



RIVEREAST

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The Middlesex Chamber of Commerce recently discussed plans to revamp the Arrigoni Bridge. Repairs will begin this summer and the final stage is slated to finish in October of next year.

Facelift Coming for Arrigoni Bridge

by Joshua Anusewicz

Public officials and residents from both Portland and East Hampton were on hand at a Middlesex Chamber of Commerce meeting Wednesday to hear plans for repairs of the Arrigoni Bridge, which are slated to begin this summer.

Dave Cutler, a supervising engineer for the Department of Transportation, announced that a bid was awarded to The Middlesex Corporation of Littleton, MA and the contract should be signed by the end of April.

The total cost of the repairs will be just under \$17 million, Cutler said. Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield noted this is strictly a state project and that Portland will contribute "no additional dollars."

The Arrigoni Bridge is inspected every two years by the DOT and in 2009, it scored a three out of 10.

"We consider that in serious condition," Cutler said. "We saw the need to do something quickly." It can usually take up to a year to start a project, Cutler said, but the DOT received a green light on the proposed repairs after three months.

The repairs are scheduled to be completed in three stages, starting on Aug. 1. The first stage will be completed by November 2011 and includes repairing two outside lanes. The second stage will be completed by April 2012 and aims to repair the middle of the bridge. The repairs for the final lanes will be finished by October 2012.

The repairs will focus on redoing the deck system on the bridge, which includes replacing the support beams and adding a new layer of concrete and asphalt. The support beams have not been replaced since the bridge was built in 1938 and, according to Cutler, this change would save time and money.

The construction will close two lanes of the bridge at all times, as Cutler explained, when the deck is removed, it can't be covered for cars to drive over. He also said that the project is "very aggressive," with crews working nights and weekends to get the repairs done as quickly as possible.

Understandably, many residents on hand Wednesday still had concerns about the traffic, particularly its effect on emergency vehicles. Cutler said there will be municipal police at both ends of the bridge, as well as a traffic supervisor who will help police, fire officials, and paramedics get across the bridge in case of emergency.

East Hampton Board of Education member Mark Laraia expressed concern over other construction projects scheduled for nearby bridges on the Connecticut River – referencing the Putnam Bridge (Route 2) connecting Wethersfield and Glastonbury and the East Haddam Bridge (Route 82) – and how they could affect crossing the river. Chamber of Commerce President Larry McHugh said that because of these coinciding projects, the

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RHAM Budget Heads to Public Hearing

by Courtney Parent

After finally finalizing their budget last Tuesday, March 29, the RHAM Board of Education will present its proposed 2011-12 budget at a public budget hearing this coming Monday, April 11, at 7 p.m.

The budget stands at \$24.65 million, a \$432,845 or 1.79 percent, increase over current year spending.

While those planning to attend the public hearing only see the most recent proposal, it is easy to forget the numerous additions and reductions it took to get to this point.

The original proposal that Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski presented at a Feb. 28 meeting was for \$24.75 million, representing a \$525,512 or 2.17 percent increase. The biggest increase in this original proposal was a \$418,612 spike in the teacher salaries line item due to a collective bargaining agreement that was settled in 2009. It represented a 1.5 percent general wage increase plus a step increase, equaling a 4 percent total salary increase.

During initial budget meetings, there was focus on outplacement tuition versus RHAM's Clinical Day Treatment program. The program allows the school to save money by working with students in-house rather than the alterna-

tive of outplacement. The average tuition cost for outplacement is \$53,329 per student, with the average transportation cost representing \$12,146. There are approximately eight students enrolled in the in-house program, meaning the outplacement program would have cost \$523,800.

General transportation costs in the budget are slated to rise \$41,463, to a total of \$1,114,721, and school board members stressed the half million dollar savings between outplacement and transportation.

However, as the budget moved forward in the review process, the focus shifted from salaries and outplacement tuition to technology costs to pay-to-play, lacrosse funding and user fees.

Specifically, a March 14 meeting led to further technology discussion and athletic controversy. At this meeting, Information Technology Director Hector Marciano and Athletic Director Mark Logan both gave presentations on their areas of expertise.

Marciano's presentation proved to be beneficial in reducing the technology line item within the budget. During Marciano's presentation he noted difficulty keeping up with service de-

mand with a limited staff of just three individuals. After mentioning additional services that he provides to the town of Hebron and the Hebron School System, the board began questioning whether a restructuring of the fee was necessary. This led to a \$7,000 decrease in the technology line item (which will be offset by an increase in the amount that Hebron will have to pay).

The meetings thereafter circled around the partial funding of lacrosse and how that potential funding would impact pay-to-play and user fees. The majority of the controversy revolved around breaking an initial agreement which stated that the lacrosse program would be self-funded for three years, at which time the board would re-evaluate it. When lacrosse season starts this spring, it will mark the second year of the program.

At a meeting on March 21, after more than \$27,000 in reductions, the proposed budget stood at \$24.69 million or a 1.93 percent increase over current year spending. Reductions included \$7,856 to diesel fuel, \$7,000 to meetings and conferences, a 3,000 gallon oil decrease resulting in a \$7,680 reduction and a \$5,000 reduction to athletic transportation based on

sports teams likelihood to make it to playoffs and championships.

When the Board of Education finally passed its budget last Tuesday, it was due to several additional reductions that were made to the spending plan. These included a \$7,000 technology reduction (which will be offset by an increase in the amount that Hebron will have to pay), a \$15,000 decrease in instructional supplies, and a \$5,000 reduction to Capital Fund (representing field repair costs).

The controversy over pay-to-play, user fees and lacrosse funding was also finally resolved. Included in the budget is \$150,000 representing pay-to-play fees. In the end, the board decided to stick to its initial agreement of lacrosse being self-funded for three years, at which point it would be reviewed.

"What we try to do is present the budget that recognized the economic times," said Siminski, "that provided the same level of programming and reflected the issues facing the board at this time."

Siminski explained the budget process from this point forward by saying that the budget will be presented at a public hearing or multiple

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Arrigoni Bridge cont. from Front Page

Putnam Bridge has been “fast-tracked” and the plans to repair the East Haddam Bridge have been postponed.

East Hampton resident Mary Ann Dostaler questioned the ability of commercial trucks and oversized vehicles to cross the bridge, due to parts of the deck being removed. According to Cutler, large trucks are currently not allowed to cross the bridge, even though they often do, but added, no restrictions will be put on these vehicles during construction.

Cutler also announced the DOT has at-

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public hearings if necessary, once approved it will be sent forward to a district meeting and then on to referendum.

RHAM Board of Education Chairman Michael Turner said this week it is hard to anticipate any potential public comments. However, he noted that neither the Board of Selectmen nor the Board of Finance had any comments on any particular areas of the proposed \$24.65 million budget. He also noted that the Marlborough Board of Finance thought it was

tempted to “get the word out” about the project through press releases, Twitter updates, and the department’s website, ct.gov/dot. He also said that live traffic cameras will be available online and “smart zones” will be installed, which can provide traffic updates and estimated wait times directly to a phone.

A meeting of the Arrigoni Bridge Committee, a group within the Chamber of Commerce, will be held Friday, May 13, at 9:30 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce office at 393 Main St. in Middletown.

“acceptable,” and added, “I think it’s pretty reasonable.”

Based on years past, neither Turner nor Siminski are anticipating large attendance numbers, with Turner saying attendance would likely be “light” and Siminski saying that everyone is welcome.

