



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 36, Number 7

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

May 20, 2011



May the Force Be With You... Actor Mark Hamill (best known as Luke Skywalker in the *Star Wars* films) recently narrated Portland filmmaker Conor Timmis' Korean War documentary *Finnigan's War* in Santa Monica, CA, last week. Hamill narrated the Medal of Honor and Silver Star citations. You can watch a behind-the-scenes featurette of Mark's narration shot by Boston University grad/former Portland resident Tessa Olson at youtube.com/watch?v=asZr-IULdqE. Pictured are Hamill and Timmis.

New Learning Lab On the Horizon

by Courtney Parent

Come one, come all, and embrace the future of education. On June 1, Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School in Marlborough will host an open house to introduce the Marlborough Education Foundation's (MEF's) vision for a new "21st Century Learning Lab" to parents and residents.

According to MEF Co-President Chari Norton, the foundation has been hard at work since September, working with Thienes-Hall teachers, administrators and staff to put plans in place. Also, as with any project, the foundation has been working to determine how much money will be needed to implement the new "state-of-the-art" facility.

"The idea was to transform an existing classroom into a space where teachers could take students to do projects related to science, technology, engineering and math," Norton said.

According to Norton, much of the pre-planning can be credited to Thienes-Hall parent and architect Amy Christmas who has donated her services to work up the floor plans adhering to the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) guidelines.

There are two phases planned for the institution of the new learning lab. According to Norton, Phase One involves transitioning to an available space and filling that space with equipment and furniture. Norton said the space chosen was previously a kindergarten room, which conveniently had a bathroom which can be uti-

lized as a prep-room. Phase One is expected to be finished by fall 2011.

Meanwhile, Phase Two would focus on "construction-type" needs, which would include installing more sinks, the addition of a greenhouse and any room remodeling required to meet the NSTA guidelines.

For Phase One, MEF is asking for funding from families. According to Norton, the foundation is finally at the point where they are soliciting donations and all that is needed to reach the foundation's equipment and furniture goals is \$30 per family. After Phase One is completed, Phase Two will be financed solely through grants. At this point, there is no estimated final price tag for the project.

Norton explained that there is currently a big curriculum "push" to get students ready for working in the "21st century environment." Norton noted that is why the facility is being referred to as a "learning lab" rather than a strict "science lab."

That "push" is due in large part to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education. The STEM program was started by Judith A. Ramaley, former director of the National Science Foundation's education and human-resources division. STEM is designed to revolutionize teaching in the areas of math and science by incorporating technology and engineering into the curriculum.

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Residents Hope Longtime Pond Can Return

by Joshua Anusewicz

It's a seasonably warm day, the day that finally breaks the winter blues and ushers in the spring greens. The sun's rays gently beat down on children at the local playground and women out on a morning run around Lake Pocotopaug, which glimmers as the waves toss back and forth. The perfect day to be outside.

Just down the street on White Birch Road, Howard Loos gazes out on another body of water, one that bears his namesake, much like he has for the past 90 years. There isn't much of a glimmer on Loos Pond on this day, though. The sun falls harmlessly onto large tracts of mud and broken tree stumps, desperately searching for the small puddles that dot the landscape.

Nowadays, Loos Pond isn't as much a body of water as it is an arm, or maybe even a finger, of water. For the most part, it's just a plain old swamp.

"It looks terrible," Loos says, voice wavering. He adjusts his thick glasses to get a better look, as if the water really is there and he's staring into some kind of reverse oasis. "It would be great if a pond were here, don't you think?"

Since December 2008, there hasn't been a pond on the 33-acre parcel. A large rainstorm washed out the small dam next to White Birch Road, sending water over the pavement and flooding several neighboring houses. The dam

has yet to be rebuilt and the pond, which is fed by a spring on its southern side, has been unable to refill itself.

Loos Pond is very much a part of East Hampton's history, first showing up in an 1874 map of what was then Chatham. Census records show that a saw mill owned by Ezra Strong, a descendant of one of the oldest families in East Hampton, was built on the brook that flowed out of Loos Pond. This property was eventually purchased by George Loos, Howard's grandfather, in 1898, who sold the land around the pond to his son, George Jr., for \$800 in 1904. Howard Loos was born in 1921, and has lived on his father's land ever since.

