

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 35, Number 50

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

March 18, 2011



The trees have been tapped, the sap boiled and the syrup was ready for tasting this weekend at the 21st annual Hebron Maple Fest. Above are just a few of the bottles of maple syrup that were for sale Saturday.

How Sweet it is To be Stuck on You

by Courtney Parent

Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory, a candy-lover's paradise, gave access to just five children who were lucky enough to find a "golden ticket" inside a chocolate bar.

Last weekend, Hebron saw its own "oompa loompas," as residents were offered an alternative paradise equipped with sweet, sugary treats at the 21st annual Maple Festival.

Despite cloudy skies and cool temperatures on Sunday, the streets were lined with hundreds of lucky "ticket winners" eager to jumpstart their tastebuds and embrace a true American way of life.

Maple Fest organizer and owner of Winding Brook Sugar House Wayne Palmer said the festival saw a great turnout; there were a few less visitors Sunday than on Saturday, but Palmer said this is "traditional."

"Saturday right from the opening moments until the end of the day there was just a steady flow of people going through town," Palmer said.

Palmer credited the steady flow of festival visitors to cooperating weather. According to Palmer, people will always show up, however, bad weather can mean the difference between a "good" turnout and an "outstanding" turnout.

As in Wonka's Chocolate Factory where the source of creation, or the chocolate waterfall, is the star of the show, the source of the creation of maple syrup takes the spotlight at Maple Fest; the sugar house.

At this year's festival, the participating sugarhouses were: Woody Acres Sugar House

80 Cone Rd.; Wenzel Sugar House, at 522 East St.; Pierce Sugar House, at 325 West Main St.; and Winding Brook Sugar House.

Winding Brook Sugar House was the only one of the four participating sugarhouses that did not operate from its home location, which is at 254 Skinner Ln. Instead, as in years past, Palmer was nestled in the center of town, giving presentations on how to make maple syrup right from your own back yard.

"We give very simple, basic evaporation techniques using propane gas and a turkey fryer-type burner," Palmer said. "We also set up trees so kids, well, kids and adults can tap them."

Each of the remaining sugar houses were open to the public, giving demonstrations on how sap is collected and the boiling process which turns the slightly sweet, extremely sticky sap into scrumptious, still sticky, maple syrup.

Despite a long, snowy winter Palmer described this year's syrup production at the Winding Brook Sugar House as "just a tick below average."

Due to the heaps of snow that were dumped on the state this year, Palmer was forced to take a new approach, moving away from the 1,000 metal buckets he had hung in previous years and instead working off a high-vacuum tube line.

"This season because of the heavy snow pack we are working off a tube line," Palmer said. "It would've been impossible to get into the woods to the buckets because of the deep snow."

See Maple Fest Page 2

Reimondo Under Fire After E-Mail Forwards Surface

by Joshua Anusewicz

East Hampton Police Chief Matt Reimondo is in hot water over a series of potentially offensive e-mails sent from his work computer.

Reimondo's forwarded e-mails drew a written reprimand last week from interim Town Manager Bob Drewry.

According to Drewry, last Monday morning, March 7, he found a packet that had been dropped off, apparently over the weekend, at his Town Hall office. The anonymous packet contained four e-mails total, which appear to be part of a chain received by Reimondo in March 2010. The e-mails included a picture of the rapper Coolio with the caption, "Take a look at the 30-pointer my neighbor shot that he caught running across his backyard." The term "30-pointer" was a reference to a deer's antlers. The e-mails also featured a picture of President Barack Obama as a witch doctor, with the caption "Obama Care." Two of the e-mails were sent to other town employees.

Reimondo had apparently received the forwards at his home e-mail address, and then forwarded them to his office e-mail before sending them to the other town staff. The forwards did not include any written comments by

Reimondo.

"I apologize for my lapse in judgment regarding the e-mails in questions," Reimondo said in a written statement. "This has been a learning experience and one that will not be repeated. My focus is on the public safety needs of the people in East Hampton."

Drewry met with Reimondo on March 8 and issued Reimondo the reprimand. Drewry stated that this is a "personnel issue [and] that's where I'm going to leave it."

But at least one East Hampton resident doesn't plan to leave it there.

These e-mails were presented to the Town Council by resident Pete Brown, a former Town Council member as well as a former East Hampton police officer, at the council's March 8 meeting. Brown, who is black, expressed his anger over the e-mails as he read a prepared statement to the council.

"As the world, the nation and our individual communities embrace diversity as a societal norm, it is evident that some of our department heads do not understand this very basic concept," Brown said. "These e-mails violate town, state and federal requirements for diversity and equality in the workplace. The council should

do nothing less than demand an independent investigation of this matter."

The council originally moved to discuss the e-mails with Reimondo at an executive session on March 15. But according to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, the council was advised by town labor attorney Sheldon Myers to include the discussion at its next meeting, which will be held Tuesday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall, 20 East High St.

Engel admitted to being both surprised and disappointed by the chief's e-mails.

"They are inappropriate at best," Engel said. She also said it will likely be better that the meeting is public, because some residents will want to share their opinions.

Brown has also filed a formal complaint with the Connecticut chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which will launch an official investigation into the matter. Chapter President Scot X. Esdaile says he is concerned with what he has learned and doesn't believe a reprimand is enough.

"We had a man relegate African-Americans to animals," Esdaile said. "That is not to be tol-

See Reimondo Page 2



East Hampton Police Chief Matt Reimondo, shown here in a file photo, came under heat last week after a series of offensive e-mails surfaced.



Area residents enjoyed a sweet, sticky weekend full of maple-flavored treats at the Hebron Maple Fest. Bottles of maple syrup like those shown here were top sellers at the event.

Maple Fest cont. from Front Page

Apart from the attendance numbers, there was one other big difference between a trip to Maple Fest and a trip to Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory: the goodie selection. As one could expect from a "Maple" festival, last weekend was based primarily around maple products. Whether the flavor was dipped, baked, fried, frosted or stirred in, the general consensus was the same: delicious.

Marlborough resident Cyndi Michaels described the enticing maple food selection as a guilty pleasure.

"It definitely isn't diet food by any means," Michaels said, "but it's just too good to pass up. Everybody deserves to cheat once in a while."

Michaels is a Connecticut native, born and raised in Wethersfield. Despite living in Marlborough for the past few years, Michaels noted that it was her first time attending the festival.

"I'd never been before," said Michaels. "It's pretty interesting. There's definitely a lot to see...and eat."

To name just a few of the maple-based treats seen on Main Street last weekend there was maple cotton candy, maple cookies and brownies, maple frosted doughnuts and maple milk. There were even maple ham and cheese sandwiches available at the Hebron Democratic Town Committee booth for those looking for something with a little more substance and a little less sweetness.

As per popular request was the appearance of the Hebron Historical Society's famous "icy maple milk" made by society president Donna McCalla. The "secret recipe" for McCalla's maple milk includes a combination of fresh milk from Mapleleaf Farm, syrup and a few other undisclosed ingredients. McCalla said though the society didn't earn as much money as in years past, the Maple Fest was "our best ever."

McCalla based the festival's success upon a wide variety of new events and entertainment, including a Revolutionary War re-encampment by the Lebanon Militia and the Third Connecticut Regiment, free ice cream samples from The Farmer's Cow and the presence of two local youth bands, Area of Refuge and Dino and the No-Names, which McCalla said have amazing diversity and are composed of kids just 11 to 14 years old.

"It was totally exciting to be at Maple Fest this year," said McCalla. "It was like a breath of fresh air to have totally new and totally different events. ... We believe that bringing these new events is what keeps Maple Fest alive, exciting and kicking it."

The two bands performed on a make-shift stage next to the Farmer's Cow and the Veterans of Foreign Wars booths. While "shaking your groove thing" to the music you could enjoy free Farmer's Cow ice cream samples, or line up for some common fair food items, such as fried dough or chili dogs at the VFW booth.

The Farmer's Cow ice cream line, which came out just last summer, includes eight different flavors of ice cream. The flavors include; Hay! Hay! Hay! Vanilla, Cow Barn Chocolate,

Farm Stand Cherry Vanilla, Fields of Mint Chocolate Chip, Black Raspberry Moo Chocolate Chip, Milking Time Cookies and Cream, Heifer Nutter Peanut Butter Cup and Up Early Coffee.

After ingesting what can only be classified as "unimaginable" amounts of sweet, sugary maple products, children could head to the bounce house, at the beginning of Main Street, to release some of their sugar-induced energy. Or they could simply join in with several energetic girl scouts stationed up the road, across the street, doing cartwheels and rushing those who passed by in an attempt to sell their traditional Girl Scout cookies.