After next Monday’s meeting, the next step is a district meeting Monday, May 2, and then a referendum Tuesday, May 3.



Four youths who were allegedly four-wheeling on the multi-use fields at Camp Ingersoll have been identified by Portland Police and have agreed to help repair the damage that is shown above.

Teens on Trucks Cause Damage to Camp Ingersoll Fields in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

Damage to the fields at YMCA Camp Ingersoll is expected to cost around \$5,000, Senior Camp Director Patrick Connelly said this week.

According to a police report from Sgt. Scott Cunningham, on March 8, four youths were caught “four-wheeling” in trucks on the fields at the camp. With the help of the Portland Police Department and the surveillance photos, all four were identified.

Police said Connelly notified officers of trucks on his property. After inspecting the heavy damage to the fields, Connelly approached the trucks, which were at the edge of the woods, and the youths quickly drove off.

Officer Peter Paranzino reviewed the surveillance photos and was able to identify the license plate of one of the trucks, which belonged to a youth from East Hampton. After interviewing the teen, the three other parties were identified.

No arrests were made. According to Cunningham, the teens were “cooperative and

apologetic” and have worked out an agreement with Connelly to help repair the damage to the field, which Connelly said is a “multi-use field” used during summer camp. He said it is located behind the soccer fields, and not used by the Portland youth soccer leagues.

Cunningham also said this is not the first instance of trespassing on the property, due to its isolation, but they have not received any complaints since the incident.

Connelly said two of the four youths have contacted him and have planned to help do some “physical labor” around the camp, as well as write a letter of apology to the campers and their families. He said that the incident was “frustrating,” mentioning that the camp is “a small, non-profit camp” and doesn’t have much money to spend on repairs.

Since the incident, Connelly has also noticed an increased police presence in the area, and commended the “ramped efforts” of the surrounding residents, who have been keeping a closer watch for trespassers.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

As is the case with a lot of you, I use a Yahoo e-mail account as my personal e-mail address. Whenever I log into it, on the main screen, off to the right, is a list of the top 10 items “trending now.” It’s a list of the terms people are most searching for at the moment you happen to log in to your e-mail.

Generally, the list is populated by various celebrities and world events. Occasionally when a chain of stores announces it’s going out of business, it’s included. Plus, there are the seasonal trending items; last November, for example, I remember that the day before Thanksgiving one of the items was “pumpkin pie recipes.”

But when I logged on at one point early Tuesday evening, I had to do a double take. Sitting among the celebrities on the “trending now” list was “bacon sundaes.”

Wha – what? Bacon sundaes?

When I logged back on a little later, the term was gone. But its memory remained heavy in my brain. Bacon sundaes. Why was that a trending topic? Moreover, how could that possibly be good? I like bacon, and I like sundaes, but those seem like two tastes best enjoyed separately, not together.

So I did a little casual Googling. Turns out the bacon sundae is one of the items on the new line of bacon goods being rolled out by Denny’s. I had seen the commercial for the new bacon line, but figured it would be mostly bacon-themed burgers, bacon-covered fries, pancakes with bacon, etc. I imagined a couple of unusual bacon items might make it onto the list. Never did I picture a bacon sundae though.

So what’s in the bacon sundae? Turns out there are only three ingredients: vanilla ice cream, maple syrup and chopped bacon. (Yes, the sundae features maple syrup;

hmm, perhaps I spot an early addition to the menu at Hebron Maple Fest 2012?) A quick browsing of the Internet reveals there are bloggers who have already tried the dessert and opined about it. A writer for Pegasus News, for example, called it “strange yet seductive.” A blogger with slashfood.com, however, was less impressed, saying the bacon “tastes and feels out of place.”

I’d be interested to try it, although I passed last week when I came across a maple-frosted doughnut covered in bacon. I picked up a dozen doughnuts for the office one day last week, and made the purchase at Sugar Shack in Manchester, a mom-and-pop shop that offers doughnuts about twice as dense as what you’re used to from Dunkin’ Donuts. One of the advertising representatives here is a big fan of maple-frosted doughnuts, so I always try to include a couple of them in the dozen when available.

Last week when I went to Sugar Shack, I asked for two maple-frosted, and the girl behind the counter told me they had bacon on them. While it definitely seemed like an odd combination, I picked up two anyway. They did not go over well at the office; several “that’s gross” types of comments filled the air. Indeed, those were the last two doughnuts standing (I had my heart set on one of the Oreo doughnuts I picked up; a plain doughnut with vanilla frosting on top and pieces of Oreo cookies on top of the frosting. It was delicious), although I did notice that, by the end of the day, they seemed to be gone. I have yet to find out who ate them; perhaps the guilty party is too ashamed to come forward.

* * *

See you next week.

Hebron Business Charged with Selling Tobacco to Minor

by Courtney Parent

A local convenience store was charged this week with selling tobacco to a minor, State Police said.

According to a press release from Hebron Resident State Trooper Mark Gendron’s office, on Monday, April 4, Country Farms (which police had identified in the press release by its former name, Sunny Side Farms), located at 277 Church St., was found in violation of the state statute prohibiting the sale of tobacco to a minor under the age of 18.

The violation took place during a round of six unannounced compliance inspections of establishments that sell tobacco products conducted by the Hebron Resident State Trooper’s Office and staff members of the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program.

According to the press release, the inspections were performed in an attempt to determine compliance with state laws concerning the prohibition of the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products to children under the age of 18.

According to the press release, an underage youth, employed by the Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program and under the direction and supervision of the DMHAS,

entered six different establishments attempting to purchase tobacco products.

Country Farms at 277 Church St. was the only establishment found in violation of state law. As this was the establishment’s first offense the offending clerk was given a written warning.

According to state statute, the seller can be charged up to \$200 for a first offense, up to \$350 for a second offense occurring within an 18-month period and up to \$500 for each subsequent offense within an 18-month period.

The cigarette dealer license holder at the Country Farm’s establishment found in violation is being referred to the Department of Revenue Services for additional administrative sanctions, according to the press release.

The five other establishments where inspections were conducted that were found to be in compliance with state law were: Country Farms, located at 41 Main St.; Plaza Package Store, also located at 41 Main St.; Fine Wines and Beer, located at 127 Main St.; Ted’s Supermarket, also located at 127 Main St.; and Xtra Mart, located at 70 Main St.

Tony Patel, manager of Country Farms on 277 Church St., was unable to be reached for comment.

AHM Take-Back Day Aims to Prevent Teen Drug Abuse

by Courtney Parent

In just a few short weeks, on Saturday, April 30, Andover, Hebron, Marlborough Youth and Family Services, Inc. (AHM) will host its first-ever local Take-Back Day, in which individuals can safely dispose of unwanted medications.

The first local Take-Back Day is an organized partnership between AHM Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force, State Police Troop K, RHAM, Andover, Hebron and Marlborough Elementary Schools, Hebron Pharmacy, Hebron Veterinary Hospital, and ERASE (East of the River Action for Substance-Abuse Elimination, Inc.).

Take-Back Day is part of a national effort to prevent over-the-counter and prescription drug abuse among teens. This will mark the second National Take-Back Day, the first of which took place on Sept. 25, 2010.

AHM Director Joel Rosenberg explained that the program provides an avenue for disposing of drugs and medications in an environmentally safe way and getting outdated medications out of the medicine cabinet. Rosenberg added that the medications could be “dangerous” and “unhealthy” if they ended up in the wrong hands.