According to Loos, the pond got its name in an interesting fashion. In the 1930s, a man from Marlborough came to the Loos' property and got permission to go fishing on their pond. The problem was the man didn't have a fishing permit, which earned him a \$10 fine from the local game warden. When George Loos Jr. contended that he gave the man permission, the game warden told him he had to register the pond in his name to have that ability. And so, Loos Pond was born.

In the 1970s, the pond was purchased by the town, which built a fire house next to the pond that still stands today. The pond has served as a

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Loos Pond in East Hampton has fallen on hard times in recent years. A rainstorm in late 2008 wiped out a small nearby dam, and the pond has been unable to refill itself. Instead, these days, it is filled with mostly broken tree stumps and tracts of mud.



Loos Pond, in happier times. The pond has been part of East Hampton's history for well over a century, first showing up on an 1874 map of what was then called Chatham.

Pond cont. from Front Page

water source for the fire department that serves East Hampton's "North District," which is a windy 10-minute drive from the center of town.

According to Parks and Recreation Director Ruth Plummer, the fire department "still has a pump in the water," but the danger of lowered water levels concerns some nearby families.

One family, the MacLachlans, lives directly on Loos Pond. David and Cheryl MacLachlan built their home on White Birch Road in 2003, adhering to strict rules from the town and the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). According to the MacLachlan family, several town committees were concerned about preserving the "pristine landscape and environmental treasure." The family was forced to spend thousands of dollars on having the land surveyed to ensure that the pond and wetlands were protected.

Now, they wonder where the concern over the pond has gone.

"We just don't understand why no one cares about rebuilding the dam and preserving Loos Pond when we were required...to ensure that we preserved this pond when we built our home," said Cheryl MacLachlan, who admitted that a major reason for purchasing the property was the beauty of the pond. "Why were they so persistent then, and now, it doesn't seem like anyone cares about it?"

Cheryl MacLachlan has contacted several town officials over the past two years about the possibility of rebuilding a dam, but has always hit a dead end. In March 2009, Plummer said she had spoken with former fire marshal Phil Visintainer, who said the pond was just as low when the town purchased the pond. According to Visintainer, the Loos' family tore down part of a small stone dam in the 1960s and beaver dams were mostly responsible for the elevated water levels.

In July 2009, Director of Public Works Keith Hayden told Cheryl MacLachlan that the town didn't plan to reconstruct the makeshift dam, but hoped that beavers would "resolve this issue for us."

At least one resident wasn't as patient. According to Loos, in October 2009, Marty Swan of the East Hampton Fire Department attempted to dump a large boulder where the dam was located. The boulder was found to be in violation of the state's law for dams and the boulder was removed. Swan was fined \$600, but the fine was later rescinded.

When asked this week, Plummer said the town is hoping that "nature takes its course" and the beavers are able to refill the pond. Plummer said that the land is open-space prop-

erty that still offers walking trails around the pond, but promoting the area is a challenge because of limited parking at the fire station.

Loos and the MacLachlan's are still looking for a way to get a permanent dam built at Loos Pond. Cheryl MacLachlan said she has been told that an engineered dam would cost roughly \$200,000, but Plummer said that state permits, surveying, and construction costs could drive the price up much higher.

According to the DEP website, any repairs or maintenance done on a dam is the responsibility of the dam owner, which in this case would be the town. Peter Spangenberg, a member of the Dam Safety Section of the Connecticut Inland Water Resources division, said Tuesday the state does not have funding for putting dams back, but will often aid in the removal of dams for improved water flow or the passage of fish, "as long as it has an environmental benefit."

"I wish we had the ability to help by providing grants," Spangenberg said. He added that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does provide funding for dam repairs, but generally provide money for larger migratory bird and fish sanctuaries. He also said that because the pond environment has changed over the past three years, it might do more harm to the plants and animals that have started to adapt to new wetland.

Funding is available for state-owned dams, Spangenberg said, like the dam at Bashan Lake in East Haddam that received \$1.47 million in state funding from the Connecticut State Bond Commission in April for dam upgrades. The state was also able to obtain \$900,000 in federal funds to cover remaining costs of the repairs. Bashan Lake, which is used mostly for recreation, like fishing and kayaking, connects to Moodus Reservoir, a drinking water source.

