



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Easter Egg-celence... St. Patrick Church recently held its annual Easter Egg Hunt. The Life Teen Ministry worked to provide a fun afternoon for 45 children from preschool through grade three. The event included games, cupcake design, face-painting, and a jelly-bean guessing contest. The children also hunted for candy-filled eggs and many prizes. The afternoon was completed by taking a picture with Peter Cottontail himself. Shown with the rabbit are Gemma Gomes, left, and Rachel Atter.

Marlborough Mold Funds Transferred to 'Ether'

by Katy Nally

A bill for treating mold found in Marlborough's elementary school has highlighted a much larger issue of which boards' budgets should fund building maintenance at the school.

According to officials, a meeting between the boards of finance, selectmen and education has not been set up to discuss the issue since the mold at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School was abated in November of last year.

Selectman Joe La Bella said that meeting will probably not take place at least until after the May 9 town meeting vote, as the Board of Selectmen is preoccupied with budget preparations.

At an April 19 selectmen meeting, First Selectman Bill Black said he had received an invoice for \$3,200 for the treatment of mold found last summer in the community room. This bill was surprising for selectmen, as the board had made an emergency appropriation to the Board of Education – in the amount of \$3,200 – in November of last year.

At a Nov. 16, 2010 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Black said he was first made aware of the mold three months earlier, that August. After receiving a quote for mold abatement in October, Black asked the Board of Finance on Nov. 10 for a transfer from the undesignated fund balance to the Board of Education; however, no action was taken.

Instead, the Board of Finance asked why the situation was considered an emergency, when the mold was also discovered in January 2009, according to minutes.

Six days later, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to make an emergency appropriation from the undesignated fund balance to the Board of Education, for \$3,200.

"We didn't feel it was prudent to wait," La Bella said. "That's just not something to fool around with."

Section 6.9 in the town charter allows selectmen to make this type of appropriation, as long as it's under \$10,000.

At the time, La Bella had made the motion for the emergency appropriation, noting he felt the Board of Education should've been responsible for abating the mold. However, he said, since the Board of Education said it did not have the funds, he recognized the need for selectmen to act.

After that vote, the mold was abated over Thanksgiving break.

Then, according to minutes, the Board of Finance met on Dec. 8 and continued discussing how to fund the mold abatement. Board of Finance Chair Cathi Gaudinski said the finance board looked at a few options to fund the abatement, including using the \$9,000 in a revolving fund.

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O'Keefe Asks for Reimondo to be Investigated

by Joshua Anusewicz

Just last month, the state's attorney's office informed former East Hampton Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe that no criminal prosecutions would be initiated against him, regarding allegations of sexual harassment and retaliation against town employees.

Now, O'Keefe is seeking to turn the investigation around.

In a letter to State's Attorney Timothy J. Liston sent Tuesday, April 19, O'Keefe has requested that "an investigation into corruption and collusion into [Police Chief Matt Reimondo's] office and of some other East Hampton municipal employees be conducted by your office." The letter was copied to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, who distributed the letter at Tuesday's Town Council meeting.

In the letter, O'Keefe says that his life has "been ruined unjustly and with maliciousness," adding that he was "coerced into voluntary resignation, my 25-year unscathed reputation in public service ruined in the public eye, my livelihood stripped of me." O'Keefe stated that while questioning if he

should go forward with an investigation, he concluded "that 'what is right and just' is the higher moral standard we should all live by."

O'Keefe was accused of sexual harassment by three female town employees last summer and Reimondo forwarded the claims to the town attorney. Shortly thereafter, the police chief position was eliminated by O'Keefe, who cited "budgetary reasons" for cutting Reimondo.

Many residents believed Reimondo's removal was retaliation for his role in forwarding the harassment claims. O'Keefe resigned in September amid mounting pressure from residents, and Reimondo was reinstated at a town referendum in November.

According to Liston's report from March, Sgt. Garritt Kelly met with Inspector Mark Miele regarding the harassment complaints and requested an independent investigation into Reimondo's elimination.

But in his letter, O'Keefe claims that Reimondo instructed Kelly to request an investigation from the state's attorney. According to O'Keefe, on the day Reimondo was laid off, Reimondo and Kelly met in the public works

garage where Reimondo instructed Sgt. Michael Green, who was driving Reimondo home, to "pop the trunk." O'Keefe stated that, according to an eyewitness, Reimondo grabbed the case file and handed it to Kelly, adding "get this up to Liston's office and get O'Keefe 'pinched.'"

"In all of my years of public service, this is one of the most egregious abuses of power...that I have ever witnessed," O'Keefe says in the letter. "At a minimum, it is retaliation against me; at its worst, it's criminal."

O'Keefe also claims that when Kelly met Miele, Kelly said "something to the effect, 'well if we can't get him for sexual assault can we at least pinch O'Keefe for disorderly?'" He added that when Reimondo turned over the complaints to the town's attorney, he was heard saying, "something big is about to happen and I got O'Keefe now."

O'Keefe also accuses Reimondo of having "close and sometimes intimate personal relationships" with the three female complainants and Kelly, which he believes "suggest even more collusion and orchestration of an attempt to topple my administration." He claims that

Reimondo directed one complainant to bring accusations against O'Keefe and then fabricated stories from the two other complainants, stating that "several e-mail exchanges, text messages, and phone calls [were] transpiring at the time the complaints were being filed."

Additionally, O'Keefe stated that he learned several key department heads "started scouring other female employees to see if they wanted to join in on filing complaints."

When asked Wednesday if he would investigate O'Keefe's claims, Liston said he would not comment. Liston also refused to comment on whether he stood by the facts in the original investigation into O'Keefe.

Engel, who has stressed O'Keefe's innocence in the past, said Wednesday she "doesn't blame him" for wanting to pursue an investigation and that she is "glad he's looking into it further." She also expressed disappointment that his reputation has been tarnished.

"Since the allegations, he's been thought
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O'Keefe cont. from Front Page

of as guilty in the eyes of the public," Engel said. "That's not fair."

Kelly said Wednesday that he could not comment on the letter, but did acknowledge that he was aware of it. Reimondo was not available for comment. Reimondo's attorney, Leon Rosenblatt, said Thursday he would not comment.

The town is currently dealing with two cases involving Reimondo: a lawsuit against O'Keefe, Engel, Green, and Town Council Vice Chair-

Funds cont. from Front Page

ing account set up for community room users; however, no action was taken.

Since then, the mold issue was basically abated, except when a contractor called Black this month, asking to be paid for services.

"At this point, we're simply looking to resolve, why, from our perspective, the Board of Ed. didn't remediate the mold, and why, when we had first requested and made the funds available to do that, why are contractors going months without being paid," La Bella said this week.

As for that \$3,200, "It's gone to the ether," he added.

According to Board of Education Chairwoman Betty O'Brien, no money had ever been transferred to her board to remediate mold. Not only that, but, O'Brien added, the Board of Education "does not typically pay these types of building expenses and therefore has not budgeted for these types of items."

"To pay such bills, the Board of Education would, in essence, have to take out of money

man John Tuttle, and a Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities investigation against O'Keefe. At a Tuesday, April 12, executive session, the Town Council met with the town's labor attorney Sheldon Myers to discuss a possible compromise with Reimondo.

As of Tuesday, when an executive session was held to update the compromise, the details are still unknown and no announcement has been made on when a compromise could be reached.

that has been budgeted for our children's education and this is not acceptable," O'Brien said via e-mail.

However La Bella said the Board of Education "has always had the responsibility of maintaining its facility." Asking the town to fund the school's building maintenance could spell an "unintended consequence," he added, since the Board of Education receives some state funds for this, according to La Bella.

Gaudinski said there needs to be a conversation between the boards of selectmen, education and finance to discuss whether the school should be considered a "town facility" and its maintenance funded through the town operations budget – similar to the senior center.

"Many towns have it that way," she said. "That's the big picture conversation."

O'Brien, as well, was confident this issue could be resolved with a meeting of the three boards.

As of press time, however, no such meeting has been scheduled.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Normally, I don't like to use this space to call attention to other newspaper's corrections – you know, bad karma and all that – but this one was too good to pass up. And it was in a rather high-profile publication too: *The New York Times*.

This past Sunday's edition of the *Times* included the following correction: "A series of pictures last Sunday of covers of the magazine *Tiger Beat*, with an article about how the original teen-girl tabloid has remained virtually unchanged since its inception in 1965, erroneously included a parody cover, produced by the satiric newspaper *The Onion*, that featured a picture of President Obama."

I found a picture of the parody cover in question, and whoever designed it did make it look fairly legit; there were lots of pictures of teen stars, with the smiling head shots you typically see on the covers of the teen mags, complete with captions like "Jonas Brothers: New CD Secrets" and "Cody: My First Kiss."

There was also a big, smiling picture of Obama, with the caption "Barack: 'I Sing in the Shower' + more personal facts!"

Now, perhaps whoever was putting together the collage of *Tiger Beat* covers really was fooled. I hope that wasn't the case. The fake cover was good for a chuckle, but come on, no sitting president is going to allow himself to be interviewed by *Tiger Beat* like that. Maybe whoever designed the collage just wasn't paying attention, or maybe it was the work of some *Times* intern out to have a little devious fun.

However it happened, I had a laugh reading that correction box this week – although, as an editor, I did feel the *Times*' embarrassment.

* * *

Guess who's been shooting his mouth off again? Why, it's our old friend Pat Robertson! It seems the good reverend – who in January 2010 informed us that the earthquake in Haiti was due to a pact the country had previously made with the devil – was on his *700 Club* recently, and the co-host of the show, Terry Meeuwsen, asked him why he thought President Obama supported Planned Parenthood.

"Well, it's the left," Robertson said. "It's this culture of death. The far left is livid, you know, about killing babies. They want to do this. They want to destroy."

I wrote about abortion a few weeks ago and how women who have abortions are not monsters, despite what some Republicans in various state houses across the country might have

you believe, so I'll just simply say Robertson is wrong here. But the most bizarre part came in his very next sentence, when he asked Meeuwsen "if a woman is a lesbian, what advantage does she have over a married woman? Or what deficiency does she have?"

Meeuwsen, shockingly, replies, "Well, she can't have children."