Just four days after the first national effort on Sept. 29, 2010, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010. The act amends the Controlled Substances Act stating that any user of a controlled substance who has legally obtained that substance can deliver it to another person for disposal, provided that the person receiving the substance is

authorized to engage in the activity and that the disposal meets regulations issued by the attorney general to prevent the misuse of controlled substances.

According to a March 10 press release from the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) during the initial national effort, Americans turned in over 121 tons, or 242,000 pounds, of prescription drugs at more than 4,100 participating sites. The sites were operated by more than 3,000 of the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency’s (DEA) state and local law enforcement partners.

Rosenberg credited the initiation of the local effort to a member of AHM’s Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention Task Force, Kelley LaFleur. The task force was founded in 1986 with the primary goal being to reduce or eliminate student substance abuse.

“I heard about other towns doing it on smaller scales,” said LaFleur, “but we knew it was a large undertaking.”

According to Rosenberg, LaFleur brought the idea to AHM’s task force last year after hearing about the national effort and has spent her time since researching to find out how Take-Back Day has worked in other communities.

“We heard about the overwhelming success in other communities,” Rosenberg said. “We had the support of resident troopers, support of local schools, and parents who sit on our drug task force. For our organization it was a win-

win for everyone.”

In order to take part in Take-Back Day and host a local site, Rosenberg explained that you must receive approval through the Drug Enforcement Administration.

“There’s an application that Hebron Resident Trooper James Nolting had to fill out and Kelley LaFleur did a lion’s share of all the work,” Rosenberg said.

LaFleur said one of the biggest problems with today’s youth pertains to the use of prescription or over-the-counter medicines, saying that the purpose of Take-Back Day is to prevent injury and to prevent accidental poisoning of children.

The Drug Abuse Warning Network’s (DAWN) 2009 findings showed that emergency room visits resulting from the misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals increased 45.4 percent between 2004 and 2009 for patients age 20 or younger. This brought the total to 169,589 from 116,644.

A 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Help (NSDUH) conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) showed that on an average day, 2,466 adolescents age 12 to 17 used prescription pain relievers non-medically for the first time, as well as 628 using stimulants non-medically for the first time.

According to LaFleur, AHM will utilize all possible avenues to promote the event from

press releases and flyers to notifying youth organizations and sports teams and even asking town leaders to spread the word.

LaFleur said she would like to see Take-Back Day continue.

“I would like to see us do it bi-yearly if we can,” LaFleur said. “If DEA continues to run the program twice a year.”

LaFleur added that the effort was definitely supported within the community, from AHM members and AHM Task Force members to the resident state troopers to local businesses and residents.

“We’re expecting a fantastic turnout,” Rosenberg said, “Not just Andover, Hebron and Marlborough. We expect people to come from all surrounding areas.”

Individuals wishing to get rid of unused, unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications on Take-Back Day will drive-up to designated drop sites and remain in their vehicles while volunteers collect the medications and place them in disposal bins. Permitted medications include prescription medications, cough and cold products, pain relievers, vitamins and nutritional supplements. AHM asks that medications be delivered in original containers with any names crossed out.

Take-Back Day will be held April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at RHAM High School on 85 Wall St. Anyone with questions can call AHM Youth and Family Services at 860-228-9488.

Crooked Mailbox Reignites Colchester Resident-Business Feud

by Katy Nally

Lately, all 77-year-old Jack Berman can talk about is his crooked mailbox.

Berman claims a truck hit it on March 3, setting the metal box a little off-kilter and damaging the handle.

His theory has put him at odds with the business across the street, Mackey’s Inc., which he thinks should be held responsible for his crooked mailbox. However, Mackey’s owner Terry Therrien said a Mackey’s truck has never run into Berman’s mailbox. Instead, Therrien said, trucks that drop off merchandise to the feed store have hit the mailbox in the past.

Therrien said he’s contacted these trucks’ dispatchers about hitting Berman’s mailbox, and he’s advised drivers to be careful of the tight squeeze on Linwood Avenue when backing into the farm supply store.

“The driver has the sole responsibility for whatever damage he does,” Therrien said. “Mr. Berman seems to think it’s our responsibility.”

When asked Tuesday, Berman said he didn’t actually see a truck that was backing into Mackey’s hit his mailbox on March 3. However, he said he contacted the store shortly after the incident and an employee told him a truck had recently dropped off material.

Indeed, Berman is convinced Mackey’s is at fault and even erected a sign to hammer home his point.

Berman’s Linwood Avenue home sits on a hill, with the mailbox at the bottom of the slope right on the edge of the road. Just past the mailbox towers a hand-written sign that warns: “Mackey’s do not hit mailbox and kill owner of mailbox.” (The “kill owner” part of the sign refers to the proximity of the mailbox to the busy road.)

Since the first incident happened in 2003, according to Berman, he has religiously watched over his mailbox. He said he has “documented” each incident, with dates and corresponding case numbers from when he’s called the Colchester Police. Berman has also drawn up maps – dotted with red arrows indicating impact – of how he envisions the damage occurred.

According to his records, Berman claims the first time his mailbox or newspaper box was hit occurred on Aug. 19, 2003, and then 11 other times after that, including March 3.

He has also attached car tires to the sides of his mailbox to prevent further damage.

In all the instances Berman recorded, only once did he receive reimbursement, he said. In 2009, he was mailed \$100 for damages from UPS, after a driver hit his mailbox that January, he said.

As far as singling out Mackey’s, Therrien said that’s not fair. He said Berman makes the claim that it’s big business versus the little guy, when, in actuality, Mackey’s is a small family-owned business.

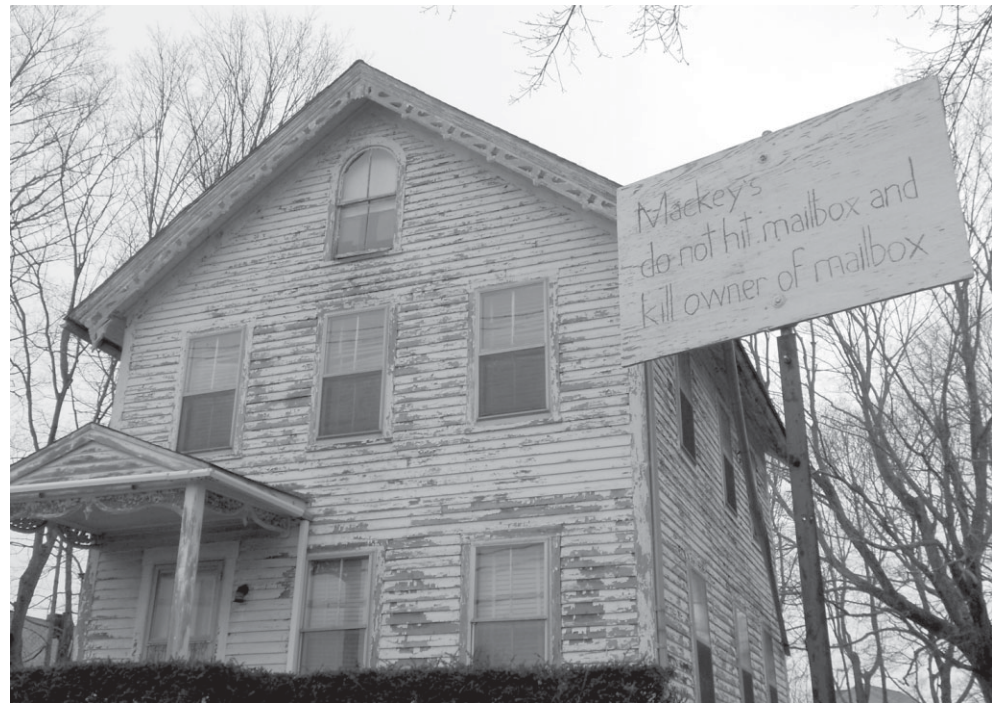
Therrien said when Berman calls Mackey’s and “rants” about the mailbox, “I show him the courtesy.”