Cheryl MacLachlan understands that it might be difficult to find the funding to build a proper dam. She recalls taking her children fishing and hopping in her kayak on sunny mornings, hoping that someday, Loos Pond will return.

"Perhaps it is the state of the economy," Cheryl MacLachlan said. "All municipal factions are pressed for funding. But how sad to see this town landmark fade off of the maps."

Just down the street from Loos Pond, at the White Birch District Cemetery, Cheryl MacLachlan was able to find the gravestone of Ezra Strong, which she says is inscribed with a fitting verse for the pond he once owned.

"One precious to our hearts has gone, the voice we loved is stilled. The place made vacant in our home, can never more be filled."

Learning Lab cont. from Front Page

According to MEF Co-President Danielle Neary, the initial effort for a learning lab was brought about by former Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School Principal Loraine Giannini.

"It was one of her 'parting' wishes if you will," said Neary, "to make a facility like this available to the students of Marlborough."

Neary added that it was not only a vision that Giannini donated, but that she also made financial contributions on behalf of the project.

"She actually donated all of her cash gifts from her retirement," Neary said. "She passed [the money] over to the Marlborough Education Foundation to start the lab."

Neary explained that there is a great need for a learning lab with the recent addition of the "science element" to the Connecticut Mastery Tests in 2008. Neary continued on to say

that this was an area in which children needed more room for hands-on activities.

Neary also wanted to emphasize that while the learning lab would be implemented at the elementary school it was the foundation that was in charge of fundraising for the new facility.

"The Marlborough Education Foundation will be operating as a fundraising arm for this," Neary said. "With the economy being what it is and as the taxes paid in Marlborough are significant we want to make it clear that the school isn't doing the fundraising, the foundation is."

The Open House will take place on Wednesday, June 1, from 5-7 p.m., in room 152 at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School. For more information or to make a donation online, visit MEFct.org.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

This seemed a little bit like grasping at straws.

No doubt most of you by now have heard about state Senator Edith Prague's remark from last week. The Democrat from Columbia, whose district includes the *Rivereast* towns of Andover and Hebron, was quoted by ctnewsjunkie.com as saying she thought Joshua Komisarjevsky, who is about to be tried for his alleged role in the brutal Cheshire home invasion killings, should be hung "by his penis from a tree out in the middle of Main Street."

I laughed out loud when I heard that quote; I loved it. I've either been quoting or editing reporters who quote Edith Prague for years, and I love dealing with her. I think one of the reasons she keeps getting re-elected is she never refrains from telling you truly what's on her mind. She's not worried about how she'll appear, not worried about saying what's the most politically correct and diplomatic thing. Instead, she almost always says exactly what she feels, and if it's harsh, well, it's harsh. It's a candor that can be refreshing when dealing with state politicians.

Yes, there are those moments when that candor may remind you a little of Sophia from *The Golden Girls* (and I could practically see the script in my mind: Sophia: "The man should be hung by his penis!" Dorothy, exasperated: "Ma!"), but that's one of the things that makes Edith Edith. Like I said, her honesty is refreshing.

Now for the "grasping at straws" part I mentioned earlier. Komisarjevsky's defense team Monday filed a motion asking for jury selection in the trial be delayed by three months, so that, the attorneys wrote, "the senator's call for a lynching may slip from the minds of potential jurors."

A judge Tuesday denied that request.

Nice try, defense team. Look, those horrific Cheshire killings garnered national headlines when they happened. The entire state knows about them. Finding 12 people to sit on a jury who haven't already formed an opinion is going to be an incredibly difficult task. But the thing is, potential jurors probably formed their opinion long ago. How they feel about Komisarjevsky is not likely to be influenced one iota by what Prague said.

You can wait three months, you can wait

three years. Prague's "penis" comment may be forgotten, but the terrible, terrible Cheshire crimes never will.

I got this sent to me this week by one of the *Rivereast* readers. As regular readers of my column have surmised, I'm a fairly (but not totally) liberal Democrat, so I don't necessarily agree with everything written here, but as a newspaper man, I did get a laugh out of it. Anyway, it's called a "Handy Newspaper Guide," to help keep "political news in perspective":

1. *The Wall Street Journal* is read by the people who "run" the country.