What?! Since when are lesbians biologically unable to get pregnant? They can, and do. Anyway, not only does Robertson agree with his co-host – "That's exactly right," he tells her – he goes on to say, "And so if these married women don't have children, if they abort their babies, then that kind of puts them on a level playing field."

So, uh...hmm. Well. Pat Robertson thinks women who abort their babies secretly want to be lesbians?

Honestly, I don't know if there's anything to say to such a statement, so let's just move on.

* * *

Next week is a pretty big one for many of the *Rivereast* towns. For starters, on Monday, May 2, Andover has its municipal elections, highlighted by a first selectman race between incumbent Republican Bob Burbank and challenger Julia Haverl, a Democrat who has actually held the office before, from 1989-91. Courtney Parent profiles the two of them in this week's issue.

Obviously, it's important who a town's first selectman is, or who sits on its Board of Selectmen, Board of Education and the other boards and commissions in town. This is your town, Andover residents; make sure you have a say in how it's governed. Don't forget to vote next Monday. Polls are open for a long time, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., so surely you can carve out a few extra minutes, either on your way to your job or on your way home.

The next day, there are town budget referendums in Hebron and East Hampton, as well a vote on the RHAM schools' proposed budget. That vote will also be done via referendum, in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough.

It's important to get out for these votes too. People love to complain about how much they're spending on taxes; well, now is your chance to do something about it. And don't think your vote doesn't count. I've seen multimillion-dollar budgets defeated by less than 50 votes, so I can tell you...it does.

* * *

See you next week.

New Haven Man Leads Portland Police on Chase

by Joshua Anusewicz

A New Haven man who escaped from a halfway house was arrested last Friday on multiple charges after bringing Portland and Middletown police on a chase through both towns, Portland Police said.

On Friday, April 22, Ijeboi G. Holmes, 36, of

48 Howe St., New Haven, was seen driving erratically on the westbound side of the Arrigoni Bridge at roughly 10 p.m. According to Portland Police, Officer Daniel Knapp followed the red Pontiac Grand Am, which police said was stolen from West Haven, into Middletown and attempted to pull over the driver.

Holmes then quickly turned around at the intersection of Main and Grand streets, striking two vehicles – one of them a Middletown Police vehicle – before crossing the bridge back to Portland.

Several attempts to stop Holmes were unsuccessful, police said, as Holmes swerved at the police vehicles. Holmes continued down Main Street and drove up the driveway at Gildersleeve School, where police attempted to block the exits to the circular driveway. Holmes

drove over the curb and the grass median, hitting two Portland Police vehicles and forcing a Middletown Police vehicle into a ditch, as well as side-swiping another car before heading back toward the Arrigoni Bridge.

Middletown Police positioned themselves at the base of the bridge and put down "stop sticks," a device used to puncture the vehicle's tires, in an attempt to stop the vehicle. According to the report, Holmes avoided the impediment and continued toward Middletown, but Knapp was able to position his vehicle in front of Holmes. The Pontiac struck the police vehicle, causing both cars to spin out. Holmes was then boxed in by the other police vehicles and taken into custody.

Holmes has been charged by Portland Police with four counts of assault on a police officer, first-degree criminal mischief, third-degree larceny, interfering with police, operating under the influence, operating under suspension, traveling fast for conditions, failure to drive in proper lane, reckless driving, disobeying an officer's signal, engaging in pursuit, and evading responsibility.

Holmes also had an active warrant for his arrest from the West Haven Police Department, on the charge of escape from a halfway home, the report states.

According to Sgt. Scott Cunningham, Holmes was believed to be under the influence of alcohol, as a large bottle of malt liquor was found in the vehicle. Cunningham said Holmes was treated for head injuries at the Middletown



An allegedly stolen Pontiac Grand Am was heavily damaged when its driver, Ijeboi Holmes of New Haven, led police on a chase through Portland and Middletown.

Police Department, but no police officers suffered injuries.

While estimates on the amount of damage are not currently known, Cunningham said that one of the Portland police vehicles will "most likely" be totaled. He also added that there is

roughly \$1,500 worth of damage to fencing at the Gildersleeve School.

Holmes is currently being held on a \$100,000 bond, police said. He is scheduled to enter his plea at Middlesex Superior Court on Thursday, May 5, at 10 a.m.



Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School special education teacher Louise Plack recently gave a presentation to students during Multicultural Day about her two-month trip to Tanzania. Plack went with Pocketful of Joy and worked with local teachers and students. At left she is pictured with students at the Byeya school, and at right, is Plack outside the Nyakataare school.

Elmer Thienes Teacher Returns from Tanzania

March 23 was Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall School's annual Multicultural Day, a celebration of the school community's heritage. Each year the students wear clothing that represents their heritage, present rhymes in various languages, prepare posters and displays, and sing songs from various countries.

The music, art, food service and world language departments work with the school's diversity committee to prepare a day of song and celebration. Some years there have been dance performances by outside groups, or presentations from various non-profits.

This year was different; the day featured presentations by Elmer Thienes' own world traveler, Louise Plack.

Plack traveled to Tanzania for the first time with the organization Pocketful of Joy to help in educating, feeding, clothing and assisting with health issues of students in the Bukoba district of Tanzania.

Plack and Charlotte Hunter, founder of Pocketful of Joy, left the country Jan. 19, and returned March 16, full of stories, pictures, music and artifacts from Plack's adventures in the villages. As part of the program, they lived with the Tanzanian directors and became part of the village.

Throughout Multicultural Day, students and their teachers would come into the library for a PowerPoint presentation about her trip. Plack was dressed in some of the clothing she had made while living in the Ntoma village and welcomed each class by using the traditional Kiswahili greeting of "Karibu," which means welcome.

She spoke about a day in the life of a Tanzanian student, noting they have to clean their

uniforms several times a week. Tanzanian children are assigned chores such as cleaning the classrooms with a handheld broom made of straw, carrying firewood for the day's lunch-time serving of ugi, along with five gallons of water for washing, or a sickle for cutting grass at the school. Children walk up to four miles to school each day.

Plack also spoke about Tanzanian children's recreation and their lack of equipment. When students do not have a soccer ball, they make one from plastic bags and tie it with banana leaves. Old bicycle tires become toys to run next to with a stick, tree limbs are cut and used as stilts and swings are made from woven banana leaves.

There are many orphans at each of the three schools Plack visited. Some have one parent, and others have none and are living with relatives or with each other in abandoned buildings.

Pocketful of Joy provides ugi for the orphans, as well as pens, exercise books, uniforms, shoes, and medicated and laundry soap. This year all students in every grade received pens or pencils from Marlborough students who donated items prior to Plack's departure. She also brought puzzles, crayons and colored pencils for the library and teachers.

Pocketful of Joy also brought in eye doctors in to assess the students' vision and eye health. Plack assisted with exams and helped dispense medicine and eye glasses once they were ready. Many children were given medicine for ringworm, and several children were assessed further at the hospital for other ailments. Eye glasses are not common, so instruction had to

be given as to how to care for them properly. The dentists had already been to the schools in October, and their visits were also paid for by Pocketful of Joy.

At Multicultural Day, Plack spoke about the education system in Tanzania. Since villages have to build their own schools, Pocketful of Joy has been instrumental in building classrooms, desks, latrines, staff rooms, libraries, cooks' huts, lightning rods and in repairing buildings.

Teacher's salaries are paid by the government, but per pupil expenditures are minimal. Teachers have chalk, and a teacher's manual for the subjects they teach, but not enough student books for each child, so they are shared.

While in Tanzania, Plack spoke to teachers, administrators, Boards of Education and district education officers about what American schools are like. She highlighted what small changes can be made that require very little money, like shifts in attitude and thinking. Plack also brought educational charts for the classrooms.

Pocketful of Joy will be sponsoring a series of seminars to enhance training to teach various modalities, using cooperative groups and the supervision of students as they work. Special education is not a part of the local schools in Tanzania. Children with physical disabilities in mobility, vision or hearing are taught at district boarding schools. Students with autism, Down syndrome, learning disabilities, speech and language disorders are not taught at these schools, or in the local home schools. Students with autism and Down syndrome may be at home and not taught, while learning and speech

issues are not assisted.

Plack spoke to the students on Multicultural Day about the animals she saw daily, such as goats, cows, chickens, geckos in the bedroom, and bird species that were new to her.

She also told the children about traveling a day and a half by bus with people and cargo such as chickens, on her journey to the Mount Kilimanjaro area and to the Ngorongoro Crater for a day safari. There she was privileged to see lions, buffalo, ostriches, warthogs, elephants, hippos, crested cranes, elands, Grant and Thompson gazelles, zebras and wildebeests.

She ate what was fresh, as electricity is scarce in many parts of Bukoba, and very unreliable. There Plack saw her first rice, mango, avocado, cinnamon, peanut, cassava, cava, jackfruit and pineapple plants, and ate them regularly. Fish from Lake Victoria were also eaten daily. Many Tanzanians have an 80 percent vegetarian diet in that area, because every house has a farm, or shamba.

Plack wrapped up each PowerPoint presentation by thanking Marlborough children and staff in Kiswahili, saying "Asante sana," meaning thank you very much. Children followed up by sending thank you letters to Plack, detailing their favorite parts of the presentation, or asking questions that she later answered via email or through another small presentation.

School technology co-coordinator Melissa Kaika added a link to Plack's presentation on the school website, marlborough.k12.ct.us, under news and notes.

For further information on Pocketful of Joy, visit pocketfulofjoy.org.

Hebron Woman Killed in Glastonbury Accident

by Courtney Parent

A Hebron woman was killed in Glastonbury Tuesday when her car struck another car head-on, according to Glastonbury Police.

At around 2:20 p.m., Rose Mastrone, 86, of Hebron, was traveling east on Hebron Avenue, in the area of Ridge Road, when she crossed the center line into the westbound lane, striking a vehicle being driven by Anne-Marie Hartigan, 49, of Manchester, police said.

According to police, Mastrone was pre-

sumed dead at the scene. Hartigan, who is an English teacher at RHAM High School, was taken to Hartford Hospital with what police said "appeared to be non-life-threatening injuries." The hospital said Wednesday Hartigan had been discharged.

An investigation into the accident is ongoing and any witnesses are asked to contact Officer Adam VanSkiver at the Glastonbury Police Department 860-633-8301.