“I put up with a lot of it,” he said. “I just listen to him.”

On the flip side, Therrien said he’s had to the call the police as well because Berman was



Pictured is the mailbox in question, with tires Berman attached to prevent any further damage.



Linwood Avenue resident Jack Berman claims his mailbox was hit by a truck backing into Mackey’s, Inc., and holds the store responsible for any damage. Above is a sign he’s erected on his front lawn advising Mackey’s to “not hit mailbox and kill owner of mailbox.”

“harassing people at our store.”

After the mailbox was struck March 3, however, Berman attached a new metal handle for his mailbox and has since spoken with Colchester Police about the latest incident.

Colchester Police Resident State Trooper Supervisor Sgt. Marc Petrucci confirmed both

Berman and employees from Mackey’s have called the police due to disputes stemming from the mailbox.

Upon investigation, it was determined there had been no criminal activity, he said, and it was a “civil issue between Mr. Berman and Mackey’s.”

New Personal Chef Service in East Hampton Offers Meals for Everyone

by Joshua Anusewicz

You've been there before: get out of work, pick the kids up from school, bring Johnny to baseball practice, bring Sally to ballet lessons, your husband has to stay late at the office and you still have a few errands to run. Before you know it, it's 7 p.m. and you haven't even thought about what all those hungry stomachs will eat for dinner.

But instead of grabbing that phone to order Chinese food or pizza, an East Hampton woman wants you to consider a healthier and tastier option that will fit into your busy lifestyle.

Judy Buonocore has started TLC Home Cooking, a personal chef service designed to help busy families plan their meals, from the shopping to the cooking and everything in between. And no meal is out of the question with Buonocore.

"I can cook hundreds of dishes, and if I'm not familiar, I can figure it out," she said this week at her Nutmeg Lane home, pointing to an entire wall of her kitchen dedicated to cookbooks. She hopes people will look to her business as an alternative to fast food, "home-cooked meals ready when you need them."

Buonocore's passion for cooking began as a child, where she learned the basics from her mother, and has carried that passion to her own family. In October, she retired from Travelers Insurance in Hartford, where she worked in information technology for the last 25 years. She is now a member of the United States Personal Chef Association (USPCA) and has started TLC, which she says allows her to

pursue her passion while being home for her children.

Now with less hassle in her professional life, she looks to make others' lives easier. Her plan is to start with eight to 10 clients to work with, and will begin with free consultations at your home. Depending on what meals you prefer, she will help plan a two-week menu that fits your family's needs, be they planning big meals for six people or healthy meals for a busy young couple. Most meals will include a main portion, with multiple sides that can be mixed and matched to your liking.

After planning the approved menu, Buonocore then goes shopping for the meals, choosing only the freshest ingredients, even if she has to go to "multiple markets," she said.

Then a date is set up to come to your home and prepare the meals. Buonocore provides all of the equipment and packaging, which will be labeled with all of the instructions on how to serve the meal. She will then clean your kitchen and leave you with wine, flowers or a dessert as a gift.

"I want to maintain a good, personal relationship with my client," she said.

And before you say that personal chefs are only for the rich and famous, Buonocore plans to offer a 20-percent discount for your first try and a 10 percent discount for those interested in staying long-term. But she believes that not having to stress over cooking and cleaning and being able to spend more time with your family is "priceless."

No meals are out of the question, either. Buonocore maintains that while her family prefers Mexican and Italian cuisine, she has no problem cooking up Chinese, Indian, or just a good old-fashioned steak. Some meals even come from her own creativity.

"Chili meatball soup, eggplant Vera Cruz (with fried eggplant with salsa and cheese), my own homemade raviolis," she adds to name a few.

For those that are health conscious, Buonocore can also customize meal choices to your diet and cook it with no excess fat or grease. She said she knows low-carb diets well, having recently lost 40 pounds herself. So for those who need a little extra help shedding that excess weight, this may just be the perfect solution.

Buonocore is ready to start meeting with clients right away and knows that while it may take time to build up, she knows the possibility to expand is there.

"A lot of people out there can use this convenient service," Buonocore said. "My hope is to get the name out there and start building."

Buonocore plans to start by serving East Hampton, Colchester, Marlborough and Hebron families. For those interested in learning more, she will hold a food demonstration at Fit Trix, 84 East High St., East Hampton, Tuesday, April 19, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. with fresh salad samples. You can also contact her at 860-227-1417.



Resident Judy Buonocore has launched a personal chef service, TLC Home Cooking.

Senior Tax Relief Back on the Agenda in Marlborough

by Katy Nally

Dennis Hawrylko isn't getting any younger. And neither are the seniors in town he's tried to help by getting a tax relief ordinance passed.

"I'm 74 and one month," he told the Board of Selectmen Tuesday. "I'd very much like to see this pass before I die."

Hawrylko, the Commission on Aging chairman, first presented the idea for a tax relief ordinance – that would benefit seniors and totally disabled residents – to selectmen in October of 2008.

First Selectman Bill Black admitted, "We've batted this around probably longer than we should have, but if nothing else, it's evolved."

Since 2008, a financial committee was established to review the impact of such an ordinance on the town's revenue. That committee presented its findings to the Board of Finance in September of last year. It suggested two for-

mats for a possible tax relief – a pool option that would use state Circuit Breaker Program guidelines and a deferral program.

The state's Circuit Breaker Program provides tax relief to seniors age 65 or older and the totally disabled. There is an income limit and the credit amount would be calculated by the tax assessor.

The deferral program would allow those entitled to the tax relief to defer a certain percentage of their property taxes, but a lien would be placed on the mortgage.

At Tuesday's selectmen meeting, the pros and cons of an exemption, an abatement and a refund were discussed. Black said the way to go would probably be an exemption, because it takes the tax relief "out of the budgetary process."

"If you're entitled to an exemption, why not get it?" he asked. "It's as simple as that."

Hawrylko agreed.

"The exemption seems like a logical way to go," he said.

Selectmen said there would most likely be certain qualifiers attached to the exemption such as age, property ownership and proof of residence. However, Black also asked if an exemption was even an option under this type of ordinance.

Selectman Joe La Bella mentioned a tax relief ordinance like this one was up against two challenges: economic and administrative. Using an exemption might be one way to potentially "mitigate some of the paperwork," as it simplifies the application process, Black said. La Bella noted "recent cuts made to town staff," adding that he didn't want a tax relief ordinance to "overburden" Town Hall employees.

Whatever the board decides, Black said the ordinance's ultimate goal was to "keep seniors

in their homes as long as possible." As residents in town, opposed to living in a facility, seniors and the totally disabled can provide "a positive cash flow," Black said.

And, Hawrylko added, with baby boomers inching toward retirement, "there's more of us coming – a lot more," he said at a March 29 Board of Finance meeting. Twenty percent of residents in town are 60 years or older, he added.

The tax relief would help many seniors who subsist on a fixed income and have hefty medical expenses, Hawrylko noted. His own bills, he said at the March meeting, tally about \$10,000 for medical and pharmaceutical needs, plus a \$12,000 sewer tax.

