy for Green's return. He also said the needling from the union was why Reimondo decided to bring Green back.

“If [the union] hadn't spoken out, I truly believe that Mike Green would not be coming back,” Salafia said. “It shows the support these guys have for him.”

On top of appealing Reimondo's decision, Green announced that he has filed a Freedom of Information (FOI) complaint against Reimondo over e-mails that Green's lawyer, Richard Hayber, requested in March. Green said that Reimondo has yet to provide the e-mails, despite repeated requests.

“He clearly doesn't consider it a priority,” Green said. According to Green, a hearing for the complaint has yet to be scheduled, but will be soon.

Reimondo did not return phone calls for comment on this article.

Andover Selectmen Send Charter Changes to Referendum

by Geeta Schrayter

The Board of Selectmen Tuesday approved a host of proposed town charter revisions – including moving Election Day from May to November – and sent the changes to referendum.

The date for the referendum, however, has yet to be set.

The new-look town charter was the product of over 16 months of work by the Charter Review Commission (CRC) and involved various deliberations and recommendations for changes.

Along with board members, the town's attorney, Dennis O'Brien, was present, and various CRC members were in the audience.

In addition to moving the town's elections, some of the other more notable changes include moving the date for the annual town budget meeting from May to the last Wednesday of April, allowing the Board of Selectmen to enact ordinances instead of sending them to town meeting, and also allowing selectmen to establish a mill rate if the budget hasn't been adopted by June 15 of each year.

The last two garnered slight discussion, as O'Brien mentioned the ordinance change gives "legislative power to the selectmen that they didn't have before." However he also mentioned the public has the option to petition such ordinances.

Allowing the selectmen to establish a mill rate caused the most discussion, as those present talked about what might happen if the mill rate

were made too high or, conversely, too low.

"You can't operate without adequate funds," said First Selectman Bob Burbank, while board member Cathy Desrosiers was concerned with what would happen if the town collected too much money.

Selectwoman Elaine Burchardt said putting in the charter that the mill rate couldn't be made higher than the previous year to ensure it doesn't go too high wouldn't work, because that meant taxes would remain the same, even if it were known that expenditures would be higher.

"It would tie us by putting something in writing . . ." she said, adding "That's why you don't want to put it in stone, this is going to take a lot of discussion, a lot of looking at expenditures to figure out what the fairest thing is to do."

"We're going to have six shots at [examining] the budget before we put it through," added Burbank.

In order to prevent discussion from continuing well into the night on every minute detail, selectwoman Julia Haverl made a motion to accept the charter in its entirety.

"We're never going to get it tweaked exactly perfect . . . that's kind of where we are. We've done a lot of tweaking already," she said.

Burchardt seconded the motion, and after some more discussion on details within the charter and protocol, the motion carried unanimously.

Once approved, discussion ensued as to

which questions to include on a ballot and whether to hold a separate referendum for the charter's approval or have it during the 2012 presidential election.

The selectmen approved motions to include separate questions asking voters if they wanted town elections to move from May to November, and whether or not to allow the Board of Selectmen to enact ordinances. The rest of the charter revisions would be voted on in one blanket question.

Whether to set up a separate date to vote on the charter or hold it during the presidential election garnered the most disputes.

Haverl suggested a separate date and Desrosiers agreed.

"This presidential election coming up is going to bombard people with health care issues, unemployment issues, the housing crisis we're in, the economy, the debt crisis... this is going to be clouded by it," said Desrosiers.

Within 30 days of the charter's approval by the Board of Selectmen, the revised charter has to be printed in the *Rivereast*. This was also mentioned as a reason to hold a separate referendum rather than hold off until November. But O'Brien stated, "I've never seen a town, in my experience, put something like this on a ballot in anything other than a regular election."

His concern was that there wouldn't be a large enough turnout. If the charter doesn't pass, the process would have to begin again with a

new review commission.

"If you put it on a referendum, you're almost voting to kill it," he said.

Burchardt and Burbank agreed.

"A lot of people got a lot of hours into this," said Burbank. "I know there's literally hundreds of hours that were spent by committee members going through word by word to make the best document possible."

But Haverl felt it was "important enough for the town to do it alone."

Selectman Jay Linddy's thoughts altered after learning about the requirement to have the charter published within 30 days.