Apart from the Main Street crowds, were those flocking to be a part of the Birds of Prey homecoming on Sunday. The return of the exhibit after its one-year hiatus proved to be a success, selling out the first show and filling approximately 80 percent of the available seats at the second show, according to Joel Rosenberg, the executive director of AHM Youth and Family Services, which hosted the program.

"The event here at AHM went incredibly well," said Rosenberg. "We were delighted with the turnout."

AHM also hosted a scavenger hunt and sold birdhouses at a second location in front of the Century 21 building at 27 Main St. Those participating in the scavenger hunt were given balloons with an AHM logo on them, which Rosenberg said were such a hit that "we went through all of our supplies." Those participating in the scavenger hunt were given interesting facts about the town and AHM and were given the opportunity to enter a raffle to win a Grand Prize at the end of the day; a Wii gaming system.

John Soderberg, AHM member and former resident state trooper, built and designed all of the birdhouses for sale. According to Rosenberg, the birdhouses "did very well" also. All of the money raised through the birdhouse sales goes into the AHM Children Trust Fund Endowment said Rosenberg.

Aside from the birdhouses, there were over 150 additional handmade items at the festival: quilts. An abundance of quilts created by local residents were showcased in the Old Town Hall last weekend, along with demonstrations. According to McCalla, quilting demonstrations given by Nathalie Peltier-Horton and Karen Strid were well received by numerous visitors and multiple classes of students.

As was the general consensus, Rosenberg commended the committee for a job well done and their repeat success.

"I think the Maple Fest Committee did a great job there," said Rosenberg, "and does a great job every year."

So to sum up our trip to the chocolate factory, unlimited golden tickets provided residents and visitors with a sweet and possibly sticky tour around town. Now, let's just hope no one snuck the three-course gum and went home as a maple cotton candy with a stick up their tush, ouch!

Reimondo cont. from Front Page

erated. We want to know if East Hampton has a tolerance policy and if there is any sensitivity training available."

Esdaile, who plans to attend the March 22 meeting, went on to say that this was not a "witch hunt," and that the people of East Hampton are owed a comprehensive investigation.

However, some residents believe this is, in fact, a "witch hunt," directly related to last summer's controversy regarding Reimondo and former Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe. O'Keefe eliminated Reimondo's position, which some believe was retaliation for a sexual harassment investigation into O'Keefe. After pressure from town residents, O'Keefe resigned, and Reimondo was later returned to his job, after residents voted to keep his position in the town ordinances.

Town Council member Susan Weintraub believes that certain council members still have a "personal vendetta" against Reimondo, and that this is an "orchestrated political weapon" to get rid of the police chief.

"This is a personnel issue that has nothing

to do with town business," Weintraub said. "We should be worried about the budget, finding a new town manager and improving our quality of life."

Weintraub also said that, at the time the e-mails were sent, there was no town e-mail policy or employee handbook. She also explained that she had attended a Freedom of Information (FOI) hearing in Hebron regarding a town resident requesting e-mails sent from a public official. According to Weintraub, the attorney ruled that personal e-mails did not have to be provided, which raised the question of how the e-mails became publicized.

"That's what is pivotal," Weintraub said. "How were these taken off of his work server?"

Weintraub said she doesn't agree with the e-mails, but commended Reimondo for stepping forward and admitting to his "bad judgment."

"Reimondo has been accountable for his actions," Weintraub said, "and I wish more people [in East Hampton] would step forward and correct their mistakes."

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

The disaster that happened in Japan late last week was just unbelievably awful. The footage of the tsunami raging over the miles of land felt unreal; it was like I was watching a movie, not something that could possibly be happening in real life. And then came word of the number dead. It's so terrible it could almost render you speechless.

Almost.

Comedian Gilbert Gottfried had no problem talking about the disaster – and in fact, even joking about it. Aflac fired him Monday from his gig voicing the insurance company's spokesperson after Gottfried posted a series of super-insensitive jokes about the tsunami to his Twitter. Among the tweets was this line: "I just split up with my girlfriend, but like the Japanese say, 'They'll be another one floating by any minute now.'"

Now, I appreciate dark humor as much as the next guy, but that was way too soon, way too tasteless...and not even particularly funny anyway. It's no shock Aflac – which took off by selling cancer expense policies in Japan, and still collects three-quarters of its revenue from the country – fired him.

While Gottfried was making disgusting jokes, Glenn Beck was making the earthquake and tsunami all about God, who is punishing us humans for our wicked, wicked ways. On his radio show Monday, Beck said the disaster could be a "message" from God.

"I'm not saying God is, you know, causing earthquakes," Beck said, but then quickly added, "I'm not *not* saying that either."

Beck then went on to say, "Whether you call it Gaya, or whether you call it Jesus, there's a message being sent. And that is, 'Hey, you know that stuff we're doing? Not really working out here. Maybe we should stop doing some of it. I'm just saying.'"

Yes, according to Beck, what happened in Japan is punishment from God. Not only is it insulting to Japanese – he's basically saying whatever they did was worthy of God smiting them – but, as a Christian, I find it insulting too. First of all, I don't want Glenn Beck, of all people, speaking for God. And second of all, God doesn't work that way. Most Christians I know believe God doesn't work that way. And yet when you have right-wing dorks (and a right-wing dork with a public talk show is a most dangerous thing indeed) acting like he *does* work that way, well, it paints all Christians in a negative light.

Gilbert Gottfried, by the way, issued a statement Tuesday apologizing to anyone who was offended by what he called "my attempt at

humor." Glenn Beck, meanwhile, has yet to issue any kind of apology for what he said, and I doubt he ever will.

* * *

In a lot of ways, I'm not a very good Catholic. But one way I keep it real is by not eating meat on Fridays during Lent. Since I like fish, it's not a huge deal, but when you can't eat meat, you realize just how much out there does have meat in it. So I've sometimes had to get a little creative with substitutions when I'm out to eat, which isn't always a bad thing.

For example, I love getting a combination meal of General Tso's chicken and pork fried rice when I eat Chinese take-out, but both are Friday no-nos this time of year. So, one time during Lent when I got the hankering for some Chinese, I got the combo meal, only with tofu instead of the chicken, and white rice instead of the pork fried variety. I'm generally not a huge tofu fan, but stir-fried in the General Tso's sauce, it was top-notch. And the lack of grease in the white rice just made for a refreshing change. I enjoyed it so much, in fact, that I often get the General Tso's tofu and white rice combo even when it's not Lent.

I also generally eat a lot of fried fish during this time. In some ways, it's hard not to; restaurants and fast-food joints typically roll out special fried fish deals during Lent. (McDonald's, for example, is offering a Filet-O-Fish and large fries for \$3.33; an awesome deal that I may very well be partaking of at the time you're reading this.) And, as you can see on the pages of the *Rivereast* this week, many churches and organizations in the area hold Friday fish fry events during Lent.

But sometimes you can get a little tired of fried fish, and the folks at Westchester Congregational Church in Colchester seem to know this. I got an interesting release from them this week touting what they called a "Gourmet Lenten Buffet," offering people in the community an alternative to fried fish. The meals do sound pretty inviting: two choices of soup, baked stuffed fish, fettuccine alfredo, brown rice pilaf, roasted vegetables, deviled eggs, green salad, the church's "famous desert cobbler" and beverages.

And as is the case with all of these community Lenten dinners, the price is right: \$10 for adults and \$8 for children, along with one canned food item, which will be donated to the Colchester Food Bank. The meal will take place Friday, April 8, at 5 p.m., at the church. For more information, call 860-267-0480.

* * *

See you next week.

East Hampton Council Members Disagree on Noise Ordinance

by Joshua Anusewicz

Town Council members Susan Weintraub and Thom Cordeiro are pushing for East Hampton to adopt Connecticut's state noise ordinance, but other members are turning down the volume on the idea.

At the March 8 Town Council meeting, Cordeiro and Weintraub presented the council with their recommendation to adopt the state regulation on noise control, which they believe would provide framework for town police officers to work with. It would also provide fines for the police to enforce the ordinance: a written warning for the first offense, \$250 for a second offense and \$400 for a third offense.

"We hope this could provide solace to our residents who have been most affected by noise issues," Cordeiro said.