Hebron Police News

4/21: Cortney Chatterton, 23, of 66 North Tankerhoosen Rd., Vernon, was charged with third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

4/21: Chelsea Ryan, 22, of 30 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, was charged with DUI and making an improper turn, State Police said.

\$24.65 Million RHAM Budget Heads to Referendum

by Courtney Parent

Residents of Andover, Hebron and Marlborough will flock to the polls in their respective towns next Tuesday, May 3, as a proposed \$24.65 million RHAM middle and high school budget heads to referendum.

The proposed spending package for the 2011-12 fiscal year represents a \$432,845 increase, or 1.79 percent, over the current year's budget.

According to Superintendent of School Bob Siminski, there were four main factors contributing to the increase. The biggest factor is a \$514,506 increase in salaries, due primarily to a collective bargaining agreement that was settled in 2009. The agreement represented a 1.5 percent general wage increase plus a step increase, equaling a 4 percent total salary increase.

The remaining three items include a \$369,501 increase in special education, a \$43,175 increase in transportation and a \$54,291 increase in professional services (the majority of which can be attributed to an approved decision package including four laptop carts for the middle school, four carts for the

high school and a half-time computer technician).

Each of the RHAM towns will pay a different amount of the budget. The projected levies, outlined by Siminski at an April 11 public hearing, are as follows: Hebron at 54.22 percent, or \$13.36 million; Marlborough at 29.18 percent, or \$7.19 million; and Andover at 16.6 percent, or \$4.09 million.

Town levy is calculated based on projected enrollment numbers at the two schools for the 2011-12 school year. Hebron's projected enrollment is 957, Marlborough's is 515 and Andover's is 293.

The RHAM budgets have passed on their first referendum in recent years, and no one spoke out against the spending plan during the April 11 hearing, and Siminski anticipated the budget will pass.

Voting will take place this Tuesday, May 3 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St., Andover Town Hall, 17 School Rd. and Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Dr., Marlborough.

Marlborough Residents Raise Concerns with Overall Budget

by **Katy Nally**

Residents who spoke at a budget public hearing Monday raised three issues – a spike in costs for sewer residents, large cracks and holes in the Rolling Ridge subdivision and the Parks and Recreation line item for field maintenance.

Almost 10 people spoke, and one letter was read into the record, at the hearing with about 45 attendees.

Afterward, the Board of Finance made no changes, and unanimously approved the budget to be voted on at the annual town meeting on Monday, May 9.

The \$21.13 million budget includes \$4.34 million for town operations, \$6.97 million for local education and \$7.19 million for RHAM. There is also \$118,000 for capital non-reoccurring items and two bonding resolutions totaling \$2 million for new public works vehicles and road reconstructions.

Four residents said the estimated \$80,000 in legal fees for the Water Pollution Control Authority needs to be spread to all taxpayers, and not just those in the sewer district.

“I will not vote for this budget if that item is not considered,” Vic Battaglioli told the Board of Finance.

Battaglioli, who lives in the sewer district, went on to say no other suits against the town are “assigned to a small group of people.”

In December of last year, seven lawsuits from five residents and two businesses were filed against the WPCA, alleging the benefit assessments were “unreasonable.” Two of the suits, one from Country Barn Properties and the other from NRBZ LLC, name the town of Marlborough as defendants in addition to the WPCA.

However, First Selectman Bill Black said the town would seek a summary judgment to be removed from those two suits.

Because the WPCA set the benefit assessment, which the suits seek to appeal, Black said the responsibility “clearly lies with the WPCA.”

These legal expenses are “not a responsibility of the town,” he said.

Resident Amy Traversa disagreed, saying she was “appalled” the legal fees were not included in the overall budget.

“The rest of the budget I think you’ve done a good job with,” Traversa added.

Two more residents agreed with Battaglioli and Traversa.

Jane Boston said Marlborough has comparatively high sewer rates to neighboring towns. According to East Hampton Public Utilities Administrator Vincent Susco, the rates sewer users pay in his town are much lower because 90 percent of the project was covered through the federal government when it was initiated in the 1970s.

“It was very different back then,” he said.

East Hampton sewer users pay \$290 per year for usage, and their benefit assessments – of \$700 per lot and \$1,275 per building – were paid off in 2008, Susco said.

Hebron residents pay \$320 per year per unit for usage, on top of an average \$498 benefit assessment per year. Portland residents with metered sewers are charged based on consumption at \$4.54 per cubic foot.

The Marlborough WPCA charges \$603 as a benefit assessment and the Operations and Maintenance 2011-12 budget is projecting about \$580 per Equivalent Dwelling Unit for usage.

After the public hearing the Board of Finance entertained the possibility of alleviating some O&M costs for sewer district residents, but in the end, no motion was approved.

Board of Finance member Dick Shea made the motion to add \$7,000 to the town operations budget to fund the cost of dumping bi-oxide at three sites to control odor.

This was approximately the figure Black quoted for the WPCA for town personnel to dump bi-oxide.

Shea’s motion was not seconded.

“You’ve got to get through this hurdle – I’ll call it growing pains,” Black said of the WPCA. “The town has been more than generous, at the expense of those outside the sewer district.”

As far as roads, the two residents who spoke in favor of the \$1.6 million bonding resolution said the Rolling Ridge subdivision is in dire need of repair. Also, a letter from Zoning Commission Chair Scott Miller, in support of the proposal, was read.

Board of Finance Chairwoman Cathi Gaudinski said the roads to be reconstructed include: Roberts Road, Isleib Road, Ridgewood Drive, Gina Lane, Sandy Lane, Hunters Ridge, Park Road, Williamsburg Road, parts of Lafayette Road and North Main Street and a culvert on South Main Street.

Ridgewood Drive resident Marc Duisenberg, who has a 5-year-old son and a 12-year-old daughter, said the situation has become “a nightmare,” especially when his kids play outside. He said some cracks are actually about six inches deep.

Regarding the current state of those roads, Board of Finance member Beth Petroni said

“that’s what happens when we push stuff out for two years, which is what we’ve done.”

Gaudinski said voters turned down the same road reconstruction proposal two years ago. Duisenberg said he thought residents voted no back then because that’s when the economy first began to head south.

Sandy Lane resident Peter Wursthorn told the Board of Finance he had initiated two petitions, which received 39 signatures total, in support of the road reconstruction bond.

“It’s a danger issue,” he said. “The road is breaking up.”

The road project would be paid back over 10 years and the \$400,000 for public works vehicles would be paid back over seven.

Gaudinski said the actual reconstruction would occur over several years.

The board unanimously approved both resolutions after the hearing.

Lastly, resident David Bourbeau brought up the \$32,000 the Parks and Recreation Department has allocated for “field maintenance.”

This figure has remained the same since the 2009-10 budget and it was actually higher the two years prior.

Bourbeau questioned why it cost \$32,000 to maintain town fields.

Gaudinski said it’s because organic material is purchased, and Black added that Parks and Rec. manages six ball fields, the town center, the Moose Lodge and Blish Park.

The town meeting, where residents will have their chance to vote on the proposed \$21.13 million overall budget is scheduled for May 9, at 7 p.m. in the Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School cafeteria.

And the Andover Candidates Are....

by **Courtney Parent**

When voters head to the polls on Monday they will see many familiar names appearing on the ballots. Even many of those who are not incumbents have served on other various boards or participated in other activities around the town.

Looking first at the Board of Finance, there will be five candidates appearing on the ballot this year: Democrat Dennis Foran, Republican Linda Fish, Democrat Marie Burbank, Republican David Gostanian and Republican Ted Sakelarakis.

Foran has been an Andover resident since 1975. He has worked as a civil-environmental engineer and surveyor for the past 37 years and has also worked for the Department of Environmental Protection since 1995.

Burbank moved to Andover in 1972. She has served as town clerk, on the Board of Selectmen and is a justice of the peace. She holds certifications as a municipal clerk and a municipal manager.

Democratic Town Committee Chairman Don Keener said Burbank is a nice addition to his slate, with an ample amount of town government experience.

Gostanian has lived in town since 1994. He joined the fire department in 1995, shortly after moving. Gostanian has served on the Zoning Board of Appeals for 10 years.

Sakelarakis has lived in town for 30 years and is now retired after a 32-year stint with American Airlines. Sakelarakis has served on the Inland Wetlands Commission and on the Board of Education. He is currently the vice chairman of the Republican Town Committee.

Fish has lived in town since 1975 and works as a secretary at Manchester Memorial Hospital.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Wally Barton Jr. said there is a strong group of candidates in the Board of Finance race as both Gostanian and Fish are incumbents. He also

noted that while Sakelarakis is not an incumbent, he has served on other boards in town and is recently retired with more time to devote to town activities.

Turning to the Planning and Zoning Commission, there are three candidates running this year: Democrat Susan England, Republican Michael Palazzi and Democrat Eric Anderson.

Keener described this race as “one of the more important races in town,” mainly due to the fact that in the past the commission has been “stacked with a lot of Republicans and they haven’t been reasonable.”

Keener described England, who has been a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for more than 20 years and currently serves as its vice chair, as the “voice of reason.” He said Anderson will aid in bringing new business to town.

Anderson is another candidate that falls into Andover’s born-and-bred category, growing up in town and attending Andover Elementary School and RHAM. Anderson is currently serving as Planning and Zoning Commission alternate.

Palazzi has been a resident of town for the past 24 years. He is currently chairman of the Conservation Commission and has been a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for three years.

The sole candidate running for Planning and Zoning Commission alternate is politically unaffiliated Dave Knowlton. He grew up in town, leaving around age 20 and making his return five years ago. Knowlton owns Top Shop LLC in the Andover Plaza.

In the Board of Assessment Appeals race there are also three candidates running. Those candidates include Democrat Joan Foran, Republican Robert Russell and Republican Georgette Conrad.

Foran has lived in Andover for more than 35 years. She served on the Board of Education

and was chairwoman of that board for 11 years.

Russell has been a resident of town for more than 50 years. He is semi-retired, owning Scott’s Tree Farm. He has served for more than 20 years on the Planning and Zoning Commission, originally joining back in the 1960s, taking time off to focus on his business and then rejoining.