"At the start of this, like three weeks ago – there's no question – putting this on a vote by itself is a kiss of death," he said, adding he had still thought having it during the general election was best even though some committee members wanted a special election.

"But now . . . putting it out in 30 days, they're going to forget about it [by November]" he said, later adding "the committee members wanted it bad. I was still with November until [O'Brien] said '30 days.'"

And when Haverl's motion to set up a separate date to vote on the charter came forward, it was Linddy's vote that made the difference.

Burbank and Burchardt voted no, while Haverl and Desrosiers were for the separate date. After a slight hesitation, Linddy also voted in favor, passing the motion 3 to 2.

East Hampton Senior Center Project Delayed Again

by Joshua Anusewicz

Facilities Manager Frank Grzyb announced at last Tuesday's Town Council meeting that the project to build an addition at the East Hampton Senior Center has seen yet another setback.

According to Grzyb, "hazardous materials" found in the foundation of the building and the recent storms have pushed the expected completion date back to Dec. 12, a date that Grzyb said they "will probably miss."

Grzyb said last week that he "wants the project done before Christmas."

The project is being funded by a state Community Block Development Grant that was awarded in October 2009 for \$750,000. According to Senior Services Coordinator Jo Ann Ewing, in June, the project did not begin until this summer because of issues with the contractor and architect originally slated to handle the project. The project is now being handled by ME Design of Cheshire and CLA Engineers

of Norwich.

The addition will be a 1,500-square-foot "multi-purpose room" that will provide more room for activities for the seniors, bringing the total size of the building up to about 3,500 square feet. The center provides services to roughly 50-75 seniors a day.

The project also includes renovations to the existing facility, with a larger kitchen, medical and exercise area and handicapped bathroom. There will also be wider hallways and a receptionist's desk at the entrance. Additional parking has also been made available next door through a separate project done through a Brownfields Grant, bringing 15 more parking spaces.

Currently, senior services are being held at the Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St. The church has accommodated many of the popular activities from the senior center, and is handicapped-accessible.

East Hampton Police News

11/18: Christopher Sarahina, 24, of 37 Old Middletown Ave., was arrested for failure to respond, East Hampton Police said.

11/20: Joseph Epstein, 22, of 33 Bacon Ave., Middletown, was arrested for DUI, possession of marijuana, failure to drive right and failure to display a front plate, police said.

11/22: A 17-year-old juvenile, of Wethersfield, was arrested for third-degree larceny, six counts of third-degree burglary and six counts of sixth-degree larceny, police said.

Portland Police News

11/23: David Smith, 21, of 7 Freestone Ave., was charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, Portland Police said.

Andover Police News

11/21: State Police are investigating a break-in on Gilead Road. An unknown suspect forcibly entered the residence but was interrupted when the homeowner came home. Nothing was taken, police said. The suspect fled on foot and was unable to be found during a K-9 search, police added. Anyone with information is asked to call Troop K in Colchester at 860-537-7500.

Marlborough Police News

11/20: Kristopher P. Kahle, 28, of 37 Davidson Rd., Colchester, was charged with failure to operate in the established travel lane, evading responsibility and reckless driving, State Police said.

11/28: Matthew J. Miller, 22, of 181 Larch Rd., Sunbury, PA, was charged with DUI and speeding, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

11/19: Joseph Sellier, 23, of 5 Park Rd., Marlborough, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

11/20: Police are investigating the theft of a purse out of the victims car on Harbor Rd. Anyone with information is asked to contact Officer Jonathan Goss at 860-537-7555 ext. 4083.

11/23: William Stanley, 26, whose address was listed as unknown, was charged with second-degree assault and breach of peace, State Police said.

11/23: Kristopher West, 27, of 6 Overlook Rd., Gales Ferry, was charged with DUI and improper parking, State Police said.

11/23: Daniel J. Fitzgerald, 52, of 243 Bulkeley Hill Rd., was charged with DUI, failure to maintain lane, having no insurance, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, having no license and having no front plate, State Police said.

11/25: Mark Olszewski, 49, of 570 Boswell Ave., Norwich, was charged with risk of injury to a child and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

11/26: Sharon E. Gosselin, 20, of 102

Hebron Police News

11/20: Police are investigating the break-in of a shed where several items were stolen on Old Daniels Lane, between 2 p.m. on Nov. 19 and noon on Nov. 20. Anyone that may have witnessed any suspicious activity or may have information is asked to contact Hebron Resident State Trooper James Nolting.