Though a consensus was not reached Tuesday regarding tax relief for seniors and the totally disabled, further questions were raised that will ultimately shape the final ordinance.

Marlborough Selectmen Consider Response to WPCA

by Katy Nally

A potential spike in upcoming operation and maintenance (O&M) fees for sewer users has sparked a debate between two boards about who should foot the bill.

At a March 15 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Water Pollution Control Authority Chairman Jack Murray asked that three items in his board's budget be reconsidered by selectmen – legal fees, odor control and hiring a part-time administrator.

At a selectmen meeting Tuesday, legal fees took center stage as board members reviewed a draft response to the WPCA.

At the March 29 Board of Finance meeting, WPCA member Bill Lardi highlighted the steep legal costs that have caused the O&M budget to spike between \$162 and \$184 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU).

"This is not an operations and maintenance expense," he said. "It's an expense that belongs in the town budget, not the WPCA budget."

The "professional services" line item, the bulk of which is legal fees, has increased eight-fold, from \$12,500 for this fiscal year to a proposed \$100,000.

In December of last year, seven lawsuits from five residents and two businesses were filed against the WPCA, alleging the benefit assessments were "unreasonable." 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.

"The town voted on this. The town is named in the suits. The whole town should be absorbing these legal costs," Lardi added at the March meeting.

But selectmen felt otherwise.

First Selectman Bill Black mentioned that the WPCA has its own attorney.

Selectman Joe La Bella made the compar-

ison to a resident suing the Board of Education, saying, "[The town] wouldn't provide a defense for the Board of Ed."

La Bella added he thought the WPCA and the town were "two separate entities," which could pose an ethical issue of one party funding the other party's legal fees.

However, selectwoman Riva Clark said because the town was the "initiator" of the project, the WPCA and it were "co-mingled."

"We're not quite two separate entities on this," she said.

In discussing the "initiation" of the sewer project, the question of which portion of residents should fund the project came up.

Black noted a petition that circulated in the fall of 2009 that asked Marlborough residents to share the cost of the sewer project equally and that the benefit assessment be eliminated. As was stated by town counsel in September

of 2009 when the petitions were invalidated, Black reiterated Tuesday the WPCA has the authority to establish fees along with benefit assessments and how they should be levied.

As far as the other requests made by the WPCA, Black said the selectmen's response included an estimate for the cost and workload of a part-time administrator. The new line item would fund an administrator to replace Town Planner Peter Hughes, who has devoted many hours outside of his normal work day to helping the board. The position would be about 10 hours per week at \$20 to \$30 an hour.

After discussing the response to the WPCA, Black asked La Bella and Clark to submit any further comments by the end of the week, in the hopes of formally responding by today.

The WPCA will hold a regularly scheduled meeting Thursday, April 14, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Marlborough Selectmen Won't Waive Fees for Collapsed 4-H Roof

by Katy Nally

Selectmen denied a request Tuesday to waive building fees for the reconstruction of the 4-H hall that collapsed early this year.

Also at the board's meeting, First Selectman Bill Black gave an update on the Richmond Memorial Library renovation, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding for the Jan. 12 snowstorm and changes at the transfer station.

The board "came to the consensus" not to waive about \$5,000 worth of building fees for the Hartford County 4-H Camp Board of Trustees. The cost would include staff time needed to inspect and consult during the building process, Black said.

After several heavy snowfalls the roof of Baldwin Hall, which is located off South Road, collapsed in early February, according to fire officials. The incident then forced 4-H onto the fast track to rebuild before camp resumes in the summer.

However, Black said he didn't think it was fair to "pass [building fees] onto the taxpayers."

"They chose not to clear the snow from their roof," selectwoman Riva Clark added. "That wasn't a bright decision on their part."

Also, Black said, "we don't usually waive a fee of this magnitude."

In his letter to selectmen, on behalf of the 4-H Board of Trustees, Ken Picard said that waiv-

ing the "fees will help tremendously," adding the camp is a non-profit volunteer organization.

"Our insurance company will pay to rebuild a 'replacement' building, but the building code improvements needed, will not be covered," Picard wrote in the letter.

* * *

As part of his update to the selectmen, Black told the board FEMA had completed its "data gathering" regarding the Jan. 12 snowstorm.

On March 4, Governor Dannel Malloy issued a press release saying President Barack Obama had approved Connecticut's request for aid for Hartford County, along with Tolland, New London, Fairfield and Litchfield counties. However, Middlesex and Windham counties were not included in the areas to receive aid.

According to Black, FEMA employees will now visit Marlborough to go over what costs would be eligible for reimbursement, though he didn't know when this would happen.

Black also gave an update regarding the library renovation.

He said he has sat in on two meetings with the Library Board and Capital Studios Architects.

"We believe we have a configuration," he said.

He said plans are similar to what were shown at a public hearing last month, except the en-



Selectmen denied a request from the 4-H Camp to waive its building fees to reconstruct Baldwin Hall. Pictured above is the building after it collapsed early February due to snow that had accumulated on the roof. Photo by Katie Tarka.

trance way has been "set back."

Black said "detailed engineering plans" must be finished by May to reach the June 3 deadline for the Small Cities Program grant.

Also, Black told selectmen that the transfer station will begin accepting electronics like computers, keyboards and fax machines, free

of charge to residents. The gold, plastic and glass from these types of items will be recycled.

* * *

The next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be Tuesday, April 19, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

East Hampton Finance Board Holds Public Hearing on Budget

by Joshua Anusewicz

At the Board of Finance public hearing Monday, several board members pushed for cuts to the proposed 2011-12 budget, but could not come to a consensus on how much should be cut.

The proposed budget currently sits at \$38.19 million, a \$185,895, or 0.49 percent, increase from the 2010-11 fiscal year.

According to Finance Director Jeff Jylkka, the town would need to cut \$242,000 in overall expenses to have a zero increase from last year. Some members on the board find this cut necessary to maintain the same figures from the last year.

"People are facing a higher cost of living, unemployment is high," Board of Finance Vice Chairman Timothy Csere said. "We are also looking at a definite increase in state taxes. I'm not sure [the proposed budget] would pass."

Board member Patience Anderson, however, is looking to take the cuts even further. Anderson proposed up to \$450,000 in cuts, though she is not sure yet from where. She explained that her main concern is residents being able to pay their taxes.

"This is not about what the town needs, but what the taxpayer can afford," Anderson said. "We need to make it attractive for people to stay here and live here by making the property

tax attractive."

Chairman Matt Walton said he was not opposed to reducing the budget, but was left "speechless" after Anderson's proposal, which he believes is "way too high." He believes that a cut like that may "do more harm than good."

"Our town services are stressed right now," Walton said, saying that eliminating personnel might have to be an option. "But how much more stress can we take? If we take certain things away, think about how many people get hurt by it."

Board member George Pfaffenbach agreed with Walton that town services would suffer under budget cuts, affecting what "people need and people expect." He also stressed that if there are budget cuts this year, it may lead to a more major tax increase next year.

As the proposed budget stands, the mill rate would be 26.03, an increase of 0.22 mills. The proposed tax increase would be 0.85 percent, which would generate \$223,000 in new taxes. According to Jylkka, revenues from licenses, permits, and investment income have dropped \$670,000 since 2006, which amounts to 0.60 mills.

Most of the town's revenues, 76.9 percent, come from property taxes. Because the town

went through revaluation in the last year and saw the Grand List reduced, the mill rate needs to be increased by 0.83 just to generate the same amount of taxes as 2011.