Conrad is a 42-year resident and a retired program analyst for United Healthcare.

Conrad spends much of her time volunteering around town.

Turning to the Zoning Board of Appeals, the three candidates whose names will appear on your ballot are Democrat Dorothy Yeomans, Republican Evelyn Russell and Republican Wally Barton III.

Yeomans is an incumbent serving the past two terms on the Zoning Board of Appeals. She has lived in town for 20 years and is recently retired from RHAM High School.

Russell has been a resident for 40 years. She has served on the Zoning Board of Appeals since the late 1980s and is currently serving as the board’s Chairwoman. She is semi-retired, owning Scott’s Tree Farm.

Barton III is another who was born and bred in town and is currently working in the landscaping field.

The Zoning Board of Appeals alternate also has three candidates up for election this year: Democrat James McCann, Republican Kara Sakelarakis and Republican Ylo Anson.

McCann has been a resident of the town for the past 19 years. He is presently serving on the Board of Finance and is a member of the board of the Andover Lake Property Owners Association.

Sakelarakis is a true product of the town, living in Andover for all of her 23 years. She also works for the town as a Social Services Director.

Anson has resided in town since the 60s, and

is a former engineer, as well as a National Guard retiree. He previously served on the Board of Finance.

Running for the Board of Fire Commissioners are the politically unaffiliated John Colli III, Republican Wally Barton Jr. and Republican Curtis Dowling.

Colli III has lived in Andover for the past 20 years and is no stranger to fire. He has been treasurer of the Fire Commission for the past six years and has been a firefighter for the past 30 years.

Barton Jr. has been a resident for over 50 years and served as an active firefighter in town for more than 30 of those years. He has served on the Board of Fire Commissioners for the past 20 years and is currently serving as chair.

Dowling has lived in Andover for all his life, has served on the Fire Commission and works for Connecticut Light & Power.

Lastly, Town Clerk Carol Lee is running unopposed for re-election to her position. She has lived in Andover for 29 years, serving as assistant town clerk from 1998 to 2003, and as town clerk since 2003.

Throughout the election process there has been some confusion expressed over the layout of the ballot. Just to clarify, while some Republican candidates may appear opposite a Democrat candidate, taxpayers can vote for both. For example, in the Board of Selectmen race Democrat Elaine Buchardt appears on the ballot opposite of Jay Lindy and Democrat Linda Knowlton appears opposite Republican Cathy Desrosiers. The candidates are not directly running against each other as listed. Voters can choose any two of the four candidates listed regardless of party affiliation or where the candidates’ names are listed on the ballot.

Town elections will be held Monday, May 2, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., in the Community Room at Town Hall, 17 School Rd.

Burbank Facing Haverl in Next Week's Andover Election

by Courtney Parent

Fliers overflowing mailboxes, promotional signs posted all over town, meet-and-greet events everywhere you turn can only mean one thing: it may not be November, but it is election time in Andover.

As is often the case, the most talked-about candidates are those vying for the position

of first selectman. Seeking his second full term – he has held the office since June 2006 – is Republican First Selectman Bob Burbank. He is being challenged by Democrat Julia Haverl, who held the position from 1989-91.

At an April 15 meet-and-greet at the Senior Center Burbank addressed the seniors and other candidates in regards to why he wished to remain in office and why they should vote for him.

Burbank began by saying that during his time in Andover he put four children through the school system. Burbank said when his children went to RHAM, he realized they had no computer skills and “at that point went on the Board of Education and lobbied to get a computer lab.” He said now Andover Elementary has the best “training education system” in the state and possibly America.

Burbank served on the Planning & Zoning Commission for over 20 years, residing as chairman for the last 10. During his time as first selectman, Burbank said he has “completely renovated” the financial system in town tracking cents on a daily basis, looking for the best deals and securing grants. Burbank said the key issue with the town is being able to move forward, while saving tax dollars. Burbank ended his speech by making a plea to retain his position.

“I want to remain in office and keep Andover the lovely, downtown, rural type of community



Bob Burbank

that it is,” said Burbank.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Wally Barton Jr. backed Burbank, saying that as a successful incumbent he was likely to be re-elected.

“The reason is basically because of stable taxes for the past four years,” Barton said this week. “In this economy that’s very important to people.”

Opposing Burbank is Haverl, a former teacher, meeting planner, and small business owner (Long Hill Enterprises and Long Hill Gardens Flower Shop). Haverl has lived in town since 1969.

Haverl also attended the senior center meet-and-greet and when it was her turn to speak, Haverl gave an interesting introduction saying that people had been asking if there was going to be a debate between herself and Burbank at the meet-and-greet. Laughing she said she told them no, but this was probably as close as it would get to that. Haverl continued on to speak about her strong love for the town.

“There is a quality of life in this town that people really feel grateful to get,” said Haverl. “I love the town. I love to serve the town and give back for all the benefits I’ve had living here.”

Following her stint as first selectman, Haverl continued on the Board of Selectmen from 1991-96. She currently serves as chairwoman of the Board of Assessment Appeals, and is also a founding member of the Andover Historical Society.

Haverl closed her speech at the senior center by adding that, if elected, she would not go for a salary increase for the entire term.

Democratic Town Committee Chairman Don Keener said this week that Haverl is pledging to keep the lines of communication more open. He also said that she is a collaborative person who is willing to work with others to get the job done right. Keener referred to a quote by Harry S. Truman to exemplify the need for Haverl in office.

The quote reads, “It is amazing what you can

accomplish if you don’t care who gets the credit.”

Keener went on to say that while Republicans may be aiming to win votes by placing the focus on keeping taxes low, the boards involved in managing the budgets are made up of both Republicans and Democrats.

“I just think they shouldn’t be playing for credit for a zero percent budget,” said Keener. “It’s a group effort to keep the mill rate low. No one was saying ‘we want to raise it.’”

Turning to the Board of Selectmen race, many have noted it as an unusual year as there are six candidates running for only five spots, the position of first selectman and four board member positions. The person not victorious in the first selectman race will still be eligible for a position on the board, depending upon the number of votes they receive and if they decide to accept that spot.

In this year’s Board of Selectmen race there are three incumbents and one newcomer. The incumbents include Democrat Linda Knowlton, Democrat Elaine Buchardt and Republican Jay Linddy. The sole newbie in the race, though she is not new to the candidate pool altogether, is Republican Cathy Desrosiers.

Knowlton has lived in town for the past five years, serving on the Board of Selectmen for the past year. She is the regional vice president for Church Insurance Agency Corporation. Knowlton has also served as chairwoman for the Economic Development Commission.

Buchardt brings much experience to the table, serving on the board for the past five years. She has lived in town for 23 years and works as a real estate agent for Century 21. Buchardt said she formerly worked in IT at ING



Julia Haverl

and Aetna.

Keener said he is a “big supporter” of Buchardt, but quipped that everyone would figure that anyway, because he’s married to her. He added that Buchardt has been the voice of reason on the board for the past five years and that even Republicans have been telling her she needs to return as mediator.

Linddy is a well-known figure in town, due to his participation on various boards and such ventures as bringing back community theatre to Andover. Linddy is currently the vice chairman of the Board of Selectmen and chairman of the local Board of Education. (He is also seeking re-election this year to the school board.)

Desrosiers is what she referred to at the meet-and-greet as “homegrown,” a product of Andover born and raised. Desrosiers has been a member of the Board of Finance for the past 10 years, and was also that board’s clerk.

Barton Jr. gave his support to Linddy and Desrosiers, praising their work with the budgets. He said Linddy has helped keep things stable and attain grants with both the boards of selectmen and education, and Desrosiers has done a “tremendous job keeping taxes low” as chairman of the Board of Finance. Barton Jr. added that Desrosiers would be a “great asset.”

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Let the Revaluation Process Begin

by Courtney Parent

This is not the week to put off that 20-step walk to the mailbox. As per state law, Andover is beginning the town-wide revaluation for the 2011 Grand List, and time-sensitive paperwork will be sent your way.

Vision Appraisal Technology, based in Northborough, MA has been contracted for the revaluation project this year.

The company is presently sending out data mailers to all residential property owners. Data mailers contain information such as the number of bathrooms a property has, what type of garage/if any, if there is a finished basement, the type of heating system, any home improvements that have been made and more.

Vision Appraisal Technology asks that all data mailers be returned in the postage paid envelopes provided within seven days. Property owners can also personally drop off their data mailers at the assessor’s office in Town Hall. Anyone who does not complete a data mailer will be required to take part in a full property inspection.

The town’s last revaluation was completed five years ago and all current assessments are based on those 2006 market values. According to Tax Assessor John Chaponis the revaluation

will determine the current fair market value of all the properties in town as of Oct. 1, 2011.

“[Revaluation] equalizes the values for the purpose of a fair distribution of the local property tax burden,” Chaponis said.

While filling out a data mailer may be the first step of the revaluation process, it certainly isn’t the last, as this is a six-step process. The other steps include data collection, market analysis, valuation, field review and informal hearings.

Data collection will come next, which involves the revaluation company visiting and inspecting the property. This step is completed with all commercial and industrial properties. In regards to residential property, all properties currently for sale will be inspected, as well as other randomly selected residential properties.

According to Chaponis, all residential sale properties must be inspected because those properties will be used to build the valuation model that will then be used to value all properties.

“We need to inspect those sales to make sure that our data was accurate on those sale properties to ensure we know exactly what sold for

this sale price,” Chaponis said.

After data collection will be a market analysis. This is when sales data is gathered and verification of sales are completed. Chaponis said the revaluation company must verify that the sales are an “arm’s length” transaction and not any type of forced sale, auction or foreclosure. Chaponis added that these types of forced sales are typically not factored into the valuation model.

“The only time that they become used is when there are so many of them, that they actually become the market,” he said.

Chaponis went on to use a 400-unit condo complex as an example. He said if a resident bought a condo for \$120,000 three years ago, they might only be able to list it for \$60,000 today. If 100 units in the complex were sold and the developer goes bankrupt, the bank would then take over the 300 remaining units. If the bank sold the units for \$60,000 apiece, the residents would then have to list theirs for \$60,000, to sell it and be comparable to the other units for sale.

Next, land values are assigned to properties based on location and data mailers are reviewed

– making any necessary changes or inspecting properties through the “valuation” step.