11/23: Michael McCarthy, 31, of 616 Norwich Ave., Colchester, was charged with first-degree criminal trespass and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

11/28: Angela Lomnicki, 23, of 626 Gilead St., was charged with first- and second-degree failure to appear and violation of probation, State Police said.

Obituaries

Colchester

Stanley Holt Woods

Stanley Holt Woods, 94, of Colchester, son of the late Leon Holt Woods and the late Eva Brock Woods, passed away Monday, Nov. 28, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown.

He was born in Hartford Oct. 2, 1917, and was a graduate of New Britain High School in New Britain. After attending Dartmouth College, Class of 1938, he decided to follow his love of music. He formed a band and began traveling the nightclub circuit. After several years, he started working days at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford – Small Tools Division – and playing nights and weekends in his band “Stan Woods and His Islanders.” In 1941, he served briefly in the U.S. Army Air Corps and then from 1944 to 1946 in Jeep Shows, U.S. Army Special Services Division, entertaining troops on the front lines. After the war, he returned to Pratt & Whitney, leaving there in 1947 to become an owner/operator with Middle Atlantic Transportation Co. in New Britain, where he worked for the next 22 years.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Elizabeth; his daughter, Sandra Rudin, and her partner, Laurence Rudin of Woodstock; his son, Gordon, and his wife, Diane, of Smithfield, ME; his son, Ronald and his wife, June of Aptos, CA; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Stan was an avid reader most of his life. In addition to music, he loved his family and friends, animals, especially his dog, “Misty,” of 14 years, and traveling around the country in his RV.

Services with burial in Oxbow Cemetery, Newbury, VT, will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111.

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

Colchester

Francis E. Niland

Francis E. Niland, “Fran,” 72, of Colchester, beloved husband of Joanne K. Niland, passed away peacefully Thursday, Nov. 24, after a lengthy illness. Born in Meriden on June 4, 1939, he was a son of the late James and Yvonne Niland.

He married his wife of 50 years on Sept. 30, 1961. Fran was a proud veteran of the US Army, having served during the Korean War. Fran always lived life to the fullest. You could always count on him to put a smile on your face with his quick-witted, fun-loving attitude. He had an avid love for antique and collectible cars.

Most importantly, Fran, known by his grandchildren as “Pop,” devoted his life to his family and especially to his grandchildren, who wouldn’t be who they are without his love and guidance.

In addition to his beloved wife Joanne, he is survived by three children, Scott Niland of Colchester, Kelly Niland of Meriden and Colleen Niland and her long-time companion, Jeffrey Stanley of Southington; six grandchildren, Jessica, Kyle, Sean and Cassidy Niland and Ryan and Kristi Hoar; and one great-grandchild, expected in January, Oliviana.

Fran was the youngest of five boys. He leaves behind Robert Niland of Maine, Richard Niland of Meriden and Jerry Niland of Pennsylvania.

He leaves us to join his best friend, Joseph Murphy, with whom he worked beside for many years.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Church, 22 Goodwill Ave., Meriden, CT 06451. Burial will be private.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Colchester

John M. Sullivan

John M. Sullivan, “Jack,” 61, of Lebanon, Colchester and formerly of Waterbury, passed away early Monday morning, Nov. 28, in Colchester, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born Dec. 10, 1949, he was a son of Margaret (Tenney) Sullivan of Colchester and the late John Sullivan. Jack was raised in Waterbury and attended school there.

He was retired after having worked in security for Lebanon Pines. Jack loved spending time at the ocean and fishing. He was an avid Red Sox and Patriots fan. Most importantly, he will be remembered for his kind manner.

In addition to his mother, survivors include two brothers, Bruce Sullivan of Greenwich, Francis Sullivan of South Windsor; two sisters, Mary Sullivan of New Haven, Liz Winkelmann of Moodus; several nephews, a niece and numerous friends.

A memorial mass will be celebrated today, Dec. 2, at 11 a.m., at St. Bridget’s Church, 75 Moodus-Leesville Rd., Moodus, CT. Burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Golden Heart Fund at St. Bridget’s Church, P.O. Box 422, Moodus, CT 06469.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Walter Anderson Jr.