After discussing the budget cuts at length, the board agreed to propose the \$242,000 cut to the Town Council.

During public remarks, the main topic of discussion was the Board of Education's proposed \$26.46 million budget, a \$579,295, or 2.24 percent, increase from current year spending. Several members of the Board of Education were on hand to air their concerns.

"There is not a lot of fat to cut; we're at bare bones already," board member Joanne Barmasse said, explaining that certain teachers were leaving or retiring and needed to be replaced. She also explained that the teachers "have given back a lot" in concessions, but were unlikely to do so next year.

Fellow board member Don Coolican said he was in favor of a lower Board of Education budget, but told the Board of Finance that the 10 people in attendance – most of which were Town Council and school board members – were "not a representative group of East Hampton citizens," and warned them against letting their emotions get in the way of a decision.

"This is up to you to decide," Coolican said to the Board of Finance. "This is what you were elected for. Don't get swayed by what some people have to say."

Resident Ron Abraham agreed that the board should allow the people to decide, but is concerned that cuts to the education budget could have negative effects.

"It seems to me that the Board of Education is at the top of the chopping block," Abraham said. "I feel like that just sets the town going backward." Walton was in agreement, saying that cuts to education could be "devastating," and that providing less funding for education could have far-reaching ramifications, even lowering property values.

Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel was also on hand to support a cut in the budget, stating that she had "some suggestions to where the general government budget could be cut."

The Board of Finance presented their proposed budget to the Town Council on Wednesday night for discussion. The board took no action on the spending proposal. The council will hold a special budget meeting next Thursday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m., at East Hampton High School, at which time it is expected to adopt the budget.

Hebron Finance Board Irons Out Budgets

by Courtney Parent

Throughout the week the Board of Finance has been reviewing a \$34.09 million 2010-11 budget and preparing it for a public hearing on Tuesday, April 12.

The Board of Finance reviewed the town, capital, local Board of Education and RHAM Board of Education budgets Tuesday and Wednesday, and was scheduled to review the budgets again Thursday after press time.

If the Board of Finance decides to retain the \$34.09 million budget, the proposed spending package would represent a \$431,736, or 1.28 percent increase, over the adopted 2010-11 budget. This would mean a 1.32 mill increase, or a 4.58 percent tax increase.

At Tuesday's Board of Finance meeting, chairman Michael Hazel emphasized that the 1.32 percent mill increase within the proposed budget is more influenced by revenue, as opposed to spending.

"The way I look at this budget is, it's not an expenditure problem, it's a revenue problem," Hazel said, "and we have some sources of revenue that are drying up."

Hazel went on to note that over 1 mill, or \$800,000, of revenue had been lost between general government, the Water Pollution Control Authority and debt management.

Prior to sending the budget forward to the Board of Finance, last Tuesday, March 29, the Board of Selectmen approved an \$8.93 million town government budget. The budget represents a 1.1 percent, or \$96,749, increase over the current budget year.

The bulk of the \$8.93 million budget included \$6.34 million for general government spending. The remainder of the \$8.93 million budget consisted of \$626,627 for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), \$100,000 for Open Space and \$1.858 million for debt service.

The adopted budget for the 2010-11 fiscal year totaled \$8.83 million. It included a \$6.24 million town government budget, \$626,627 to CIP, \$100,000 to Open Space and \$1.864 million for debt service.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt noted the difficulty in keeping budget numbers down and aiming for a zero percent increase.

He also said that while his board was focusing on government, the Board of Finance also has revenue, the Hebron Board of Education and RHAM budget numbers to consider.

"I know from my own standpoint our own board struggled to get to 1.09 percent [increase] for town government," Watt said.

Watt continued on to say that the public is always looking for a zero percent increase and that the budget will likely be lower than the \$34.09 million budget.

Also located within the \$34.09 million, is a Hebron Board of Education budget representing \$11.79 million, or a 0.67 percent increase over the current spending plan. Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz's original proposal was for a 1.42 percent or \$11.88 million budget. The budget revisions included reductions from health/benefits for employees, heating oil, diesel fuel, and maintenance.

The 0.67 percent budget would include multiple changes: A \$33,138 technology increase, a \$28,420 workers compensation increase, a

\$25,622 overtime increase, and a \$7,990 increase to office supplies. There would also be a \$38,400 textbook decrease, a \$31,838 legal fees decrease, a \$24,233 unemployment benefits decrease and a 100 percent construction decrease, equivalent to \$3,075.

The Board of Education expressed its main priorities as being to retain small class sizes, update technology, diversify the educational programs, and to promote student growth and achievement.

As of Tuesday night, the Board of Finance had not proposed any potential changes to the budget and agreed to study the fund balance sheet before its next scheduled meetings. Board members were scheduled to meet Thursday, after press time, to further discuss the budgets.

After the spending package heads to a public hearing on Tuesday, April 12, a referendum will be held May 3.

Hazel noted that last year, the budget went to referendum three times before passing. He said this year he "would like to do just one."

Marlborough Resident Doesn't Plan to Sell Out for Business Park

by Katy Nally

While town officials told the *Rivereast* last week his zone change was the "last piece of the puzzle" to making the business park a reality, resident Dan Moore said this is untrue.

Moore, whose Hebron Road home neighbors the proposed business park area, said having his zone changed from residential to "designed business industrial" does not mean he plans to immediately cash in on his property and sell out to developers.

He said this week he elected to change his zone so that if the area becomes "untenable" when stores eventually move in, he'll have the "ability to market" his lot. Moore cited loud noises and bright lights as issues that he felt would make the area unlivable.

"In the case it becomes untenable, the hope is the town might actually talk to me about purchasing my property," he said.

"If I can't live there," Moore said, then he would like to be offered the "full market value" of his home. "If I can live there, then leave me alone."

Moore also said this week that he's not opposed to staying put once businesses move in.

"I don't think there's any reason I can't live next to a business park," he said, "if it's a regular business park that's 9 to 5."

Ultimately, however, Moore said he would need adequate information to make the decision on whether to stay on Hebron Road or not. But, Moore claimed, the town hasn't been keeping him informed.

"Other people just cut and run; I'm saying, tell me what's going on and I'll make a decision," Moore said.

But Town Planner Peter Hughes denied claims that the town has withheld information about the business park from Moore. Hughes said when the project took its initial steps several years ago, Moore "didn't want anything to do with it," so the town "went around him."

When Moore moved to town seven years ago, he purchased the lot on Hebron Road and built his house. At the time, the town offered to purchase the property for "half the cost" of what he had paid to construct it, Moore said, but he declined.

At the end of last year, when surrounding property owners Marlborough Associates and Churchill & Banks asked for a zone change, Hughes said Moore approached town officials and asked to have his property rezoned as well.

Moore cited a septic system that was recently installed on Churchill & Banks' property, saying he would have liked to be given a heads-up.

"I'm one resident. You think they could include me in some of the major developments going on there," he said.

Hughes, along with Chatham Health District officials, however, maintained Churchill & Banks are allowed to install the septic system because it's their property, and they do not have to hold a public hearing.

Moore added he didn't want to be the "town crier" and has "never testified against the business park."

"I want everything good for the town," he said. "I have nothing against the business park – tell me what it is, it's a mystery as far as I'm concerned."

Salem Police News

3/26: Juan Reyes, 24, of 83 Horse Pond Rd., was charged with second-degree criminal mischief, disorderly conduct and risk of injury to a minor, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

3/29: Joanne Halpern, 53, of 55 McDonald Rd., was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, Colchester Police said.