After that is field review, which entails driving up and down every street in town, inspecting properties from afar, making sure that a sketch of each property and that data for that property is correct.

At long last, after field reviews are completed, taxpayers will receive an “impact notice” that will inform them of their new assessment. If there are any questions or debate over the new valuation, property owners can set up a meeting or informal hearing with the contracted revaluation company or the assessor.

If property owners are still not satisfied with their new assessment after having an informal hearing they can file an appeal with the Board of Assessment Appeals.

“Revaluation is designed to eliminate any inequities that were created by the market during the last five years,” he said.

The revaluation process is anticipated to be completed around November. For additional information contact the assessor’s office at 860-742-7305 ext. 5 or e-mail andoverassessor@hotmail.com.

Collaborative Adopts New Logo from Bacon Students

by Katy Nally

An organization that strives to make connections within the community was overwhelmingly satisfied with a new logo that captured just that initiative.

The Collaborative for Colchester's Children, which is more commonly referred to as C3, recently adopted a new logo that was originally designed by students at Bacon Academy.

The group "absolutely and unanimously" went with the interconnected C and 3, C3 Coordinator Shelly Flynn said.

Bacon Academy students in Nick Mulé's marketing class presented their idea for a C3 marketing strategy to a panel of town officials and school administrators back in January.

As part of their work, the students created a new logo that featured an interconnected C and 3 in blue and yellow, with "Collaborative for Colchester's Children" circling the two figures.

After reviewing the original proposal, Flynn said the C3 committee reached out to a graphic designer so the logo would also include the organization's tagline of "Healthy, Happy & Successful Children." The end result includes that tagline, as well as the C3, but the colors are now red and blue.

The previous design featured a red wagon that contained books and an apple, with the word "Colchester" printed along the side.

"People didn't even think twice about no longer using the wagon," Flynn said.

During their presentation in January, several students said seeing the logo they crafted around town would be a very satisfying end to a school project. And now, they'll get that chance. Flynn said the collaborative plans on incorporating the

C3 logo on all of its letterhead and flyers it distributes at events. Also, she said the group plans to create a window decal that its business partners can display.

In creating the new logo, the marketing students said they drew inspiration from other brands that have been reduced to just a letter or symbol – like Gatorade's G with a lightning bolt.

Flynn said capturing C3's mission in a manageable logo was "the kind of skill that's crucial in the business world." She thanked the students for their hard work.

"It was a wonderful," she said. "What an



The original C3 logo, which was designed by Bacon students and presented in January to a panel of town officials and school administrators.



Collaborative for Colchester's Children
HEALTHY, HAPPY & SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

The Collaborative for Colchester's Children recently adopted this logo, which is similar to the design that marketing students at Bacon Academy originally proposed.

amazing presentation."

In speaking with the graphic designer, Flynn said she stressed the need to retain the interconnected C and 3.

"This is exactly what this initiative is all about," Flynn said. "I'm really hoping the entire community is going to see the connected C and 3 and know exactly who we are."

The collaborative's mission is to support children from birth through age 8, as well as their families, in the areas of health, wellness, early care, education and family support, Flynn said.

C3 aims to establish partnerships within the community to carry out its mission. For example, Flynn said the collaborative has partnered with Cragin Memorial Library and the Colchester Rotary to tackle early childhood literacy. The result was book kits, which include music, puppets and books for children, and can be checked out by early care providers from the library, Flynn said.

The organization is primarily run by volunteers including First Selectman Gregg Schuster, Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle, lo-

cal business owners and school administrators, among others.

In January 2009, C3 was awarded a grant to develop a data-drive plan to help children ages birth through 8 and their families, Flynn said. From there, C3 volunteers gathered community-wide data about topics ranging from poverty rates to the number of children entering kindergarten after attending preschool to the quality of prenatal care.

Since then, the organization has worked to carry out its mission by hosting events and workshops, and providing resources for families with young children.

And now, with its new logo, C3 can continue with its mission and hopefully, Flynn said, make more people aware of its cause.

Colchester Residents Send \$50.501 Million Budget to Referendum

by Katy Nally

At a record-setting, under-four-minute town meeting Wednesday, about 60 residents unanimously approved a \$50.501 million budget and sent it to a referendum.

The brief meeting paralleled last year's town meeting, which lasted four minutes. Selectman Greg Cordova noted Wednesday's meeting just beat that record, coming in at three minutes and 59 seconds.

While First Selectman Gregg Schuster said he didn't necessarily see the short town meeting as a sign of an easy referendum vote, he did say he was glad Wednesday went smoothly.

"I'm very happy the town meeting unanimously approved the budget," he said.

Town Clerk Nancy Bray said 56 residents came out, in addition to members of the boards of selectmen, finance and education.

Both the education and town operations budgets passed unanimously, with no discussion.

The total spending package represents a 3.11 percent tax increase, bringing the mill rate from 25.07 to 25.85.

The \$50.501 million shows a 1.94 percent increase over the current year's budget of \$49.54

million (which doesn't include \$1.93 million that was funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, bringing this year's total down to \$47.62 million).

Throughout the budget process, officials have said the proposal includes funding for capital projects such as road improvements, which came in at \$400,000.

Although, according to Schuster, this line item is still under-funded. He said town staff originally identified about \$2 million worth of needed road repairs, and in his first budget proposal, Schuster included \$800,000 to fix roads. However, the Board of Finance cut that figure in half.

Still, the \$400,000 as it currently stands, is more than the approximately \$100,000 that was included in this year's budget.

Other changes on the town side include funding an 11th police officer for the Colchester force, who would start on Jan. 1 of next year, hiring a part-time social services coordinator, restructuring the Parks and Recreation Department to bring in a recreation manager instead of a director and bringing the materials budget

for the library up about \$10,000, restoring it to its 2008-09 level.

The town also signed a five-year lease for such equipment as pickup trucks and tractors.

The total town proposal comes in at \$13.68 million, representing a 0.88 percent increase over the current year.

The education budget also included increased funding for capital projects, totaling about \$206,000. This will cover improvements mostly to William J. Johnston Middle School, as well as smaller changes at Bacon Academy.

The Board of Education budget came in at \$36.82 million, after \$550,000, provided by the federal Education Jobs Fund Program, was subtracted. This represents a 2.33 percent increase over this year's education budget of \$35.98 million, which doesn't include about \$1.9 million from federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.

The \$35.98 million is what voters approved at the 2010 referendum, and \$36.82 million is what voters will see at this referendum.

The budget makes cuts to staff, eliminating

a total of 9.5 FTE. The proposal cuts 1 FTE from kindergarten, as well as 1 FTE from both grade five and science at Bacon Academy, 2 FTE from grade four, 0.5 FTE from music at WJMS and Bacon, and 0.5 FTE from WJMS computer class. Also, 2 FTE of paraprofessionals at the middle school and 1 FTE of a paraprofessional from Bacon, and 0.5 FTE of an office professional at Bacon, were proposed to be eliminated.

Salaries for school staff have been criticized during the budget process, specifically the jump from steps 11 to 12. Since the 2009-10 school year, salaries for teachers from steps one to 11 have remained the same and not seen a general wage increase. So, the gap between steps 11 and 12 has widened, making that step increase somewhere between a 13 and 15 percent raise for the 2011-12 pay schedule.

Now that voters approved the \$50.501 million budget at a town meeting, residents will be able to vote on the proposal during the referendum on Tuesday, May 10, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Town Hall.

Zagray Farm Museum Spring Show in Colchester

The Zagray Farm Museum Spring Show, Gas Up and Swap Meet will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 7 and 8, at the Zagray Farm Museum, located on Route 85, on the Colchester-Hebron Town Line.

The Zagray Farm Museum is a New England museum of working farm machinery, and this event will be an educational family show featuring all things mechanical. See the farm's 1873 saw mill, antique construction equipment and farm equipment operating as they did in years gone by.

Hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m. both days.

Show highlights include a tractor parade Saturday at 1 p.m.; tractor pulling Saturday at 11 a.m.; Dundee Creek Doodlebug Pulling Sunday at 11 a.m.; and 1873 Lane Sawmill Dem-

onstrations, Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

There will be breakfast, lunch and ice cream vendors, a swap meet, craft and tag sale, vendors both days, working tractor demonstrations, free wagon rides and tours of the farm museum, antique engine, tractor and machinery displays, Connecticut and Northeast blacksmith club demonstrations, kids sandbox and pedal tractors, antique cars and trucks and country music by Jane Haynes and Friends. There will also be a large swap meet, craft and tag sale.

All are also welcome to visit the farm's machine shop and foundry.

Admission is \$5 a carload. For more information, call Ned at 860-537-2252 or Ed at 860-442-5182, or visit qvea.org.

Colchester Town Hall Closes for Mercury Spill

by Katy Nally

Town Hall was closed briefly Monday morning after a small amount of mercury was released, officials said.

According to a press release from First Selectman Gregg Schuster, a thermostat broke in the town clerk's office and some mercury was released. Town Clerk Nancy Bray said droplets of the substance were found on a stack of papers under the thermostat.

One employee was exposed, but they were examined and later released, Schuster said.

Town Hall reopened 11 a.m. Monday, but the town clerk, tax assessor and tax collector offices remained closed. Those offices reopened Tuesday morning.

As a precaution, Town Hall employees were evacuated and the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department quarantined the building and provided on-site medical exams. As an added measure, the state Department of Environmental Protection was on-site cleaning the affected areas.

"I want to thank the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department and the Department of Environmental Protection for the quick response," Schuster said, adding he was happy no one was injured.

According to the DEP, exposure to mercury can cause neurological and reproductive disorders.

East Hampton Council Looks at Transfer Station Fees, Pine Brook Pipes

by Joshua Anusewicz

Beginning July 1, East Hampton residents will see an increase in fees to use the town's transfer station, as an annual fee will replace the lifetime permit sticker.

Public Works Director Keith Hayden presented the fee increases to the Town Council at Tuesday's meeting, where he explained that fees have been the same for almost 10 years and the revenue brought in isn't meeting the cost to dispose of the items.

"Unfortunately, people have to pay their fair share," Hayden said.

He explained that the town is charged by the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) to dispose of the items, which are brought to the CRRA plant in Hartford.