Adopting a noise ordinance has been a topic of discussion among the council for several years. Most of the outcry for a noise ordinance has been aimed toward Angelico's Lake House Restaurant. Several residents who live close to the restaurant have complained that live outdoor music played during the summer has been a recurring problem. However, restaurant owner Paul Angelico said he believes this is being "enacted almost only for Angelico's" and has sought legal counsel, which could lead to a fed-

eral claim against the town.

Some members of the Town Council agree with Angelico, including Vice Chairman John Tuttle, who said he believes "there's a better way to handle this other than adding legislation." Also, Tuttle added, town police are currently able to issue tickets for public disturbances, including to bands that have been warned to lower their music volume.

According to the state statute, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has the authority to regulate noise pollution. The state encourages towns to adopt the Connecticut noise ordinance as their own; the DEP reviews the proposed noise ordinances and approves them if they conform to the state noise control plan.

The state ordinance also provides for exceptions, which include lawnmowers, construction, sanctioned athletic events and town celebrations, which Cordeiro believes would cover town events like Old Home Days and Panther Fest. But Tuttle was concerned about the exceptions, calling them "endless," and worrying that they wouldn't comply with Angelico's concerns. He also believes the fines are excessive, stating that the current fine for a public disturbance, around \$100, would be more appropriate.

The proposal to accept the state noise ordinance is now being reviewed by Town Attorney Jean D'Aquila, who will advise the council whether to adopt the ordinance or not. The topic will be discussed again at the March 22 Town Council meeting.

* * *

Also at the March 8 meeting, the council voted 6-1, with Weintraub opposed, to allow interim Town Manager Bob Drewry to sign a contract that would finalize the deal to regionalize the East Hampton and East Haddam dog pounds.

The contract will be signed at the March 22 Town Council meeting and will go into effect on April 1. The agreement was reviewed by Town Attorney Jean D'Aquila, who reported no issues, and is currently with the Department of Agriculture for approval.

According to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, the regionalization will be run under a "town-by-town" statute, which will enable East Hampton to not have to pay the head animal control officer collectively, and not have to provide benefits. Engel said this will save the town roughly \$30,000 and will improve service for both towns.

Several residents expressed concern over the

agreement, many feeling the contract is being pushed through too quickly without adequate consideration.

"We talked about the possibility of working with what we had and it was not explored," said resident Carol Weaver, who volunteered her services to keep the East Hampton dog pound running. She also recommended the town could get local students involved, particularly those interested in a career in veterinary technology.

Resident Mary Ann Dostaler also expressed concern over reports that East Haddam First Selectman Mark Walter was hesitant about making the deal official. Engel stated that she had talked to Walter that day and that he was "not in the condition described."

Weintraub also brought up that the current East Haddam animal control officer was turned down when he applied for the East Hampton position, but Engel said that Walter has had no issues with his performance in East Haddam. Weintraub said she felt more discussion on regionalizing the pounds was needed, but other members believe they can't squander an opportunity.

"This is a forward-thinking idea," council member Barbara Moore said. "We can't keep stalling and asking the same questions."

East Hampton Committee Finding Vindicates O'Keefe

by Joshua Anusewicz

An investigation done by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) states that there is insufficient evidence to confirm sexual harassment, gender discrimination and retaliation allegations against former Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe.

The ICMA Committee on Professional Conduct (CPC) reviewed a response from O'Keefe regarding the allegations that his conduct violated the ICMA Code of Ethics at its Feb. 25 meeting. In a letter to O'Keefe from Ethics and Form of Government Program Manager Jared M. Dailey, the CPC voted to close the case after finding that O'Keefe's conduct did not warrant an ethics violation.

The sexual harassment and gender discrimination allegations stem from harassment complaints brought by three female town employ-

ees to the East Hampton Police last summer. According to Dailey, the "complaining witnesses elected not to be interviewed by the investigator hired by the town," which led to the CPC accepting O'Keefe's explanation that he did not engage in inappropriate actions.

The complaints were initially brought to Police Chief Matthew Reimondo, who referred them to the Town Council. O'Keefe then eliminated Reimondo's position. He said the move was done to cut costs, but many felt it was retaliation against Reimondo. O'Keefe resigned as town manager last September, and residents voted in November to keep Reimondo's position in the town ordinances.

According to Dailey's letter, the CPC ruled that O'Keefe "responded to a legitimate financial issue" and "supported [his] decision with

financial data, followed legal advice provided by the town attorney, and had the council's support to proceed."

The website for ICMA describes it as a non-profit organization that develops and advances professional management of local government. Its Code of Ethics is enforced by the CPC, a peer review body, who investigates the filed complaint. The CPC then has the authority to close a case where no violation is deemed to have occurred.

O'Keefe, who now lives in Arizona, said he believes this affirms what he and some town council members felt during the investigation.

"There was no sexual harassment and no retaliation," O'Keefe said via e-mail. "ICMA has a very stringent code of conduct and I would never compromise my livelihood by violating

it. It is time for the good people of East Hampton to realize something is seriously 'wrong' here and to begin to know the truth."

Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel concurred with the results of the investigation, hoping that this would clear O'Keefe's name from the situation.

"I've never thought there was any evidence of wrongdoing on [O'Keefe's] part," Engel said.

Since O'Keefe's resignation, the town manager has been filled on an interim basis by Robert Drewry, who is not interested in filling the position long-term. The Town Council is currently in the process of interviewing five candidates to find a long-term interim town manager. Interviews will conclude this Saturday and the council members hope to have a decision made by May.

Marlborough WPCA Drafted Budget Balloons by 30 Percent

by Katy Nally

Business owners pleaded with the Water Pollution Control Authority at its meeting last Thursday, saying the increase of more than \$150 per EDU was extraordinary.

"At what point do I let you guys know: Don't bother, because we can't pay you," Jim Bradley, co-owner of the Marlborough Tavern, asked WPCA members.

At their meeting last Thursday, March 10, members of the WPCA worked on their 2011-12 operation, maintenance and repair (O&M) budget. Based on figures discussed at the meeting, the charge per EDU is expected to increase from \$375 to somewhere between \$537 and \$559.

(An EDU is an equivalent dwelling unit, and the number of EDUs per non-residential buildings is assessed through the state health code. For example, Sadler's Restaurant is assessed at 16.2 EDUs.)

The estimated EDU charge assumes all 449 EDUs will be hooked up to the sewers at the beginning of the fiscal year. Currently, however, about one-third of the system is not hooked up, Town Planner Peter Hughes said.

The 2011-12 O&M budget uses about \$150,000 of its total \$235,000 credit from the town of East Hampton. Hughes explained about \$15,000 of the credit, which was payback for helping to construct a pump station in East Hampton, has been expended since the agreement began. However, the amount of eligible credit accrued per year depends on the sewer-

age flow from Marlborough.

WPCA member Bill Lardi said the credit was just a temporary fix to a problem that needs a long-term solution.

"That credit is just a Band-Aid," he said. "Two to three years from now that credit is gonna be gone and this is gonna be blown out of the water. ... When [the O&M charge] blows up to \$1,000 a year, they're gonna lynch us. We gotta look down the road."

But despite using the East Hampton credit, the total O&M budget is expected to jump by about 30 percent. Based on figures the WPCA and Hughes discussed last Thursday, the budget totals \$240,974, or about \$72,000 more than the current year.

At the Board of Selectmen meeting Tuesday, WPCA Chairman Jack Murray outlined these costs and the impact it was expected to have on "sewer customers."

"It translates to a rather steep financial burden for our customers at a time when, like everybody else, they can't afford it," Murray said. "I would look for any help we can get [from the town]."

Three factors that contributed to this sharp increase are listed in the budget proposal as "professional services," "odor control" and "joint facilities O&M."

Also, funds were added to the budget this year for a part-time WPCA administrator to replace Hughes, who has devoted a lot of time to helping the board. The position would be

about 10 hours per week at \$20 to \$30 an hour.

Included in the professional services line item are attorney and engineering fees, Hughes said. Overall, it increased from \$12,500 to \$100,000.

In December of last year, seven lawsuits from five residents and two businesses were filed against the WPCA, alleging the benefit assessments were "unreasonable." (In addition to the O&M charge per EDU, each EDU is also charged a yearly benefit assessment of \$603 for 20 years.) Two of the suits, one from Country Barn Properties and the other from NRBZ LLC, name the town of Marlborough as defendants along with the WPCA.

Residents in attendance last Thursday said the WPCA should not fund these legal fees because usually the town operations budget includes a line item for lawsuits.

"It's the only budget in town that passes on indirect costs to a small population of the town," resident Amy Traversa said.