2. *The Washington Post* is read by people who "think" they run the country.

3. *The New York Times* is read by people who think they "should run" the country, and who are very good at crossword puzzles.

4. *USA Today* is read by people who think they "ought to run" the country but don't really understand *The New York Times*. They do, however, like their statistics shown in pie charts.

5. *The Los Angeles Times* is read by people who wouldn't mind running the country, if they could find the time — and if they didn't have to leave southern California to do it.

6. *The Boston Globe* is read by people whose parents used to run the country.

7. *The New York Daily News* is read by people who aren't too sure who's running the country and don't really care as long as they can get a seat on the train.

8. *The New York Post* is read by people who don't care who is running the country as long as they do something really scandalous, preferably while intoxicated.

9. *The Miami Herald* is read by people who are running another country, but need the baseball scores.

10. *The San Francisco Chronicle* is read by people who aren't sure if there is a country or that anyone is running it; but if so, they oppose all that they stand for.

11. *The National Enquirer* is read by people trapped in line at the grocery store.

12. *The Portland Oregonian* is read by people who've recently caught a fish and need something to wrap it in.

See you next week.

East Hampton Police News

5/3: Two juveniles of East Hampton were issued summons. Both juveniles were charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and conspiracy to commit third-degree assault, East Hampton Police said.

5/5: Anita M. Ackerman, 21, of 80A Middletown Ave., was issued a summons for operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

5/7: Christopher John Laurito, 20, of 85 North Main St., was arrested for using a motor vehicle without permission, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, third-degree criminal mischief and sixth-degree larceny, police said.

5/7: Maria J. Alipio, 50, of 56 Barton Hill Rd., was arrested for operating under the influence, operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, second-degree failure to appear and refusal to submit to fingerprinting, police said.

5/8: Joshua L. Smith, 24, of 25 Fernwood Dr., was involved in a one-car motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Lake Drive and White Birch Road. Smith was arrested for failure to obey a stop sign, driving under the influence and failure to carry insurance, police said.

5/8: Brett Gasiewski, 22, of 32 Whispering Woods Rd., was involved in a one-car motor vehicle accident on Route 66 and was subsequently arrested for driving under the influence, failure to drive right, failure to carry insurance and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

5/11: Ashley Evan Shonagel, 21, of 29 West High St., was arrested for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

5/12: Nicholas Gebbie, 28, of 21 Hinckley Rd., Lebanon, was arrested for third-degree larceny, police said.

China Presentation Highlights Hebron School Board Meeting

by Courtney Parent

A PowerPoint presentation on a recent trip to China took center stage at the Thursday, May 12, meeting of the Board of Education.

Just last month, two teachers at Hebron Elementary got to take their knowledge abroad, explore another country's learning tactics and share their own. Math specialist Kris Garofalo and fifth-grade teacher Paula Graef were in China from April 13-25.

Although it was a new place to which they had never been, both Garofalo and Graef said they were met with open arms – in fact they said there was a rather large celebration in their honor. Upon arriving, Garofalo said, they were greeted by a band, presented with bouquets of flowers and saw large poster board images of Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz and others who had visited in past years.

"We were literal celebrities when we were there," Garofalo said, "It was awesome."

While working within the Chinese school system, both Garofalo and Graef noted several differences. One of the biggest differences was in regards to the attentiveness of the students, who sat silently working on different problems and projects, seemingly unaware of any noises or disturbances that would normally serve as a momentary disruption. Garofalo noted that "ev-

erything was deep" and was more than "just a project."

Another big difference Graef noted was that, rather than teachers giving suggestions, the students were given basic problems and had to explore on their own in order to solve each problem.

Inside the classroom, there was singing and dancing and other physical exercises. There were also mind/body/spirit exercises that took place throughout the day in which students were given periodical 10-minute breaks at which time they could go outside. This was another instance when Garofalo and Graef noticed a difference. Rather than children being escorted outside and walking silently through the hallways, when the bell would ring, the children would be released and head outside or to their next classroom by themselves and often making a rather large ruckus. Also, there was a mid-day break, at which time all teachers and students went home for lunch for two hours.