The most notable change will be the permit sticker, which will go from a \$10 lifetime fee to a \$10 annual fee, Hayden said. Originally, he proposed a \$25 annual sticker permit, but the council agreed that \$25 would be too high.

Certain items will also see fee increases. Appliances such as refrigerators, dishwashers, and stoves will now cost \$15 to dump – a \$5 increase. Furniture such as sofas, mattresses, and large tables will now cost \$30, netting a \$25 increase.

The cost of other bulky waste, which Hayden said can be items like broken sheetrock or broken wooden furniture, will also see increases based on the vehicle that delivers the waste. Cars will remain at \$5, minivans and small pick-up trucks will go from \$15 to \$20, large pick-up trucks and vans will go from \$20 to \$30, trailers will go from \$15 to \$30, and dump trucks will increase from \$60 to \$80.

There will also be a charge for brush, which was previously free. Loads of brush in cars will cost \$5, small pick-ups and minivans will be charged \$10, large pick-ups and vans will cost \$20, trailers will be \$20, and dump trucks will be \$30.

Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said the cost of brush "looks a little expensive," but Interim Town Manager Robert Drewry explained there is "a lot of cost associated with [disposing of brush]," including chipping up the brush and maintaining the equipment.

The council agreed with the fee increases. Council member Thom Cordeiro stressed the importance of having the transfer station and keeping it affordable, adding that the town offers "so few services" currently.

According to Hayden, the \$10 annual sticker permits will go on sale within the next weeks. Information will soon be available on the town's website, easthamptonct.org.

Everbridge, an incident notification systems company from California, made a presentation to the Town Council to promote an emergency system for the town. The program would be coupled with Chatham Health District, which serves seven towns in the area.

According to Francis Willett, a services director at Everbridge, through the company's system, public officials could notify residents of possible crises, including power outages, winter storms, missing children, or evacuations. Certain officials would have access to a webpage that could send messages to residents' homes, cell phones and e-mail accounts.

Willett said the service would allow residents to prioritize up to five devices and specify the best way to reach them in an emergency.

The contacts would be added to a town list, linked to the town's website that an official could utilize.

Residents would then confirm the emergency notification to let Everbridge know that they are safe.

Thad King, the director of health for the Chatham Health District, explained that the services would be free for the town through a state

grant in the Connecticut Public Health Emergency Response Plan. King said that the Chatham Health District already has a contract with Everbridge and East Hampton would just have to sign up.

Town Council members did not take any action on the presentation, but said they plan to review the information at future meetings.

According to Drewry, a permanent fix is coming soon for the residents of Pine Brook Road, which was damaged this winter.

Several months have been spent reviewing possible solutions.

Drewry said Tuesday that the plan is to use two pipes that will run underneath the road and allow the waters of Pine Brook to run more freely, rather than repair the one pipe that is currently in place.

This winter, after the heavy snowfall melted, Pine Brook rose over the road as the single pipe could not handle the volume of water. The water took out a large chunk of the road, keeping the two families that live on the road stranded.

The two families, the Cookes and the Lees, have pushed Drewry and the Town Council to find a solution, but negotiations have been slow. Drewry said Tuesday the main priority was "not to have to continue maintenance [on the pipe] if the road was just going to washout again."

After several meetings with the families and Hayden, Drewry said the plan is to use two pipes. He said that the new pipes could be paid for as part of a proposed bonding agreement, which would include funds for a new roof at Memorial School and possible road repairs. The bonding will be on a future agenda for the Board of Finance, which must approve the bonding.

The repairs, which Drewry said would cost roughly \$400,000, could also be funded by the state's Town Aid Road Program. Drewry said that this week, he was notified that the town

would qualify to receive that funding and will now look into applying.

The Town Council unanimously agreed with the plan and will wait for the Board of Finance's review before making any further decisions.

The council also reminded residents the referendum on the town budget will be on Tuesday, May 3, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at East Hampton High School.

The proposed 2011-12 budget is \$37.86 million after the Town Council agreed to cut \$321,798 from the original figure on April 14.

Spending will be reduced by \$136,000 from the 2010-11 fiscal year, but, according to Engel, the mill rate will increase by 0.76 of a mill, to 25.74.

"Roughly 60 percent of residents will not see an increase in their taxes [because of a recent revaluation]," Engel said on April 14.

Cordeiro said on Monday the council has presented a "very prudent budget" and he hopes "residents see the work we've put in to help them not have to pay more in taxes."

"Let's hope we only have to vote once," he added.

The Board of Education originally proposed a \$26.61 million budget in February, a 2.82 percent increase from 2010-11. However, the Board of Finance made \$146,000 in cuts to the education budget.

Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden said last week, if the budget passes, she is not sure of where the reductions will come from and they "will most likely have to be made after the town referendum."

No residents commented on the budget at Monday's town meeting, which lasted only a few minutes. Moderator Red McKinney and members of the Town Council quickly approved the date and time of the town referendum.

New East Hampton Interim Town Manager Starts Monday

by Joshua Anusewicz

When asked why he came out of retirement, East Hampton's new Interim Town Manager John Weichsel didn't hesitate to explain.

"I've been working since I was 14 years old and retirement is not for me," he said quickly.

At 78 years old, he certainly hasn't lost any motivation.

Weichsel has spent the last 44 years as the town manager of Southington, earning him the title as longest serving town manager in the country and the only one Southington has ever had. After retiring in January, Weichsel saw a unique opportunity in East Hampton as an interim town manager.

"It was a very specific job," he said. "At my age, it's probably better that it's not permanent."

The interim manager position is expected to last until at least the end of the year, but could last up to 18 months, which would give a newly-elected Town Council time to settle in before electing a permanent town manager.

Weichsel was chosen by the Town Council out of 36 applicants for the position, which is currently held by Robert Drewry, who came out of retirement himself as Director of Public Works to take the job. Drewry has not expressed interest in keeping the position, giving May 1 as his "drop dead date," according to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, who counts this "drop dead date" as his fourth such claim.

Drewry is expected to remain active to help ease Weichsel's transition, which he is ready to start on May 2, but only because he couldn't

start earlier.

"He would have started this morning," Engel said on Wednesday.

Weichsel steps into a position that has seen a lot of turnover in the past year. Last September, former town manager Jeffery O'Keefe resigned due to pressure from residents after sexual harassment and retaliation complaints were brought against him. O'Keefe received a \$170,000 severance package after resigning, and Drewry has held the position ever since.

But hopes are that Weichsel, with years of experience, can handle the challenge. Engel praised his experience, stating that there's "probably not a path he hasn't been down." She's also looking forward to working with a town manager that she says is "much different from anyone we've had in the past."

Although Weichsel says he isn't totally up to speed and still "isn't sure what the all of the main issues are," he believes that with his experience it won't take long.

"I know that in a few weeks, I'll be smarter than I am now," Weichsel said. "I just want to get in there and get the ship going on a straight course."

Edward S. Pocock, Town Council chairman for Southington, said he "wasn't surprised" when he heard Weichsel would come out of retirement, saying that being a leader is "in his blood." Pocock, who is also a member of the Southington Police Department, worked with Weichsel for three years and said East Hampton is lucky to have someone with his attitude.

"When he wants to do something, he abso-

lutely gets it done," Pocock said. "He's handled a lot of issues, particularly issues that others don't want."

Pocock praised Weichsel for his work with the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility, a project that provides 16 towns in central Connecticut with environmentally safe and cost-effective disposal services. According to the group's website, the disposal of the 600 tons of waste daily provides 16.3 megawatts of energy to power local homes and businesses.

Pocock said not only is he an "innovator," but that Weichsel is as "nonpartisan as anyone I've ever seen in politics."

According to the Southington town clerk's office, during his time as town manager, Weichsel was registered as an unaffiliated voter.

Not only is Weichsel revered in his own town, but around the state as well. At his retirement party in January, many state politicians, including U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, were in attendance. Pocock added that "his face is well-known around the capitol," and he is heavily involved with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

The Town Council is still working on finalizing a contract and a background check, which Weichsel joked he would "pass with muster." His salary was to be announced after an executive session held after press time Thursday.

Weichsel said he's looking forward to meeting residents and getting started.

"It's exciting to be the new kid on the block and help the town," he said. "This is very exciting for me."



East Hampton's new interim town manager, John Weichsel, will begin at Town Hall on May 2.

Driver Chokes, Hits Tree on Route 2 in Colchester

A 40-year-old Lyme resident was sent to the hospital last Wednesday, April 20 around 7:20 a.m. after he drove into a tree off Route 2, State Police said.

Scott Young was traveling eastbound on Route 2 just past exit 21 when he took a sip of coffee and began choking, police said. Young then reportedly lost control of his 2002

Ford and struck a tree on the left median.

He sustained minor injuries, which were listed as a "nose bleed," and was transported to Backus Hospital via Colchester ambulance.

The left lane was closed for about 20 minutes, police said, and Young was issued an infraction for an improper lane change.

His vehicle sustained front-end damage.

Andover Missing Woman Found Dead

by Courtney Parent

On Sunday, April 24, a missing Andover woman was found dead in a wooded area in Bolton, according to a press release from State Police Troop K.

At approximately 3:02 p.m. on Thursday, April 21 it was reported to Troop K that Maria St. Louis, 52, of Andover, was threatening suicide. Troopers responded to her residence, but concluded that she was in her vehicle at an unknown location.

State troopers, Manchester and Vernon police officers and state police K9 teams scoured the Vernon/Manchester/Bolton region after

developing information that led them to believe that St. Louis and her vehicle were spotted in that area, the press release said. The search was unsuccessful.

Further information led troopers to Lower Bolton Pond. However, the Connecticut State Police Dive Team's search, using side scan sonar, also came up negative, according to the press release.

On Sunday, however, St. Louis was found in a wooded area off Cider Mill Road, police said. The Office of the Medical Examiner ruled the cause of death to asphyxia and the manner of death to be suicide.

Car Collides with State Trooper in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

An East Hampton woman has been charged with failure to obey a stop sign after colliding with a Connecticut State Police officer last Friday, April 22.