Asking residents within the sewer district to cover the WPCA's legal fees is like having only parents of kids at the elementary school fund the education budget, she added.

Lardi agreed with Traversa.

"The whole town of Marlborough voted on the project," he said Tuesday. "That cost shouldn't be [funded] by just sewer district voters."

Murray told selectmen Tuesday "a portion of the legal costs might be the town's anyways," because it had been named in two of the sewer

suits.

While legal fees increased eightfold, odor control doubled, coming in at \$30,000. However, Hughes said this figure could drop to about \$23,000.

The budget calls for East Hampton staff to dump the chemical bioxide twice a week at three locations around town, to control odor from the sewer; though Murray said the odor would dissipate once the flow rates increase.

Hughes said there might be additional savings, if the part-time administrator is tasked with dumping the bioxide. That would decrease the "joint facilities O&M" line item by about \$14,500, he said.

But WPCA members and residents expressed qualms last Thursday about the WPCA funding this new position, instead of the town. Murray, however, was not optimistic that selectmen would change their minds and agree to fund the part-time administrator.

"They have made their little decision, and we, unfortunately, have to live with it," he said.

First Selectman Bill Black said Tuesday he would "like to free [Hughes] up" to work on other projects like the business park.

The WPCA did not finalize its O&M budget last Thursday, but it could at its next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 14.

Unlike other budgets, the WPCA's does not need to be approved by the Board of Finance, but it will take effect July 1.

Black Proposes \$21.19 Million Overall Marlborough Town Budget

by Courtney Parent and Katy Nally

At a Board of Finance meeting last Wednesday, officials praised an overall town budget that calls for a 1.45 percent increase over the current year – equating a 3.15 percent tax increase.

Last Wednesday, March 9, First Selectman Bill Black presented a \$4.34 million municipal government budget for the 2011-12 year. The spending proposal represents an increase of \$4,564, or 0.11 percent, over the current budget. The Marlborough Board of Education finalized a budget of \$6.97 million, or 0.88 percent more than the 2010-11 year.

“We kept it very, very lean, with the economy in the state it is,” Black said regarding the town operations budget.

According to Black, the main factors that prevented the budget from reaching a zero-percent change were two unfunded mandates. These include expanding unemployment and making changes to health insurance.

Black explained that, per mandates executed by the federal government, unemployment pay-out would be expanded from 26 weeks to 99 weeks. Black said in addition to funding the initial 26 weeks, the town is now required to fund 50 percent of the final 20 weeks of unemployment.

The second mandate included changes to family health care plans, which gives children up to age 26 the opportunity to remain on their parent’s health insurance plan, rather than getting kicked off at age 21 as previously indicated.

Another unavoidable factor impacting the budget was the town’s snow removal costs, which Black said was \$212,000 over budget for materials (sand and ice melt) this year.

Under the current budget, the contingency line item is just half what it has been in previous years, which proved to be insufficient.

“Contingency is currently \$20,000,” said Black. “Typically we run at \$40,000, so that’s what we’re proposing.”

At a February meeting, Black said \$20,000

had not been nearly enough in terms of making up for going over budget for snow removal.

At Wednesday’s meeting, Black also addressed a \$118,000 increase for capital projects. According to Black, a full revaluation is required every 10 years, and a partial revaluation is required every five years. The town had a one-year extension for its scheduled full revaluation, which is now underway. This is funded at \$40,000 per year for the next five years.

Another major project includes fixing a leaking roof on the Public Works garage. Black estimated the cost of installing the new roof was approximately \$63,000. He added that the price of roofing asphalt is rising each week.

An additional \$15,000 of capital in the proposed budget represents the outfitting of a replacement fire truck. The funds would be used to rebuild a 1997 Public Works landscape truck for replacement. This would allow the fire department to retire its 1962 Forestry Fire Fighter vehicle.

Another issue addressed by Black was a \$1.6 million bond authorization request for road reconstruction. The roads mentioned in the reconstruction include Roberts Road, North Main Street, Gina Lane, Sandy Lane, Ridgewood Drive and Hunter Ridge Road. A few additional roads that are in need of drainage and major repairs are South Main Street, Park Road, Lafayette Road, Blackledge Road, Williamsburg Road and Parker Road. Black showed images of multiple roads containing large cracks, potholes and frost heaves to emphasize the need.

Another bonding resolution Black mentioned was an additional \$400,000 needed to replace three Public Works vehicles: a 1991 dump truck, a 1996 dump truck and a 1997 landscape truck. All of the vehicles are used for snowplow removal efforts and replacement has been deferred for multiple years.

Board members commended Black for his near-zero percent town operations proposal. Board of Finance Vice Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout said that, at first look, Black had done a “phenomenal job” keeping the budget so low. Fellow finance board member Beth Petroni complimented Black for a job well done.

“I want to echo Evelyn’s comments,” Petroni said. “This is a really great budget. And thanks to everybody for all their hard work.”

Also included in the town budget presentation last week was the Board of Education’s \$6.97 million spending package for the 2011-12 fiscal year. The RHAM budget has yet to be finalized.

Originally, Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz proposed three separate budgets, all of which included staff cuts. However, with recent concessions from teachers and administrators that totaled about \$85,000, as well as about \$100,000 from the education jobs bill, the board was able to retain all staff and fund items that were frozen, reduced or eliminated in the 2010-11 budget.

Before concessions were taken into account, Sklarz proposed cutting the Spanish program at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary, as well as a custodian, 2 FTE of paraprofessionals and 0.4 of a school psychologist. But, at the March 3 meeting, all four of these eliminations were reinstated in the budget.

Also, to address projected class size for the fourth grade, a fourth-grade teacher position was funded. Now, instead of the projected 23-24 students per class, there will be 18 children per class, Sklarz said.

Board of Education member Karen McKinney said she was happy the budget subcommittee was able to reduce class size for the fourth grade.

A sixth-grade teacher position was also cre-

ated in the 2011-12 budget, but it was funded through attrition, as a second-grade teacher plans to retire at the end of the year.

Funding for items like library books and memberships to professional committees, which were cut during budget discussions last year, was reinstated. Sklarz included \$23,310 for textbooks, \$5,501 for library books and about \$8,000 to rejoin the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents.

A substantial number of the items in the 2011-12 budget were funded through concessions and the education jobs bill, and Sklarz cautioned the board these are “one-time funds.”

Board member John O’Toole agreed.

If the board runs into an unforeseen issue, “this board would probably have to visit with the selectmen and Board of Finance,” he said.

“This is a very lean budget,” O’Toole added.

The total proposed 2011-12 budget would equal \$21.19 million, at an overall increase of \$302,467, or 1.45 percent. This includes a \$4.08 million, or 6.58 percent, decrease to revenues.

Other revenue decreases include a \$38,099, or 15.37 percent, decrease in local revenue, a \$12,147, or 2.37 percent, drop in general state revenue, and a \$7,914, or 0.47 percent, decrease in state education revenue.

While the percentage increase for the total proposed 2011-12 budget may not sound like anything that extreme, Black said the most important figure to note is the tax increase.

“The bottom line is if we were to adopt this budget, it would raise our taxes 3.15 percent,” Black said. “That’s a .84 mill increase.”

The next Board of Finance meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22, at 7 p.m. in the Library Media Center at Marlborough Elementary School.

Colchester School Board Agrees to DCF Partnership

by Katy Nally

With one dissenting vote, the Board of Education agreed to partner with the state Department of Children and Families and create a satellite office for the organization in Colchester Elementary School.

DCF program supervisor David Silva presented to the board at its March 8 meeting, outlining how the partnership would work. According to Silva, a social worker/investigator would be an “in-house” resource for school staff to help them with DCF-related issues. Essentially, he said, the representative would be an “on-site conduit” between the school district and DCF.

He said DCF received 125 reports of abuse/neglect in Colchester last year, which totaled 338 allegations with 46 substantiated victims. (A victim is substantiated after DCF gathers information that would lead a reasonable person to believe the victim suffered abuse or neglect.)

In addition to helping out with DCF issues, Silva said the social worker/investigator would also conduct mandated reporter trainings for the area and attend pertinent board and committee meetings. Silva explained this week teachers and staff are state-mandated to report any sus-

picious of neglect and abuse under certain guidelines and timelines, which change every few years. The DCF representative would educate staff on how to report such suspicions.

Colchester Elementary School Principal Jacqueline Somberg said she was on board with the proposed partnership.

“The benefits we could get for these kids are huge,” she said. “If you know someone, that resource in the community, you can get results so much easier.”