Outside from the classroom, the duo noticed how welcoming everyone was saying that they had dinner with a crowd of more than 10 people every night and were constantly asked if they were "alright" or if they needed anything.

"This, for Paula and I, was a life-changing experience. We just loved it," said Garofalo. "This PowerPoint is nice, but it doesn't even come close to what we felt and experienced when we went."

"It was absolutely incredible," said Graef. "I am blown away from the experience."

Both Garofalo and Graef said they look forward to hosting some of the Chinese teachers and introducing them to an American classroom. Currently, there are 100 schools in the United States that are now employing Asia Society's Confucius classrooms, which is a national network of exemplary Chinese language programs. Two of the aforementioned Confucius classrooms can be found in Connecticut, one in the Glastonbury public school system and one at Simsbury High School.

* * *

The school board also addressed a possible increase in the price of school lunches due to a federal government mandate. According to Director of Finance William Mazzara within the next two or three year's schools will have to reach a threshold of \$2.50 per lunch. Currently, the school is selling lunch for \$2.25.

Board of Education Chairman Mark Allaben

addressed the issue by posing a rhetorical question in regards to why there would need to be a price increase when the program could be offered for less and still be successful.

"So if a school system runs a quality lunch program that meets all of the nutritional standards for say \$2.10, the federal government says I have to do that for \$2.50," questioned Allaben.

Mazzara explained that one of the main issues the program intends to address is making it easier for those below poverty level to qualify for a free lunch.

* * *

Also at the meeting, Hebron Elementary School Principal Kevin Hamilton announced that during a recent coin drive, the school raised "\$1,049 and change in change." The money was raised in an effort to help those impacted by the recent earthquake in Japan and the Pacific tsunami. After the two-week coin drive, the school presented a check in the previously mentioned amount of \$1,049 to the American Red Cross Relief Effort.

* * *

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, at 7 p.m., in the Gilead Hill School music room.

Go Green, Says Hebron Board of Selectmen

by Courtney Parent

At a May 5 meeting, the Board of Selectmen voted in favor of the formation of a Citizens Green Committee.

The idea was first brought to Town Manager Bonnie Therrien at the beginning of the year by local residents Michael Harder and Peter Moon. According to Therrien, the two envisioned the formation of a "green energy committee," which would develop a green energy platform, long-range plan and informational media to assist residents and businesses in lowering their energy costs and carbon imprint.

After several months of research, during the May 5 selectmen meeting, board members discussed the benefits of establishing a green committee comprised of citizens and local business owners.

According to the meeting minutes, selectman Brian O'Connell pointed to the importance of improving the environment from the ground up and suggested that the committee could begin

by looking at ways to improve the efficiency of the transfer station.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt said the concept of a "green committee" was very well-received among all board members.

"The board was actually very enthusiastic about it," Watt said, pointing to the money the town would be able to save with all the renewable energy options available.

As a result of O'Connell's suggestion, the first task to be placed upon the Green Committee will be to look at the possibility of fees at the transfer station and ways to convince the residents and businesses to recycle more to reduce their tax bill.

According to Therrien, while it currently costs the town for individuals to dispose of garbage, those who recycle are actually making the town money.

"Right now, if people throw things in the trash, it costs the town \$69 a ton to bring to

CRRA," Therrien said. "If people recycle, CRRA pays us \$10 a ton, thus affecting [the town budget] in a positive manner."

CRRA, or the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, was established by the state in 1973. According to its website, the purpose of the CRRA is to develop and implement environmentally-sound solutions and practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of municipalities. Currently, CRRA's solid waste projects serve 96 cities and towns across the state.

According to Therrien, the Citizens Green Committee will be comprised of seven members and two alternates and will be asked to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding solid waste, alternative energy and the conservation of energy, pesticide use and more.

"The group will be looking at all aspects of energy conservation including advising the se-

lectmen on grant opportunities, how to reduce energy costs, alternative vehicles, trash and recycling issues and anything to do with energy," Therrien said.

Prior to approving the addition of a Citizens Green Committee, Therrien said the town studied the work of local energy committees in nearby Wethersfield and Glastonbury, committees she said are "leaders in this area."

According to Watt, once members are selected the committee will be able to improve the efficiency with all the buildings in town, as well as give ideas to residents.