3/30: An Audi A6 owned by Hebron Motors was partially disassembled overnight, Colchester Police said, and about \$15,000 in parts were removed. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Officer Craig Scheel at 860-537-7500. The case is open.

4/3: Brenden Wark, 27, of 240 Lebanon Ave., Apt. 3, was charged with two counts of risk of injury to a minor, disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and third-degree strangulation, Colchester Police said.

4/3: Jordan Russell, 21, of 56 Norwich Ave., was charged with failure to display plates and DUI, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

4/4: Benjamin Keller, 19, of 650 Gilead St., turned himself in for simple trespass and first-degree criminal mischief, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

3/22: Patrick S. Aiello, 22, of 3 Sears Pl., was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

3/24: Carrie L. Wagner, 34, of 68 Klan Dr., Wolcott, was arrested for traveling unreasonably fast, DUI, possession of cocaine, failure to carry insurance and interfering with a police officer, police said.

3/25: David Jonathan Caldwell, 21, of 157 Daly Rd., was arrested for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

3/27: A 17-year-old of East Hampton was issued a summons for possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

Portland Police News

4/1: Charles Dickinson, 18, of 44 Marlborough St., was charged with third-degree criminal mischief and breach of peace, Portland Police said.

Police Say East Hampton Woman Let 12-Year-Old Fire Gun

A local woman was arrested Wednesday after a 12-year-old in her care fired a rifle without her supervision in January, East Hampton Police said.

Police charged Alexandria Simonelli, 51, of 23 Wopowog Rd., with risk of injury to a minor and first-degree reckless endangerment, police said.

According to police, a 12-year-old under Simonelli's care was "recklessly" firing a .22

caliber rifle without supervision in the yard of the Wopowog Road home. The investigation was conducted by Officer John Wilson, pursuant to a complaint from a concerned citizen on Jan. 18.

No injuries were reported, police said.

Simonelli was released on a \$20,000 court-ordered bond, police said, and is due to be arraigned at Middlesex Superior Court on April 19.

Three-Car Accident on South Main Street in Colchester

A three-car accident on Friday, April 1, around 7:30 p.m., sent one resident to the hospital with "abdominal and back pain," State Police said.

Rebecca Post, 52, of Colchester was traveling southbound on South Main Street when her 2003 Dodge Caravan was struck by an oncoming 2009 Volkswagen Beetle driven by a 16-year-old who was attempting to take a

left onto Dr. Foote Road.

Another vehicle, a 1999 Saturn SL1 driven by Logan Withee, 18, of Colchester, then crashed into Post's car, police said.

The 16-year-old was found to be at fault for the accident and was issued a written warning for failure to grant right of way.

All three vehicles sustained front-end damage as a result of the accident, police said.

Driver Falls Asleep, Injures Passenger

A passenger was transported to the hospital Monday, April 4, after the driver veered off Route 2 eastbound, State Police said.

Brian Wilson, 48, of Ellington was transported via Marlborough ambulance to the Marlborough Clinic for "non-incapacitating" injuries, police said.

Around 4:17 p.m., the driver of the vehicle he was in, Maria Wilson, 46, also of Ellington, reportedly fell asleep at the wheel of a 2004 Dodge Dakota. She then crossed into the left lane of traffic, went through a metal guy wire and came to rest approximately 50 feet into a wooded area on the left shoulder, police said.

She was listed as not injured; however the vehicle was totaled.

Vehicle Flips Over Rail on Route 2

A woman was transported to the Middlesex Clinic Saturday, April 2, after her vehicle flipped over a guy wire on Route 2, State Police said.

Shelley Richmond, 43, of Jewett City, had a "possible injury" and was transported via Marlborough ambulance to the hospital for a "precautionary evaluation," police said.

Around 6:35 a.m., Richmond was traveling eastbound on Route 2, just past exit 15 when she lost control of her 1998 Ford Explorer due to ice on the road, police said. She then struck a metal guy wire and flipped over, coming to rest upright on the right shoulder.

Richmond was issued a written warning for traveling too fast for conditions, police said. Her vehicle was totaled.

Obituaries

Hebron

Robert Bergenholtz

Robert J. Bergenholtz, 82, of Hebron, husband of Mary K. Bergenholtz, died Saturday, April 2, at his home. He was born in 1928 to the late Rudolph and Jennie Bergenholtz.

He grew up in West Hartford and graduated from William H. Hall High School in 1945. Upon graduation, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was honorably discharged in 1946. After his military service, he attended the University of Miami in Florida and graduated in 1951. After graduation, he began his working career at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Manufacturing Division, and retired after 41 years of service in 1992.

In addition to his wife, Mary, he is survived by two sons, Stephen R. Bergenholtz, of Seattle, WA, and James R. Bergenholtz of Rockledge, FL; two daughters, Paula J. Prestemon of Plano, TX, and Michele L. Jason of Manchester; and a stepson, Raymond Phillips of Arlington, WA.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. A service will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Cancer Center at Middlesex Hospital, 536 Saybrook Road, Ste. 280, Middletown, CT 06457.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Patricia Ellen Oslund

Patricia Ellen (Duchaine) Oslund of East Hampton, beloved wife of Harry Oslund Jr., passed away Sunday, April 3, after a long illness, with her loving family at her side.

She was born Aug. 5, 1943, in Hartford, the daughter of the late Raymond and Marjorie Duchaine. She grew up on Franklin Avenue and attended Hartford Public Schools. After her family moved to Wethersfield, she attended Wethersfield High School for grades 11 and 12. She worked for several years at Brown-Thompson's Department Store in Hartford.

When her children were born, she became a stay-at-home mom until they were both in school all day. She then began a career as a secretary at the T.S. Brown Insurance Agency in East Hampton, and worked there until her retirement. She enjoyed summers at the family cottage in New Hampshire and traveling, especially Alaska, which she visited four times with her family.

She is survived by her husband, Harry Oslund Jr., of East Hampton; her daughter, Lisa Zablonki and husband Robert of Colchester; her son, David Oslund and wife Susan of Moodus; two granddaughters, Sarah Zablonki and Melissa Zablonki; two sisters, Margaret Arnold and husband Victor of Westerly, RI, and Jeanne Diem and husband Howard of North Stonington; a brother, Robert Duchaine and wife Dina of Annapolis, MD.

The family would like to express their thanks to the Hospice Unit at Middlesex Hospital for their kind and compassionate care.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated Thursday, April 7, in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Wednesday evening, April 6.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Jimmy Fund) P.O. Box 849168 Boston, MA 02284-9168, or call 1-800-525-4669 or visit dana-farber.org.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



East Hampton

Gladys L. Smith

Gladys L. Smith, 101, of East Hampton, passed away very peacefully Saturday, April 2, at Harrington Court, Colchester, with Sue Castelli, her long time caregiver, by her side. She was born Gladys Katherine Leonard on Cooley Avenue in the South Farms section of Middletown Sept. 4, 1909, the daughter of Arthur Arden and Sophie Kengley Leonard.

She was a graduate of Middletown High School, Class of 1927, and was secretary and a member of the class reunion committee at each reunion, the last occurring in 1997. She married her late husband, Eaton E. Smith, on Oct. 16, 1929, at St. John's Parish, East Hampton. They were together for 73 years until his passing in 2003.