According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, at roughly 8:30 p.m., Maureen McCabe, 52, of 3 Ola Ave., was turning left off of Young Street (Route 196) to go westbound on Middletown Avenue (Route 16) when she collided with a State Police vehicle. The police vehicle was

driven by Karen Gabianelli, a Connecticut state trooper, who Kelly said was passing through the town on her way to the University of Connecticut.

Kelly said that both women sustained minor injuries, with McCabe taking an ambulance to Marlborough Medical Center for treatment. He also said that both cars had minor damage to their front ends.

No further charges are expected against McCabe.

East Hampton Police News

4/9: A 17-year-old of East Hampton and Harry Carr, 28, of East Hampton were involved in a two-car accident in the area of 20 East High St., East Hampton Police said. The 17-year-old was issued a written warning for following too close.

4/14: John Dash, 78 of East Hampton, and Michael Lynch, 33, of East Hampton, were involved in a two-car accident at the intersection of West High Street and Maple Street, police said. Dash was issued a written warning for failure to grant right of way.

4/16: Todd Baster Goodspeed, 21, of 129 Parker Rd., East Haddam, was arrested for failure to drive right, failure to carry a valid insurance card and DUI, police said.

Obituaries

Colchester

Corrine Anita Black

Corrine Anita Black, 67, wife of Charles Black of Colchester, passed away Friday, April 22, at the William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich. She was born Feb. 10, 1944, in Hartford, daughter of Maddox and Anita Tonnesson Dombrowski and resided in Wilson. She had been employed for the former G. Fox Company, Connecticut Bank and Trust and her last employment she worked 27 years for Ted's Supermarket of Hebron.

She was married for 48 years to Charles Dewitt Black, who survives her. Also surviving her are her son, Todd J. Black; sisters, Adrienne Kelley and Margaret Wetherell; three grandsons, Levi, Jett, Ziggy; and granddaughter, Tabatha Massiello.

She was predeceased by her son, Dewitt Charles Black.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 30, at 2 p.m., at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St. Colchester. Visitation will be one hour prior to her service.

Memorial donations may be made to the Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation or to the Heart Fund, c/o your local chapter.

Hebron

Timothy David Nolt

Timothy David Nolt, 42, passed away Wednesday, April 20, in Hebron. Tim was born in Lancaster, PA, on March 9, 1969, and is the son of Samuel K. and Joyce (Weaver) Nolt of Lancaster, PA.

He is survived by his loving wife of almost 13 years, Lisa Shannon Nolt. He was the devoted father to his two children, Allison, 9, and Ryan, 7, and his beloved family golden retrievers, Chester and Jake.

Growing up, he played with the Little League Baseball All-Star Team and participated in Cub Scouts. A 1987 honors graduate of Hempfield High School in Landisville, PA, Tim excelled in varsity soccer, tennis, and track. His honors upon graduation included Student of the Quarter, National Honor Society, Hempfield Women's Club Outstanding Student, and he received an HEA Scholarship.

He received his BS in mechanical engineering in 1991 at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA, where he was active in sports and Kappa Sigma fraternity. Tim later received his Master's of Business Administration from the University of Connecticut. He spent most of his professional career with Pratt & Whitney – A United Technologies Company, in managerial positions, and most recently served as business maintenance manager of Line Maintenance Services. Tim was a member of the First Church of Christ Congregational, UCC, in Glastonbury, having transferred from his home church, Lancaster Moravian, Lancaster, PA.

He enjoyed sports, golf, and working in the out-of-doors. As a very devoted father and sports enthusiast, Tim also coached his children in the skills of soccer, and recently headed the Hebron Youth Soccer Program.

Tim is also survived by a sister, Kristin Nolt Wingard, her husband, Larry Wingard of South Pasadena, CA, and nephews Jackson and Samuel Wingard. He also leaves his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Robert and Janet Shannon of Glastonbury, a brother-in-law, Michael Shannon, wife Jen and nephews Luke, Tommy, and Zachary Shannon of Glastonbury. Other survivors include many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Relatives and friends attended calling hours Tuesday, April 26, at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. The funeral was held Wednesday, April 27, in the First Church of Christ Congregational, UCC, 2183 Main St., Glastonbury. Burial will follow in Green Cemetery, Glastonbury.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to benefit the education of Allison and Ryan Nolt. Checks should be made payable to Michael Shannon, and sent to Michael Shannon, c/o Anchor Rubber, 152 Rockwell Rd., C8, Newington, CT 06111.

For online tributes, visit mulryanfh.com.

Hebron

Carl Peter Hansen

Carl Peter Hansen, 70, of Hebron and Santa Maria, CA, passed into eternal rest in Santa Maria, CA, Tuesday, April 12, after courageously battling brain cancer which was only discovered days before Christmas 2010.

Born in Long Beach, CA, to Navy Captain Henry Otto and Emily Sherwood Hansen, he was raised in Hawaii, Maryland, Kansas, Washington and California. He attended Punahou High School in Honolulu, HI, and Junipero Serra Catholic High School, in Monterey, CA. He met the love of his life, Barbara Marie Krusewski "Krouse" Hansen (deceased) at the California Tip Toppers club and they fell immediately in love.

At this time he was welcomed into the Roman Catholic faith. Carl Peter and Barbara Marie were married in Waterbury, and settled down in California to start a family, finish college and pursue a career as a computer engineer. With much hard work and dedication he received his bachelor's degree in computer science from West Coast University. Highlights in his career include working at Hughes Aircraft Company and Hewlett Packard.

He had a deep passion for supporting his loving wife and family, working hard, and a lifelong enjoyment of electronics, food, friends and faith. He was also a Knights of Columbus member. He fought and survived breast cancer at age 43 with alternative treatments, when given a 10 percent chance of survival. He took an early retirement 14 years later to care for his wife when she suffered a stroke. Together they moved back to Connecticut in the summer and in the winter, they returned to Santa Maria as "snow birds."

Dedicated and beloved husband, father, "Papa", friend, computer engineer, UConn, Angels and Red Sox fan, he will be greatly missed. Though he has gone on, he left us with many beautiful memories and much wisdom to continue to carry our family forward.

Carl Peter is survived by his daughter, Christina Marie Hansen Arakaki and husband Dr. Henry Arakaki Jr. of Santa Maria, CA; his son, US Army Major Timothy Peter Hansen and wife Ginger Ellen Hansen of Olympia, WA (soon to be Monterey, CA); his sister, Susan Hansen Asaiante and deceased brother-in-law James V. Asaiante, Jr. of Holden, MA; his brother-in-law Robert Krusewski and wife Eleanor of Mystic; three grandchildren: Harrison Hansen (16), Christian Hansen (10) and Henry Arakaki III (7); a nephew, James V. Asaiante III of Holden, MA; a niece, Susan Berry Hansson of Princeton, MA, and husband Bengt Hansson and their children Jennifer Hansson (21) and J.B. Hansson (19), numerous cousins and loving family.

Carl Peter's family acknowledges the love and support of family, clergy, friends and the many medical personnel that cared for and loved him with deep gratitude and praise. His son and daughter acknowledge both their father and mother, for the beautiful example of a committed marriage they showed. They especially acknowledge their father in being their mother's primary caregiver for 16 years until last summer when she was buried on their 42nd wedding anniversary.

On Thursday, April 28, there was a gathering at Pete's home in the Village at Loveland Hills, Hebron. Visiting hours are today, April 29, from 4:45-7 p.m., with Rosary at 5:15 p.m., at Cody-White Funeral Home, 107 Broad St. on the Green, Milford, 06460. A prayer service will be held Saturday, April 30, at 9:45 a.m., at Cody-White Funeral Home, followed by a Memorial Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary Catholic Church, 70 Gulf St., Milford, at 10:30 a.m. Burial service at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery immediately following, where he will be laid to rest next to his beloved wife, Barbara.

On April 16, a Rosary, Mass and reception were held in Santa Maria, CA.

Memorial contributions may be made in honor of both Peter and Barbara's love for education. In gratitude, the family has established the Carl Peter and Barbara K. Hansen Memorial Scholarship, payable to St. Louis de Montfort Catholic School, 5095 Harp Rd, Santa Maria, CA 93455.

A father's love is forever. Not even death can separate the bond we have with you, Dad. We will always honor your legacy and promise to love and care for one another.



Andover

Walter W. Bosk

Walter W. Bosk, 92, of Andover, passed away peacefully Monday, April 18, at Marlborough Health Care Center. Son of the late Werner Bosk and Ida Holmberg McLeod, he was born in New London on March 20, 1919.

Walter was a graduate of Hartford Public High School and has lived in Andover for more than 50 years. He retired as a carpenter with Local Union 43.

Walter was predeceased by his first wife, Bertha Christensen Bosk, and his second wife, Irene Stratton Bosk. He leaves a son, Edward Bosk of Andover and a large extended family both near and far.

Walter was an avid fisherman and loved to share his adventures with family and friends.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, April 26, at Townsend Cemetery in Andover. There will be no public calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, please honor Walter by making a charitable gift to those in need and sharing your time and love with family and friends.

Visit carmonfuneralhome.com to send online notes of condolence to his family.

East Hampton

Robert E. Wheeler

Robert E. Wheeler, 72, loving husband and soul mate of Gayle (Wennerberg) Wheeler passed away at Hartford Hospital on Saturday, April 16.

Bob was the president of Sabre Industries, Inc., of East Hampton working as an engineer most of his life. He was a 50-plus year member of the Mattabassett Grange of East Hampton and the Hillstown Grange of East Hampton and just last year received his 50-year pin from the Anchor Lodge – Order of the Masons of East Hampton.

Bob touched the lives of many especially through his work as a Karuna Reiki master/teacher; sharing his gift with others to keep this Japanese healing art alive. He loved music and sang with various German clubs and church choirs. Bob was always there to lend a helping hand and had such a calming way of speaking that you were just drawn to him.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Anne (Berner) Wheeler and is survived by his twin sons, Paul and Mark and their children: Thomas, Phillip, Benjamin, Jacob, Chloe and Lisabeth; a sister, Marian Coleman and her husband, John, of Windsor; also many much loved nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a brother, Russell, whose wife, "Mimi," and family resides in Altavista, VA.

Burial will be private and donations can be made to a charity of choice.