Anyone interested in serving on the Citizens Green Committee is asked to contact Therrien by e-mail at btherrien@hebronct.com or by calling 860-228-5971, ext. 122. A person's letter of interest should specify why he or she are interested in being a member of the committee, as well as his or her relevant background and party affiliation.

Portland Residents Approve Lease Agreement

by Joshua Anusewicz

With the majority of the voters being members of the Portland police and fire departments, residents voted to authorize an \$895,500 multi-equipment lease purchase agreement at a special town meeting on Wednesday night at Portland High School.

The resolution passed with 55 'yes' votes and three 'no' votes.

The lease agreement, which had been approved by the Board of Selectmen during budget deliberations and was included as part of the budget referendum that passed last week, will provide funding for several new vehicles and equipment for the police, fire, highway and grounds departments, as well as a new roof for the Portland Public Library.

The lease is to be paid off over five years which, according to Finance Director Tom Robinson, will keep the mill rate low. A 2011-12 mill rate of 28.15 was adopted at the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting Wednesday, which followed the town meeting.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said Wednesday she now plans to work with Robinson on researching costs and specific modifications that the equipment will need.

Bransfield added that no purchases can be made before the 2011-12 budget goes into effect on July 1.

Bransfield said last week that, with the uncertainty of the state budget, most decisions won't be made until after the state budget is known.

Robinson said Wednesday the town is currently looking at several lease companies to find the best interest rates, and will be able to come out with a better figure when the "complete numbers," or costs, of all the equipment is known. He said the hope is to obtain the equipment shortly after July 1, with construction on the library roof beginning this summer "while the weather is good."

The town also plans to sell some of its old equipment, like police cruisers and dump trucks, while some will be kept as backup. During budget deliberations, some residents had discussed using the funds raised from selling old equipment to help pay back the lease, but Robinson said Wednesday that there were currently no plans to do that.

* * *

At the regular meeting of the selectmen on

Wednesday, board members discussed the possibility of applying for the state's Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant. According to Bransfield, the grant could provide up to \$500,000 to the town for various improvements.

Bransfield discussed using a STEAP grant to help develop Goodrich Field, which is located between Strickland Street and Route 17. The land was purchased by the town six years ago and, other than being aerated recently, has remained undeveloped.

Bransfield discussed the possibility of converting the land into soccer or baseball fields, as the town doesn't control the fields that are currently used at Camp Ingersoll.

In recent years, the town has used STEAP grants to fund the extension of Brownstone Avenue, the development of the Riverfront Park, and currently, the expansion of the sidewalks on Main Street. Bransfield said that the grants come at no cost to the town and relatively easy to apply for.

Robinson said the grant could also help fund "upfront costs" for developing the field, like

surveying or engineering, but added that STEAP has provided great assets for Portland.

"STEAP has been wonderful for the town," Robinson said.

Selectwoman Kathleen Richards added that the grants would be "a good thing."

"Our fields are used so much right now," Richards said. "We should go for it."

The board also discussed the possibility of using the grants to fund other public works projects, like other projects at the new riverfront park or Bransfield Park on Rose Hill Road.

The board plans to add the grants to a future agenda, as Bransfield said the deadline for applying is in June.

* * *

The selectmen also approved a public hearing on Wednesday, May 25, at 7 p.m. on a federal Community Development Block Grant, which would provide funding for a new fire alarm system at the Quarry Heights housing complex on Main Street.

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Wednesday, June 1, at 7:30 p.m. at Portland Library.

Colchester School Board Says Goodbye to Dedicated Member

by Courtney Parent

Elizabeth "Betsy" Ciccone has resigned from the Board of Education, halfway through her third four-year term.

Ciccone, who has served on the school board for the past 10 years, resigned at an April 27 board meeting.

Ciccone said the decision to resign was not an easy one, as she had pondered over it for "quite some time" before officially announcing her resignation to the board. Due to personal reasons, Ciccone said she decided she needed to re-prioritize her commitments.

Ciccone currently holds a full-time position as a project coordinator and is a full-time mother of four. She said all of her children have been through the school district, three of whom are currently in college and one who is entering the eleventh grade.