Housing the social worker/investigator at the elementary school would come at no cost to the town, as CES already pays to heat and cool the room the DCF representative would use. There is also already an existing phone line and DCF will provide its own computer and IT support.

Brad Bernier, who was the only board member to vote against the partnership, said he didn’t want a DCF representative inside the school.

“I appreciate the resources of DCF and if we can have someone dedicated to DCF, it’s phenomenal,” Bernier said at the meeting. “I just have some reservations about it being in the school system.”

However, Silva and Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein both said having the representative in the school was an important aspect of the partnership.

“It matters to be in the building too, not Town Hall,” Goldstein said.

“I do think contact with teachers and being in-meshed in the school is a great benefit to the school,” Silva said this week. “If you’re working with a team, you get to learn from, and benefit from the team and their expertise.”

Board of Education Vice Chairman Don Kennedy agreed.

“Once a child leaves the school at the end of the day, [school staff] can’t follow him to see what’s happening to him; if he’s getting fed [etc.],” Kennedy said. “[DCF] can.”

Colchester would join three other DCF partnerships in New London County: Groton Police Department, Waterford Police Department and the Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School in New London.

Silva said two more partnerships – with the Stonington Police Department and another New London school – are pending.

So far, Silva said he’s received “very high

praise” from staff at the Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School regarding the program.

“It’s been a very good partnership,” he said.

In an e-mail to Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle, Kathryn Patterson, an early childhood specialist from New London public schools, said the DCF representative at her middle school has been “a good match for our needs.”

“He cuts through channels for us at DCF and facilitates communication in many ways,” Patterson wrote. “He makes an effort to not be strictly viewed as an investigator but rather as a team member.”

The partnership was approved March 8 to begin during the 2011-12 school year. Goldstein said there isn’t an official “move-in” date for the social worker/investigator, because DCF still needs to develop an implementation plan. He said the program would start with introductions to the community, beginning no later than July 1.

The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, at 7 p.m., in the William J. Johnston Middle School chorus room.

Teen Arrested After Shooting Mailbox

A 19-year-old was arrested March 5 after shooting a mailbox, Colchester Police said.

Jordon Ford, of 462 Westchester Rd., was reportedly in the backseat of a vehicle when he shot a mailbox at a residence on Route 149. The homeowner witnessed the incident, police said, and followed Ford to a gas station on Middletown Road.

Ford was later arrested at the gas station and charged with having a weapon in a motor vehicle and breach of peace, police said.

Marlborough Police News

3/5: Three juveniles were arrested after they allegedly entered vacant cottages along Lake Terramuggus and smashed windows and personal property, State Police said. Damages exceeded \$1,500. The three were charged with first-degree criminal mischief and second-degree criminal trespassing, police said.

3/9: A 15-year-old female was charged with sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

3/10: Rachel Meneses, 24, of 32 Brookfield Dr., Glastonbury, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

3/4: Yvan Soucy, 52, of 755 Middletown Rd., turned himself in for violation of probation, State Police said.

3/5: Colchester Police are investigating vandalism on Stanavage Road. The street and mailboxes were spray painted, police said. Anyone with more information is asked to contact the Colchester Police Department at 860-537-7270.

3/5: Richard Bolles, 53, of 444 Parum Rd., and Monica Swyden-Bolles, 37, of 706 Field Stone Ct., were involved in a verbal argument and a “minor physical altercation” in front of their 9-year-old child at the Parum Road residence, State Police said. No injuries were reported from either party. Bolles was charged with risk of injury to a minor, disorderly conduct and criminal violation of a protective order, and Swyden-Bolles was charged with risk of injury to a minor and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

3/5: Demetria Jacobs, 30, of 192 Enfield St., Hartford was charged with operation of a motor vehicle when license is suspended, DUI, failure to drive in proper lane and possession of a controlled substance, State Police said.

3/7: Jared Michael Skut, 21, of 176 Haywardville Rd., was charged with evading: physical injury/property damage and making a restricted turn, State Police said.

3/8: A juvenile was charged with having a “folding knife” on school grounds, Colchester Police said.

3/8: Brendon Fitzgerald, 29, of 49 White Plains Rd., Norwich, was charged with sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

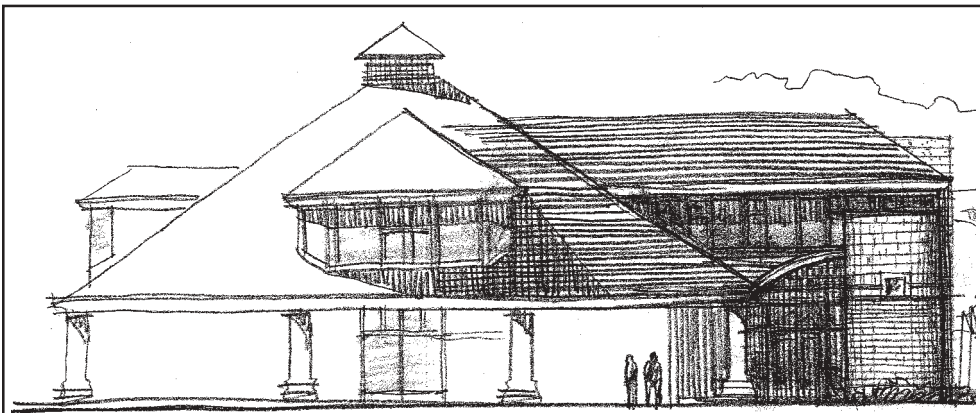
3/9: Danielle Holly Caiafa, 29, of 300 Lebanon Ave., 32, was charged with failure to appear, State Police said.

3/11: Gregory Wasik, 32, of 157 Doyle Rd., Oakdale, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

3/11: Colchester Police are investigating a residential burglary that occurred on Hi-Lea Farm Road. Entry was made through a broken window.

3/12: Charles Price, 52, of 303 Lebanon Ave., and a 16-year-old female, were both charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, Colchester Police said.

Colchester Police News



Pictured at the top is one proposal for the renovation of Richmond Memorial Library, compared to the current building. The renovation would make the library handicapped-accessible; however, architectural plans have not been finalized. Selectmen voted to apply for a Small Cities grant Tuesday to fund proposed ADA changes.

Residents in Favor of Marlborough Library Renovation

by Katy Nally

After hearing only supportive statements from residents at a public hearing Tuesday, selectmen unanimously voted to apply for a grant to make the library handicapped accessible.

The grant, called Small Cities, is part of the Community Development Block Grant program. First Selectmen Bill Black said the town would apply for the maximum of \$750,000 to make Richmond Memorial Library compliant with American Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

ADA changes would include a handicapped-accessible elevator and staircase on the right side of the building, handicapped-accessible restrooms on the second floor, widened doorways, staff kitchen and workstations and a second egress with a ramp on the Main Street side.

Twenty-three people, including five from the Library Board, attended the public hearing, which was held before the selectmen's meeting. Ten public comments were made and four letters were read aloud – all of which supported the proposed ADA renovations.

The letters of support are an important part of the grant process, Black said Tuesday, as they will be included in the application to verify that the public is on board with the renovation. He urged everyone to write in letters to the Board of Selectmen, at 26 North Main St., PO Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447.

The grant application is due the beginning of June, which town officials have said is a tight schedule for municipal staff and application administrator Larry Wagner. Just about two weeks ago, selectmen awarded a \$37,000 bid from Capital Studio Architects to create engineering and design specs.

One preliminary design presented at the hearing showed a structure similar to a silo on the

south side of the library that would house the elevator and staircase. Library Director Nancy Wood stressed this was just one idea proposed and nothing has been finalized yet.

After the town submits its application, Wagner said the state usually announces its grant recipients the following October. In past years, between \$13 and \$14 million have come to Connecticut for Small Cities grants. Usually, Wagner said, applications are awarded the full amount requested.

While the Small Cities grant would cover ADA changes, Library Director Nancy Wood said other funds would be needed to completely renovate the second floor. Plans could possibly include constructing dormers, sheetrocking the walls, finishing the floors above the entry way and expanding the meeting room. Then of course there's "FF and E," or, furnishing, fixtures and equipment, which would include things like carpeting, lighting, computers and furniture, Wood said.

Because designs for the entire second-floor renovation haven't been completed, Wood said she didn't know "an overall price tag."

Four years ago, almost to date, Marlborough voters turned down a \$5.1 million price tag on a different library expansion proposal. On March 20, 2007, more than 1,200 residents came out to vote on the proposal, which called for \$500,000 to come from a library construction grant, another \$600,000 in fundraising and about \$4 million to be absorbed by the town.