Colchester

Robert P. Janco

Robert P. Janco, 78, of Colchester and formerly of Fairfield, beloved husband of Rita (Harrold) Janco, passed away Tuesday, April 26, at the William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, surrounded by his loving family. Born Aug. 14, 1932, in Bridgeport, he was a son of the late Paul and Elizabeth (Bejzci) Janco.

Mr. Janco proudly served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War and went on to work in law enforcement for many years. He served as a sergeant for the Fairfield Police Dept. until his retirement in 1975. He continued his career as a special deputy with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, and finally as an Investigator for the Connecticut State Attorney's Office in New London before retiring in 2003.

Bob was an avid fan of the New York Mets, New York Jets and NASCAR.

In addition to his loving wife, he is survived by four children, Kenneth Janco of Norwich, Debra Andrysiak and her husband (Bob's best bud), John of Colchester, Jennifer Matheson of Colchester and Keith Janco of Burlington, NC; eight grandchildren, Michelle, Jonathan, Matthew, Michael, Sabrina, Paige, Nicholas and Jack; a great grandson, James; his brother, Paul Janco of Uncasville; his sister, Betty Ann Kroeger of St. Paul, MN; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by three sons, Mark, Michael and Steven.

Friends may call 5-7 p.m. today, April 29, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral will assemble starting at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 30, at the funeral home before the celebration of the funeral liturgy at noon at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Rendering of military honors will follow Mass. Burial will be private in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Erin Loprinze

Erin Loprinze, 36, died peacefully at home in Portland Wednesday, April 20. She is the beloved daughter of Eileen Loprinze and Owen Loprinze.

Erin attended Portland schools and was a 1993 graduate of Mercy High School. Overcoming treatment for a brain tumor in 1990, she met the physical challenges head on. She went on to graduate from St. Joseph College with a BA in psychology with an emphasis in art therapy. Always an artist and interested in the creative arts and with the encouragement of Prof. Bouchard at SJC, she learned to paint with her non-dominant left hand.

After graduation, she did art therapy with seniors. She became a member of Vista Vocational in 2007. With the help and inspiration of her job coach Harriet Gottlieb, Erin created her own business, "The Bee's Knees," selling prints and cards of her original watercolors and oils.

In addition to her parents she leaves her brother Christopher Loprinze, of Pepperell, MA, his wife Rachel and her cherished nephew and niece, Elizabeth and Jacob Loprinze; also aunts and uncles, Linda Reynolds and William Culotta of Old Lyme and Daneen and Gregory Roth of New London. She also leaves her grandmother, Dolores Loprinze of Waterford, two great aunts, Katherine Reynolds and Joyce Smith.

She was predeceased by her grandparents Josh and Russell Reynolds and Joseph Loprinze.

Erin has many cousins, friends and children who loved her, especially the Bartman family, the Lagana/Stabach families and all the Reynolds families.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone who has aided the family throughout Erin's challenges: friends, neighbors, the community of St Mary's Church and the staff at Middlesex Hospital Critical Care Unit, Middlesex Palliative/Hospice Care and Vista Vocational. Erin's family greatly appreciated the daily loving care given by Michele, Elizabeth and Leslie.

Calling hours were Monday, April 25, at St Mary's Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, April 26. Burial will be private at a later date.

As a memorial to Erin, donations can be made to Mercy High School, 1740 Randolph Rd., Middletown CT 06457-5155. A scholarship will be established in her name for students with an interest in art.

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

Portland

Anthony W. Salomone

Anthony W. "Bill" Salomone, 92, of Portland, died peacefully Friday, April 22, at Hartford Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Jennie (Musillo) Salomone, having celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on April 20. Born in New York City, NY, son of the late Nicola and Rose (Vissichio) Salomone, he has been a Portland resident for four years.

A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, he saw combat in the Battle of Nancy, France, and various combat engagements in Lorraine, France, and Germany during the Rhineland campaign. He was redeployed and saw combat in Belgium and Luxembourg and was injured in combat during the Battle of the Bulge. He received the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Bronze Star for Valor, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon with two stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Bill was proud to be a NYPD officer, retiring in 1957. In 1980 he retired after a second career in the insurance industry. He had a lifelong love of golf, and played well into his eighties.

A devoted father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he leaves three children and their spouses, Rosemary and Louis Valerio of Manchester, VT, Anthony W. Salomone Jr. and his wife Eve of Harrisburg, PA, and John L. Salomone and his wife Karen of Newington; six grandchildren, Suzanne, Michael, Janine, Nicole, Jaelyn and Jonathan; and six great-grandchildren Jesse, Tate, Ava, Brandon, Lauren and Katelyn. He also leaves a brother Benjamin Salomone on Long Island, NY, and numerous nieces and nephews.

His funeral service was Tuesday, April 26, beginning at the Newington Memorial Funeral Home, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington, and followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at noon at St. Mary's Church, 626 Willard Ave., Newington. He was laid to rest with military honors in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. Relatives and friends called Monday, April 25, at Newington Memorial.

Memorial donations may be made to Disabled American Veterans, Attn: Gift Processing, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301.

To share your sympathy with his family, visit newingtonmemorial.com.

Portland

Robert Stevens

Robert "Bob" Stevens, 84, formerly of Portland and Cobalt, husband of Betty (Hippler) Stevens of Seabury in Bloomfield, passed on peacefully Wednesday, April 20.

Besides Betty, his devoted wife of 59 years, he leaves three children and their families: Paul and his wife Gail, Lynn and her husband Dr. John Giacchetto and Peter and his wife Sarah; grandchildren: Eric and Chantal Scanlon, Gabrielle and Kurt Gannon, Mandy Giacchetto, Laura Stevens, Matt and Julie Stevens; and great grandchildren: Shane and Alana.

He was born in Hartford to Horace and Anna (Lauritzen) Stevens. As the youngest of 13 children, Bob was quickly blessed with the true meaning of "family." After his father's early death, his siblings took on the role of older brother/sister and guided Bob throughout his childhood. All deceased, siblings Dortha, Elizabeth, Ethel, Beatrice, Enos, Walter, Lenore Crane, William, Arthur, Florence Shera, Constance Reitz and Jane Taylor were a steady force in his upbringing and remained at the center of Bob's gratitude throughout his life.

A graduate of Buckley High School and recipient of a Fox Scholarship, Bob attended WPI, served in the U.S. Navy and then went on to graduate from Wesleyan University in 1949. Upon graduation, he started his professional career as the Associate Director of the Hartford County YMCA.

He moved onto a distinguished career in the insurance industry, culminating a 38-year career with Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company where he served as executive vice president and chief investment officer and president, Connecticut Mutual Financial Services. He served as a member of Hartford and New York Societies of Financial Analysts and was chairman of the American Council of Life Insurance.

Having resided in Hartford, Portland and then Cobalt, his long devotion to community service included serving as chairman of the Fox Scholarship Foundation; director of Hartford Hospital; president, treasurer, deacon, trustee and vice president of the Congregational Church of South Glastonbury; trustee of Wesleyan University; a member of the Investment Committee of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving; chairman of Portland's Board of Education; board chairman for Liberty Savings Bank; corporator and finance committee member of the Rockfall Corporation; committee of Middlesex Hospital; investment committee of the Missionary Society of Connecticut; director of the Hartford Seminary; director of the YMCA of Greater Hartford; chairman of the Portland United Way; and Portland Exchange Club.

He was recognized as Distinguished Citizen of the Year by the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce and received the Alumni Outstanding Service Award from Wesleyan University.

A memorial service will be held at the Congregational Church of South Glastonbury at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 30. A reception will follow in the church's social hall. A private family burial will take place at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made either to the Fox Scholarship Foundation, 251 Sterling Dr., Newington, CT 06111; Hartford Hospital's Memorial Fund, c/o The Fund Development Dept., 80 Seymour St., Hartford, CT 06102; or the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011.

For directions and online condolences, visit taylorandmodeen.com.

Hebron

William H. Habicht

William H. Habicht, of Glastonbury, died at home Monday, April 25, with his family present. He was the son of Frank Habicht and Winifred Morley and was born in Buchanan, MI, on Feb. 10, 1919.

He graduated from high school in 1936 as class president and valedictorian and was awarded a scholarship to Cornell University, graduating as a mechanical engineer in 1940. He was enrolled in the Army Officer Training Program and graduated a second lieutenant in Army Ordinance. Bill was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and Tau Beta Pi. Upon graduation, he was hired by Hamilton Standard as a test engineer.

Then, exempted from military service and employed by Hamilton to support the war effort, he worked as a technical representative for USA aircraft manufacturers across the United States. He then played a significant technical and management role in Hamilton Standard's successful postwar transition from a "propellers only" company into a diversified major supplier of aerospace systems. He assisted in the development of the equipment for the Apollo space program including the Lunar Module Abort Sensor Assembly (LM/ASA), which was called upon to return Apollo 13 safely to earth. In 1953 he married Janice Esther Barker of East Hartford.

He leaves Janice, his wife of 58 years, his son, Jeffrey Habicht of Colchester, his son, Todd, and his wife, Holly, of Hebron, and daughter, Susan, and her husband, Douglas Mayne, of Suffield; also seven grandchildren, Kevin, Brian, Cara and Grady Habicht of Hebron, Briana Habicht of Colchester, Benjamin and Henry Mayne of Suffield.

He was predeceased by a sister, Jane Todhunter of San Diego, CA, and two brothers, Robert Habicht of Buchanan, MI, and Richard Habicht of Farmington Hills, MI.

In retirement, he kept busy as the secretary of the Glastonbury Water Pollution Control Authority and chairman of the engineering sub-committee for 23 years. He was a founding member of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library Second Century Fund and served as president and treasurer during his tenure.

For recreation, Bill enjoyed skiing, tennis, sailing and golf. At age 57, he took up the new sport of windsurfing, and placed in the Senior Nationals at Hilton Head. He was a longtime member of the Hartford Golf Club and the Hartford Ski Club. Bill was a tall man with a twinkle in his eye and a dry sense of humor. He will be missed by his family and many friends.

A memorial service will be celebrated Monday May 2 at 11:30am in the Congregational Church of South Glastonbury (corner of Main and High streets). Burial will be in Hockanum Cemetery, East Hartford. Friends may call at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury on Saturday, April 30, from 4-7p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the charity of your choice.