She moved to her beloved East Hampton in 1929 and never left. For over seven decades, she was dedicated to making this small New England town a better place to live for all. While raising her three sons with her husband Eaton, she was involved in most all aspects of civic, cultural, political, school and social life in East Hampton. She was very active in the Child Welfare Association in the 1930s and the Red Cross Motor Corps and Canteen as well as the East Hampton Ambulance Corps during World War II. She was a major contributor to the building fund for the current East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association Headquarters.

She was a lifelong Democrat and a member of the Democratic Town Committee for fifty years and president of the Democratic Women's Club. She was elected to two terms as tax collector in the 1960s and 13 consecutive terms as Democratic Registrar of Voters. She served for many years on the Parks and Recreation Commission as well as secretary and member of the building committee for the current high school.

She was an avid reader and served on the East Hampton Library Board as well being a library volunteer. Wordsmith par excellence of the English language, her favorite pastimes were the word jumbles and the daily newspaper crosswords. She was president of the Parents Teachers Association in the late 1950s and was president and a longtime member of the King's Daughters. She was a parishioner of St. John's Parish and Christ Episcopal Church, serving as a church director and head of the Altar Guild.

She was most proud of the countless fundraising drives for so many noble causes to help East Hampton prosper. In 1990, the town honored her and her husband as parade Grand Marshals for Old Home Day and in 1999, she was honored as the second recipient of the East Hampton Village Lions Club "Citizen of the Year" for her cumulative efforts over 60 years.

She was predeceased by her husband, Eaton E. Smith, her son Herbert F. Smith, and her brothers Henry K. Leonard and Warren L. Leonard.

She is survived by two sons, Warren E. Smith and his wife, Margaret, of Sherwood, OR; Leonard C.G. (Geoffrey) Smith and his wife, Erika of Naples, FL and Simsbury; two grandsons, Oliver G. Smith and his wife, Heidi, of Bangkok, Thailand; and Gregory G. Smith and his wife, Theresa, of Atlanta, GA; three great-grandchildren whom she took so much delight from in the past six years of her life, Audrey and Tegen of Bangkok, Thailand and Tia of Atlanta, GA; a niece, Jean Leonard of Orient, NY, two grand nephews, Daniel Leonard of Stonington; and James Leonard of Eastham, MA, and a grand niece, Margaret Peterson of New Britain.

Gladys' family wishes to thank Sue Castelli and Sandy Murphy for their loving care over the past few years. The family also is very appreciative for the compassionate care given Gladys by the Harrington Court staff as well as Vitas Hospice.

Burial will be at the convenience of the family in the family plot in Lakeview Cemetery, East Hampton. There are no calling hours.

A memorial service will be held this summer at Christ Church, Middle Haddam. Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 81, Middle Haddam, CT 06456, or to the East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of arrangements.



Hebron

Roger Leo Gagne

Roger Leo Gagne, 79, died Friday, April 1, at the Melech Hospice House in Temple Terrace, FL. Roger was born in Fall River, MA, the son of Alexander and Rhia (Robidoux) Gagne and had lived in Vernon for many years, before moving to Hebron and most recently to Odessa, FL.

He was a US Air Force veteran of the Korean War and later was a crane operator. He later became a successful owner and operator of Bombidil's Spirit Shoppe in Mansfield Center noted for its vast wine selection. An avid fan of the Red Sox, he also was a great fan of the UConn men's and women's basketball teams having attended the women's finals in Texas. Roger was also a great traveler taking his RV all over the country and especially enjoyed visiting Civil War memorials.

He is survived by his children, Paul A. Gagne of Wethersfield, Steve R. Gagne of Odessa, FL, with whom he lived when in Florida, Benjamin Gagne of Hebron, with whom he lived while in Hebron, Doreen Strube of Coventry and Carol Lentocha of Bolton; 18 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; his wife of 35 years, Vidala "Billie" Gagne; and his sister, Annette Rose.

Russell was predeceased by his son Alan J. Gagne, his sister Florence Fortin and his brother Edward Gagne.

Family and friends called at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester, on Tuesday, April 5. A memorial service was held that evening. Burial will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., P.O. Box 9376, Framingham, MA 01701-9376.

For online condolences, visit tierneyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

John E. Sanders

John E. Sanders (Jack, the Piano Man), formerly of East Hampton, played his last tune here on earth and died, March 14, at Middlesex Hospital after a brave battle with cancer.

Born May 12, 1929, to Aldonna (Norkum) and Thomas Sanders in New Britain. Jack attended St. Mary's School and was a member of St. Mary's Church but moved to Hartford years ago and finally to East Hampton then Cobalt. While young, Jack worked at the local bowling alley, bowled a high score and taught his oldest daughter the game. Later on in life, he played and coached others in Wii Bowling.

Jack drove delivery trucks and worked in manufacturing, active in the Unions, sometimes serving as shop steward. He taught us to always stick up for the mistreated and the little guy, but in peaceful and diplomatic ways. Jack's favorite job however, was entertaining. A fixture at Shannon's, Baker's and other Hartford establishments, Jack was a well-known and admired musician. He sang and played the guitar and accordion but was best known for his piano playing. Although he didn't read music and was blind in one eye, he could play whatever the crowds requested. He also enjoyed going to Mohegan Sun and playing the horses; his bad eye didn't keep him from occasionally picking a few winners.

While living at Barbara's Rest Home he played piano and sang at the East Hampton Senior Center, where he had a ball with board games, puzzles and the joys of computers and e-mailing when he wasn't entertaining the crowd. He also was a member of the Belltones musical group and performed with them a few years at the Wadsworth Athenaeum during Christmas seasons. He lived his last four years at Cobalt Lodge, where his weekly, "Sing Along with Jack" sessions entertained both residents and staff. These staff and residents were much loved by our dad, but he felt most happy when assisting Karen with setting up and facilitating recreation for the residents.

Jack's loved ones will miss him. We'll fondly remember the antics of Dad and Uncle Tommy acting like the Smothers Brothers; he always had a joke to tell. We also promise not to stop the music; along with his gentle cat-loving nature he passed on some of his musical talent to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jack leaves to grieve: his former wife, Lucille (Clinch) Sanders, his two daughters, Mary L. Sanders and Cecelia M. Sanders, grandchildren, Stacey Hall, Miguel Lebron Jr., Tim Lebron, Trudi Lebron, Luci Lebron and great-grandchildren, Dwight Cobbs Jr., Daniel Lebron-Cobbs, Amayah Lebron, Ocean Valdez, August Lebron, Zander Lebron, Kennedy Barnes and Madison Hall and his special lady friend, Priscilla Morin, favorite in-laws, Bob and Joyce Clinch and dear cousins Jim Sanders and Kenneth Spires, as well as a host of extended cousins and very dear friends.

He was predeceased by his brother Tom Sanders and his daughter Kathleen J. Sanders.

The family would like to thank the staff at Middlesex Hospital for the care and comfort they provided during Dad's last two weeks, as well as Father George, from St. Francis Church in Middletown. We also appreciate the staff and residents of Cobalt Lodge, where Dad made his home the last four years. He loved being there with his second family, and loved entertaining them.

Services will be held at Shaker's Funeral Home on Farmington Ave., New Britain on Sunday, April 10. The family will receive friends at 1 p.m. and Fr. George will perform the service at 2 p.m. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, please honor our dad by making a contribution to the "Kathleen J. Sanders Scholarship Fund, People's Savings Bank c/o Mary L. Sanders 29 Cedar St., New Britain, CT 06052.

As Dad would say, "So long for now!"