The proposal was shot down 798 to 469, mostly because residents didn't want to add to their debt load anymore.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, at 7 p.m. in Town Hall.

East Hampton Grand List Shows Decline

by Joshua Anusewicz

The East Hampton Assessors' Office has released the town's Grand List for the year ending Oct. 1, 2010, showing a 2.20 percent decrease from the previous year.

The list shows the total value of taxable properties in East Hampton is at \$1.12 billion, a decrease of \$26.55 million from the 2009 list.

The largest decrease was seen in real estate, which dropped to \$1.005 billion, a 2.63 percent decrease from last year. The Grand List also showed 0.35 percent decrease in personal property, down to \$24.23 million. Motor vehicles increased by 0.75 percent from last year, up to \$92.85 million.

According to Town Assessor Carol Ann Tyler, property values haven't gone down as much as other towns in the area. She said this was a plus considering the state of the market – which she also cited as the cause for the decrease.

"It's all derived from the market," Tyler said. "The economy is saturated with houses for sale and interest rates are so low. People are getting much less than what they paid for their houses."

The Grand List represents the net value of assessed property in town, and is used to help set the mill rate for the upcoming fiscal year. The rate is determined by dividing the town's budget by the Grand List total. Residents can calculate their taxes by multiplying their total assessments by the mill rate. Currently, the mill rate in East Hampton is at 24.98, Tyler said. (A mill is \$1 tax per \$1,000 of assessed property value. So, for example, a person with a house assessed at \$200,000 pays \$4,996 in taxes on it.) These taxes are used by the town to cover expenses in their budget.

According to Finance Director Jeff Jylkka, decreases in the property values on the Grand List don't necessarily mean people have to pay

more taxes. He says that when the Grand List goes down, the mill rate resets and the amount of taxes you have to pay generally stays the same.

Jylkka also said that another reason the Grand List went down is that East Hampton had their first property revaluation since 2005, which decreased the 2009 Grand List by 3.15 percent. The revaluation, which was done throughout 2010, is done to ensure uniformity in property values by eliminating inequities that may have developed since the last revaluation, according to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

"Typically, we don't see it go down in a normal year," Jylkka said. "We did see more of a decrease because of the revaluation, but it's something we had to do." This decrease will be offset by new Grand List growth of about 1 percent, which will generate about \$280,000 in new tax revenues.

Jylkka said the Town Council will be proposing a 0.85 percent tax increase to cover expenses in 2011-12, which means there will be a 0.22 increase in the mill rate. Town Council Chair Melissa Engel expects the budget to be tight.

"If we bring in less money, we have to make up for that somehow to live how we've lived in the last 12 months," Engel said. "We expect to see much more prudent budgets."

The top 10 combined taxpayers in the town are: Connecticut Light & Power at \$13.25 million, Landmark East Hampton at \$8.00 million, Skyline Estates at \$3.70 million, Easthampton NE Development at \$3.31 million, American Distillers at \$2.73 million, Rehovos Corporation at \$2.47 million, East High Street Realty at \$2.35 million, Paul's and Sandy's Too at \$2.07 million, Global Self Storage at \$1.98 million, and Z Inc. at \$1.76 million.

Man Charged with 2005 Manslaughter Accepts Plea Deal

by Joshua Anusewicz

A man charged with manslaughter in the 2005 death of an East Hampton man has accepted a plea deal, according to court documents.

His deal will allow him to avoid trial.

Edgar Canterbury, 42, pleaded guilty at Middlesex Superior Court to first-degree manslaughter and tampering with physical evidence, last Thursday, March 10. According to East Hampton Police Sgt. Garritt Kelly, Canterbury has accepted a deal that will sentence him to a minimum of 17 years and a maximum of 20 years. His bail is currently set at \$1 million.

Canterbury was arrested in Arizona in October of 2008 for the murder of Louis D'Antonio, 38, whose body was found at a campsite in East Hampton in August of 2005.

Canterbury entered his guilty plea under the Alford Doctrine, in which the defendant does not admit the act, but recognizes that sufficient evidence exists for the prosecution

to find him guilty.

Another man, David Hill, 27, was also charged with first-degree manslaughter and tampering with physical evidence in connection with D'Antonio's death. After a jury trial last June, Hill was found guilty of these charges and sentenced to 35 years in prison, Kelly said.

According to interviews between East Hampton Police and Hill, he and Canterbury fatally beat D'Antonio with a piece of steel rebar, fled the scene, and buried the rebar in the woods.

Friends of D'Antonio found his skeletal remains in September of 2005. According to court documents, a co-worker of D'Antonio told East Hampton Police that Canterbury and D'Antonio had fought during a fishing trip earlier in the summer, and that Canterbury wanted to kill D'Antonio.

Canterbury is scheduled to be sentenced on May 24, according to Kelly.

Hebron Police News

3/3: Sometime between March 2 at 5 p.m. and March 3 at 8:30 a.m. someone broke into J&B Farm Supply on West Main Street, State Police said. Anyone with more information is asked to contact the Hebron Resident State Trooper's office at 860-228-3710.

3/10: Sometime on March 10 between 12:30 and 1:50 p.m. someone broke into a residence on Deepwood Drive and stole an undetermined number of items, State Police said. Anyone with more information is asked to contact the Hebron Resident State Trooper's office at 860-228-3710.

3/13: Tania Robles, 36, of 203 East St., was charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

2/24: Megan Fenerty, 22, and Brittany Lagrange, 18, both of East Hampton, were involved in a two-vehicle accident on Hill Avenue at the intersection of North Main Street, East Hampton Police said. Fenerty was issued a writing warning for failure to drive right, police added.

3/8: Sheri L. Taylor, 39, of 169 College St., Middletown, was arrested for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

3/9: A 17-year-old and Andrew Perruccio, 53, both of East Hampton, were involved in a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Route 66 and East High Street. The 17-year-old was issued a written warning for failure to drive a reasonable distance apart, police said.

Portland Police News

3/13: Tyler Bankowski, 18, of 33 Grace Ln., was charged with third-degree criminal mischief, Portland Police said.



A fire destroyed a shed behind Gifts of the Heart on Portland-Cobalt Road early Sunday morning. No injuries were reported. Photo by Renee Snyder.

Portland Fire Destroys Shed

by Mike Thompson

A shed located behind a local gift shop was destroyed by fire early Sunday, March 13.

The Portland Volunteer Fire Department received a call at around 12:30 a.m. Sunday for a structure fire at a 20-foot by 20-foot shed behind Gifts of the Heart on Portland-Cobalt Road, Fire Chief Bob Shea said.

Shea said the shed was "fully involved" when firefighters arrived. He said that while the shed was "far enough away" from the main Gifts of the Heart building, there was a 45-foot trailer located about 20 feet away, and it was heavily damaged in the fire.

No injuries were reported in the blaze, and all of the structures were unoccupied at the time, Shea said.

Since there were no hydrants in the area, Shea said a portable water supply was set up, with the help of tankers from the East Hampton and Glastonbury fire departments. He said

the fire was under control within 15-20 minutes, and both the shed and the trailer were extinguished at the same time.

"We had sufficient amount of water," Shea said. "It was a very good operation."

Shea said the shed was a total loss.

The shed was being used to make maple syrup, and Shea said the stove inside was heavily damaged.

"Basically, everything was a loss," he said.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but, Shea theorized, it will be "very difficult I'm sure to find a cause, because everything was completely destroyed." He added he felt the fire was "probably just accidental."

Shea said Deputy Fire Marshal Pete Willse was handling the investigation into the cause. Willse could not be reached for comment as of press time.

Colchester Resident Charged with Sexually Assaulting Girl

by Katy Nally

After allegedly molesting a young girl habitually for about eight years, a Colchester man turned himself in to Troop K last week.

John Godinez, 54, of 112 Pinebrook Rd., was charged with first-degree sexual assault and risk of injury to a minor, State Police said.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit on file at New London Superior Court, Godinez sexually abused a family member from the time she was 7 until age 14, in his Colchester home.

The affidavit says Godinez touched the victim, made her watch pornography and took nude photos of her. Godinez also exposed himself to the victim, the affidavit says.

According to the girl's statement, after telling Godinez once she wouldn't have sex with him, he never asked again. However, other sexual abuse occurred over the approximate eight years.

The girl told police the abuse began when she was in third or fourth grade and as she grew older it happened more frequently, usually once a week.

A friend of the victim told police the sexual abuse made the girl feel "embarrassed, scared and violated."