Walter Anderson Jr., 89, of Saginaw, MI, formerly of East Hampton, husband of the late Doris (Harrington) Anderson died Wednesday, Nov. 23, at the Brian’s House hospice facility in Michigan.

Born Dec. 19, 1921, in Killingly, he was the son of the late Annie (Elliott) Anderson and Walter Anderson. He lived most of his life in Danielson, moving to East Hampton in 1969 until retiring to Cape Coral, FL.

Walter served in the United States Navy and worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft as a manufacturing engineer process planner for 27 years, retiring in 1983. In his spare time, he enjoyed camping, golfing and tennis.

He is survived by his son, Walter Anderson III and his wife Dianne of Alpharetta, GA; and his two daughters, Elizabeth Owen and her husband, Ron of Auburn, MI, and Sandra Ross and her husband, Jonathan of Colchester; five grandchildren, Erik Anderson and his wife Sarah, Kyle Anderson, Theodore Troncosco, Jocelyn Anastasiou and her husband, Fotios and Jonathan Ross Jr.; and one great-granddaughter, Alexis Anderson. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was predeceased by his two sisters, Edna (Anderson) Ferreira and Doris (Anderson) Knapp.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. with a funeral service following at 1:30 p.m. at the Tillinghast Funeral Home, 433 Main St., Danielson. Burial will be in Westfield Cemetery, Danielson, with full military honors.

The family requests in lieu of flowers a donation to: Hospice at Brian’s House, 3140 W. Campus Dr., Bay City, MI 48706.



Colchester

Elinor B. Ward

Elinor B Ward, 86, of Hamilton Avenue, formerly of Ford Avenue, died Friday, Nov. 25, at the Harrington Court Healthcare Center in Colchester. She was born in Norwich Feb. 6, 1925, daughter of the late William and Catherine (Keenan) Burns.

Mrs. Ward graduated from Norwich Free Academy, Class of 1943 and from Bryant College in 1944. On Nov. 17, 1951, she was united in marriage to Thomas Ward at St. Patrick’s Church in Norwich. Mr. Ward survives his beloved wife of 60 years. Elinor worked as a secretary for the Norwich Public Schools for 25 years and later worked for the Chelsea Groton Savings Bank. She was a member of the Norwich Lioness Club and the Red Hat Society.

Mrs. Ward was an active participant of the Reach for Recovery agency helping people healing from cancer. Elinor with her husband Tom are past presidents of the Couples Club at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Norwich where she was also a communicant. She also worked as a checker at elections at the Norwich polling locations.

In addition to her husband, Tom, Elinor is survived by a son and his wife, Daniel and Nicole Ward of Pittsfield, NH; a daughter and her husband, Maureen and Michael Kirby of Norwich; five grandchildren, Sarah Ward, Dylan Ward, Jenna Ward, Casey Ward and Colin Kirby.

She is predeceased by a sister, Beth Ann Lamphere.

The funeral assembled Monday, Nov. 28, at 10 a.m., at the Cummings-Gagne Funeral Home in Norwich and proceeded to a Mass of Christian Burial at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Norwich. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery in Norwich. Calling hours were at the funeral home Sunday, Nov. 27.

Condolences may be shared with the family and an online obituary is available at cumplings-gagnefh.com.

East Hampton

Patricia Ann McKinney

Patricia Ann McKinney, 69, of East Hampton, died Tuesday, Nov. 29, at Middlesex Hospital. Born May 2, 1942, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Harry W. and Mary (Spencer) McKinney.

Patricia was a graduate of East Hampton High School and had lived most of her life in East Hampton. She had retired from United Health Care where she had worked as an office administrator.

She is survived by her son, Paul Ulm of East Hampton; a daughter, Paula-Ann Ulm of East Hampton; two brothers, Jim McKinney and his wife Betty of East Hampton, Stephen McKinney of East Hampton; a sister-in-law, Roberta McKinney of Stafford Springs; a grandson, Alexander Ulm; and many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her brother, Harry McKinney.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, at 11 a.m., in Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with Rev. Randall Balmer officiating. Burial will follow in Tylerville Cemetery in Haddam. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home today, Dec. 2, from 5-8 p.m., and again on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center, c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.