In the victim's statement, she told police, "One thing [Godinez] would say to me that he was helping me out for the real world and that he would not hurt me. He would tell me that he wanted me to know how it was to be with a guy and would teach me what to do," the affidavit says.

The girl's mother told police Godinez had a temper and her children "were afraid of him." She said he had a gun collection and "is practiced in martial art."

The girl said Godinez "would yell a lot" and he would use a belt to discipline. She said Godinez told her if she informed anyone about the sexual abuse "they would both be in trouble."

But in late 2009 or early 2010, the girl began telling her friends of the abuse, one of whom then told a parent, who then told the alleged victim's father. The girl then confirmed the abuse to her parents, according to the affidavit. A state trooper became involved in the case after the Department of Children and Families reported a sexual assault on Aug. 9, 2010, the affidavit says.

On Oct. 10, 2010, a trooper met Godinez at his Pinebrook Road home, but he told police he would not provide an interview or a statement. The trooper was then contacted by Godinez' attorney two days later, who said Godinez would only give an interview if a court reporter was present. However, the trooper told the attorney, this would not be possible, the affidavit says.

A statement from Godinez is not included in the arrest warrant affidavit, which was applied for on Jan. 19.

After Godinez turned himself in, he was released on a \$150,000 bond. He is scheduled to appear in New London Superior Court on March 21. His case is listed as "awaiting plea."



Three residents took home their Spirit of Portland Awards Sunday, which commemorated their devoted volunteerism to Portland. Pictured from left are Joan LaMalfa, who volunteers at St. Mary's, Don Bascom, who shares his time with the Portland Little League and local Boy Scouts, and Fran Schoell, the secretary of the Clean Energy Task Force who didn't let breast cancer stand in the way of her volunteering.

In the Spirit of Volunteering in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

A crowd of more than 100 people gathered at the Portland Senior Center on Sunday to recognize three residents with the Spirit of Portland Award for their contributions to the community.

Fran Schoell, Joan LaMalfa, and Don Bascom received multiple nominations from Portland residents for their volunteer efforts and continued generosity. Those on hand to thank the recipients on behalf of the state included First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and State Representative Christie Carpino.

"It's time to thank these people who are usually embarrassed to hear thanks," Carpino said. "These people are the fabric of our community."

The award, sponsored by the senior center, was established in 2009 to "honor residents who serve quietly and without recognition to make Portland a better place to live," Senior Center Director Mary Flood said.

Schoell is a breast cancer survivor who continued to volunteer during chemotherapy treatments, including working as the secretary for the Clean Energy Task Force. She has also volunteered at American Red Cross blood drives, the Connecticut Horticultural Society, and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Reading from a nomination, Flood said "if

you need help, she's always there to lend a hand."

"We are just not sure when she sleeps," Flood laughed.

LaMalfa has been a Catechism teacher at St. Mary's Church in Portland for over 30 years, preparing elementary school students for their First Communion. She has also helped coordinate fundraisers to help less fortunate people pay for heating and food.

A nominator called LaMalfa the "epitome of generosity," and Flood pointed out the fact that LaMalfa rescheduled a trip to Puerto Rico to attend the event.

Bascom played a large role in the resurrection of the Portland Fair and has volunteered with the Boy Scouts and the Portland Little League. He has also been a member of the town's Planning and Zoning Commission. Bascom was honored to receive the award, but made sure to thank others who helped him in his volunteer efforts.

"Each time I get involved, other great people have been right there with me that share the same core values," Bascom said. "It doesn't matter what the rewards are, when you make a difference, it makes the community better."

All the winners received a plaque from the senior center and a letter of recognition from Carpino to commemorate the award.

Put That in Your Pipe and Smoke it

by Katy Nally

Residents can now cozy up in their smoking jackets and unwind in a private lounge with a premium cigar or two at the Super Smoke Shop, which is celebrating its grand opening this weekend.

The store, located on South Main Street, sells cigars, cigarettes, tobacco and smoking accessories like pipes and ashtrays. And for those who want to immediately enjoy their purchase, they can retreat to the plum-colored private lounge, complete with leather couches and a big-screen TV soon to come.

The Super Smoke Shop is the second store for owner Gianni "Jay" Fasano, who has been in the tobacco business for 20 years. And he must be doing something right, because he said he's had a "great experience" with his other store, Cigar World, in Rocky Hill, which opened in 2005.

As part of the Super Smoke Shop's grand opening, all items, excluding cigarettes, will be 10 percent off, beginning today, Friday, March 18 through Sunday, March 20. Fasano said his cigarettes are already sold at the state minimum, so the price can't go any lower.

While the grand opening begins today, the Super Smoke Shop had its soft opening early this week.

"We haven't even put the 'open' sign in and we've had good traffic," Fasano said Tuesday.

So far, he said, the roll-your-own tobacco has been popular among Super Smoke Shop customers. As far as loose cigarette tobacco, Fasano's shelves are stocked with brands ranging from Zig-Zag to Bali Shag, to American Spirit and the all-American Golden Har-

vest. And Fasano offers virtually every blend in loose tobacco from robust to mild, and some flavors like black cherry, vanilla and menthol.

But if nothing seems to strike your fancy, Fasano said he'd be happy to order specific brands of any tobacco product to accommodate customers.

"We're getting more in every day," he said. "We always leave room for more products."

Aside from loose tobacco, the Super Smoke Shop also sells dozens of cigarettes and flavored cigars, as well as hookah, pipe and smokeless tobacco.

"It's your one-stop shop for all kinds of tobacco and tobacco accessories," Fasano said.

But as a cigar man, Fasano eagerly pointed out the wall of cigars all displayed in humidity-controlled glass cases.

It's understandable why Fasano wouldn't name a favorite cigar brand his shop carries, as his cabinets are stocked with Dominican Republic and Nicaraguan beauties like Potente, Ashton and Arturo Fuente.

Potente cigars are made in Nicaragua. One variety, the Potente Classic, boasts "notes of cedar and cocoa bean" complete with a "nutty and mineral finish." The other two, Ashton and Arturo Fuente, hail from the Dominican.

Fasano sells different blends of all three of these brands, as well as other cigars such as Diamond Crown, Cuesta Rey and Maximus.

In deciding on Colchester, Fasano said he did market research and discovered there were no smoke shops in the surrounding six towns.

"Nothing was convenient for them," he noted.



The Super Smoke Shop is celebrating its grand opening this weekend by knocking 10 percent off all its products, except for cigarettes, which can't go below the state minimum. Above is the wide variety of cigars sold at the South Main Street store.

But now with the Super Smoke Shop, area residents have a place to purchase and enjoy cigars, cigarettes and other tobacco products.

The Super Smoke Shop is located at 103 South Main St., next to the post office.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

For more information call the store at 860-537-5858.

Bacon Star Named State Basketball Player of the Year

by Katy Nally

Studying, sweating and serving for all four years of her high school career have paid off for Bacon Academy senior Katie Mahoney.

On March 10, Katie was named the 2010-11 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year. The honor put her in the running for the national title, which was to be announced late this week, after press time.

Katie's recognition puts the 5-foot-10 point guard in the same boat with such past recipients as UConn women's basketball stars Diana Taurasi and Maya Moore.

But being compared to the greats didn't go to Katie's head. She's remained humble and said she doesn't think she'll win the national Gatorade title.

"I was just happy to have some recognition," she said.

Katie said she was "surprised" when she heard the announcement from Gatorade, "just because there's a lot of good players in Connecticut."

"It's crazy; I can't believe I got it," she said. "It feels good."

Knowing the past Connecticut winners, like last year's Kastine Evans from the Norwich Free Academy and Heather Buck, the 2007-08 winner from Stonington, made the recognition even more of a shocker for Katie.

"They're really good players," she said. "It means a lot that I'm on their level."

Despite her surprise, Katie's latest accomplishment of "player of the year" is grounded in her stellar basketball performance. This year she set the record for all-time scoring leader at Bacon, and as captain, her team had its first undefeated regular season and its first Eastern Connecticut Conference tournament championship win this year.

Katie said the winning chemistry of her team was due in part to its quality coaches and, she added, "I think we just work hard a lot and we all work well together."

The Bobcats made it to the Class L state tournament this year, but were ousted when they lost to New Haven's Hillhouse on March 11, 58 to 34.

"It was hard," she said this week. "It was tough, but it happens."

The loss was a bittersweet end to Katie's high school basketball career, but, she remained positive.

"I think we played the best we could," she said. "The other team - they were just really, really good. ... I wish we could have won at the championship, but we still accomplished a lot. I'm happy with how everything turned out."

Obviously, Katie can hold her own when it comes to ball handling, but that wasn't the only trait that earned her this sweet title. As captain of her team two years in a row, Katie is a leader both on and off the court, which is why the Gatorade recognition was especially meaning-

ful to the high school senior.

"It means a lot because basketball is not all that I focus on," she said.

During her time at Bacon she's maintained an A+ average while juggling AP and honors classes.

Katie also spent time volunteering for groups like the National Honors Society, the Echo Cancer Society in Norwich and the American Red Cross. As a volunteer for Echo, Katie said she helps cancer patients with their chemotherapy treatments, and for the Red Cross she helps organize blood drives at Bacon.

Though her schedule has been taxing at times, Mahoney said, "It's good, I like being busy."

"It's hard because you have games and practice after school," she added.

But Katie's juggling has paid off, as she looks to narrow down her top three choices for colleges this month - all Division 1 schools with reputable academics: Brown University, Fairfield University and Providence College.

Although she wasn't sure about potential majors, Katie said she's excited to continue playing the sport she loves.

"It's nice to know my basketball career isn't over with," she said.

And this latest title from Gatorade is just one more milestone in a career that's sure to churn out many more accomplishments, even as Katie says goodbye to Bacon and her Bobcats.



One of Bacon Academy's own, senior Katie Mahoney, was named the 2010-11 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Katie led her team to an undefeated regular season and the Class L semifinals this year.

Obituaries

Amston

Elaine Mayette

Elaine Mayette, 73, of Amston, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, March 9, at her home. Born Aug. 15, 1937, in Stamford, she was a daughter of the late Edward and Nancy Fitzgerald.

She was married to the late Edward Mayette in March of 1966. He predeceased her in 1999.

She worked for many years at the Colchester Bakery and most recently at the Clothes Pin Laundromat. Elaine enjoyed gardening, antiques and traveling. Most recently, she traveled to Ireland with her daughter Nancy. Most importantly, she will be remembered by her family as a devoted mother and grandmother.

Survivors include three daughters, Nancy Mayette of Mableton, GA, Suzanne Mayette Lord and husband Stephen of Woodstock, GA, and Marlene Mayette Hageman and husband Daniel of Colchester; two brothers, John and Edward Fitzgerald, both of Connecticut; a sister, Nancy Harrison of Florida; three beloved grandchildren, Matthew Mayette and Eddie and Mia Hageman; and her faithful dog, Bogie.

Friends called Monday, March 14, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral assembled Tuesday, March 15, at the funeral home before the celebration of the funeral liturgy at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, with Fr. Michael Giannitelli officiating. Burial followed in New St. Andrew Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to Protectors of Animals, P.O. Box 24, Glastonbury, CT 06073.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Evelyn Rena Jones

Evelyn Rena (Stielau) Jones, 89, wife of the late Harold Jones, passed away Sunday, March 13, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late William and Rena (Strohla) Stielau.

Evelyn had lived in Middletown for over 70 years before moving to East Hampton and was a lifetime member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. She devoted her life to her family, being a consummate homemaker, loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She enjoyed cooking, baking, sewing, crocheting and being outdoors working in the yard or taking long walks.

Evelyn is survived by her daughter, Barbara Pellerin of East Hampton; her granddaughter, Tricia Arnaldo and her husband, Edwin of Richmond, VA; a grandson, Michael Beaver of Cortland, IL; a great-grandson, Joshua Arnaldo, and her devoted friends, Perry and Sally Beaver of Durham, who provided remarkable love and support over the years and through her illness.

Evelyn's family would like to thank her caregivers, Lynda, Donna and Diana, her "new found" friends.

Besides her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her brother, William Stielau.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, March 15, in Pine Grove Cemetery, South Main Street, Middletown, with Rev. R. Maureen Hawksley and Rev. Perry Beaver officiating. There were no calling hours and in lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Evelyn's memory to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 76 High St., Middletown, CT 06457 or American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com. The Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, is handling the arrangements.

East Hampton

Faye Rita Rubin

Faye Rita Rubin, 61, of West Hartford and East Hampton, died peacefully, Sunday, March 13, at home. Born in Hartford she was the daughter of the late Theresa and Abraham Rubin.

She was a graduate of Hall High School and Southern Connecticut State University and received a master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland. She was proud of the hundreds of babies she placed with adoptive families as a social worker. Recently she was working for Masonic Care Hospice. She sought a holistic and spiritual based approach to her view of life's incredible journey. She loved nature and animals.

She is survived by a brother, Samuel Rubin of West Hartford, a sister Leba (Linda) Bernstein of Spring Valley, NY, and brother, David Rubin and his wife Michal of Beit Shemesh, Israel; her uncle and aunt Harold and Shirley Lieber of Newington and many nieces, nephews and lifelong friends.

Her family expresses their deep appreciation for the care provided by Masonic Care.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, March 16, at the Beth Jacob Society Cemetery, Hurlbut Street in West Hartford, between South and Shield streets, with Rabbi David Bernstein officiating. Following interment, the family received friends during mourning at her mother's home in West Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Gabriella Foundation for the Animals, P.O. Box 3549, Woodbridge, CT 06525, or the Masonic Partners.

Funeral arrangements provided by Hebrew Funeral Association, Inc., West Hartford.

Portland

James F. Waller Sr.

James F. Waller Sr., 79, of West Cotton Hill Road, Portland, husband of the late Hazel Louise (Reese) Waller, died Wednesday, March 9, at Middlesex Hospital surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Middletown, the son of the late William and Margaret (Brown) Waller Sr.

A veteran of the Korean War, he served with the U.S. Army. Jim retired from the State of Connecticut after 27 years of service as a mechanic at Connecticut Valley Hospital. He also was past Boy Scout master with Troop 49 and former dog warden for the town of Portland. Jim also lived in Texas where he met his future bride-to-be. Jim loved spending time with his wife of 52 years, Hazel, and his family, camping trips to Cape Cod and Pennsylvania Amish country, woodworking, gardening, fishing, listening to country music – George Jones, trips to Foxwoods and spending time with his many beloved pets.

He is survived by his sons, James Waller, Jr. and his wife Linda, Michael Waller and his wife Lisa, all of Portland, Jeffrey Waller and his wife Wendi of Colchester; six grandchildren, Nicole, Christopher, Gina, Jaelyn, Griffin and Grayson Waller; also nieces and a nephew.

He was predeceased by a brother, William Waller Jr.

The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude for the care provided to their dad in his time of need. Special thanks to the Portland Fire Department, Masonicare nurses and the Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit.

At his family's request funeral services are private and there are no calling hours. Burial with military honors will be in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Portland Fire Dept., P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480, or Weiss Hospice Unit, Middlesex Hospital, c/o Dept. of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Madelyn Leonard

Madelyn (Emerson) Leonard, 88, formerly of Colchester Commons, Colchester, went on her last journey Sunday, March 13. She was born in Topsham, ME, to Raymond and Florence Emerson in 1922.

She married John Haley Leonard of Bath, ME, in 1941 but their life together was interrupted by World War II as "Jack" headed for North Africa, Sicily and Anzio, and Madelyn worked for the Women's Army Corps. They were reunited in 1944, and for the next 20 years toured the world with their children, Bonnie, Dawn and John Jr., until Jack's retirement at Fort Devens, MA, in 1961.

After living on Cape Cod, Madelyn and Jack moved to St. Petersburg, FL, where Madelyn continued her remarkable life. She oil-painted, produced beautiful wood carvings, sewed, knitted, crocheted and many other creative works of art. What she loved most of all was cooking and entertaining her family and friends. Some of her recipes can be found in the Charlotte Hughes Herbert cookbook in the Library of Congress. It did not matter if she were in Columbus, Yokahama, Stuttgart, North Falmouth or St. Petersburg, Madelyn and Jack always returned to New England for Christmas and family vacations.

She will be reunited with her husband, Jack, up on the hill in the old section of Arlington National Cemetery and take her place as part of the "Greatest Generation."

Madelyn leaves behind two daughters, Bonnie and her husband, Bill, of Whitinsville, MA, Dawn and her husband Jon of Hebron, and a son, John, Jr. and his wife, Maryann, of Turner, ME; grandchildren, Kathleen, Thomas, Kelly, Amy, John William (Jay), Colin; and eight great-grandchildren.

A family service will be held at Carr Funeral Home in Whitinsville, MA, with internment at Arlington National Cemetery.