"If I could, I would stay on the board," said Ciccone, "but I am working full-time and that along with being a full-time mom and everything else...it gets to be a lot."

Ciccone said that, prior to being elected to the board, she actually ran for office two years prior. Then in 2001, she filled a vacancy, finishing out the term of a member who had left. Upon the completion of that term she was officially elected to the board and has served ever since.

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein commended Ciccone for a decade of dedicated service, referring to her as a "tremendous force" on the board.

"She has done a terrific job being a strong advocate and also opening the door to the policy process," said Goldstein.

Goldstein explained that during her time on the board, Ciccone served as chair of the board's policy sub-committee, as well as serving as the board's secretary for several years (school board member Mary Tomasi has been elected to fill that role.)

"Her big contribution, in addition to being an active member, was serving as chair of the policy committee," Goldstein said. "Policies are in many respects what run the districts...some controversial, some mundane, but all important."

Superintendent of Schools Karen Loisel also shared a similar sentiment giving nothing but kind words, emphasizing Ciccone's dedication to the students.

"Betsy has been a tireless advocate for students throughout her tenure on the board and also as a very active PTO officer," said Loisel.

Like Goldstein, Loisel also pointed to Ciccone's expertise on the board's policy sub-committee.

"I will miss her policy expertise, her reflective questions and her enthusiasm for the work

we are doing here in the Colchester schools," Loisel said.

Though Ciccone will no longer serve on the Board of Education, she said she will still be visible within the community and will still serve on the Republican Town Committee.

"It's been great," Ciccone said. "I have seen a lot of positive and significant changes. I'm really going to miss being on the board."

"She, like all of us, worked to make decisions in the best interests of the students and there were never any doubts that that was first in her mind," Goldstein said. "That's always been her number one."

The school board is now seeking to fill the vacancy left by Ciccone. As per the town charter, this position must be filled by a Colchester resident and a member of the Republican Party. The term of this appointment will expire in November, at which point the seat will become open. Whomever is then elected will serve on the board for the remainder of Ciccone's term, which runs through November 2013.

Anyone interested in applying for this appointment is asked to submit a letter of interest or resume, or both, no later than Tuesday, May 31, to: Ronald Goldstein, Chairman, Colchester Board of Education, 127 Norwich Ave., Suite 202, Colchester, CT 06415

Interviews will be held in early to late June.



Elizabeth "Betsy" Ciccone

For more information, either about the selection process or about membership on the board, contact Goldstein at 860-537-5503 or at r.goldstein@colchesterct.org.

Just 77 People Turn Out for Andover Budget Vote

by Courtney Parent

At a budget referendum Tuesday, an 84 percent majority vote passed the \$10.60 million budget. The budget represents a 2.03 percent, or \$210,739, increase over the current year spending.

However, with a zero percent tax increase, the shock factor did not lie within the actual passing of the budget, but rather the percentage of voters who exercised their right to vote. During Tuesday's referendum, just 77 residents voted, that accounts for just 3.5 percent of the 2,197 registered voters.

Of those 77 votes cast, (65 in favor of the budget and 12 against it) nine were poll workers, three were office staff and three were absentee ballots. Meaning just 62 residents made a special trip to the Town Office building to cast their votes.

Registrar of Voters Cathy Palazzi said the low numbers could be credited to a combination of three factors: the weather, the zero percent increase and forgetfulness. With Tuesday's dreary, rainy conditions, Palazzi said many might not have wanted to venture out, feeling comfortable with a zero percent tax increase and assuming the budget would pass. Also, despite announcing the date of the referendum through local publications and posting signs around town, Palazzi said "truthfully, I think they just forgot."

While a zero percent tax increase may have prompted some residents to stay home, resting assured that others would vote to approve the budget, Palazzi noted that last year's budget,

which also included a zero percent tax increase, received 254 votes during referendum. "But where are those 254 votes now?" she asked.

First Selectmen Bob Burbank also attributed the miniscule voter turnout to the zero percent tax increase. He hypothesized the general public was likely satisfied with the budget and didn't feel the need to come out to vote in favor of it, saying that typically more people come out to oppose a budget.

"I think people tend to vote against a budget," Burbank said.

During Tuesday's referendum, Burbank and Palazzi also conversed over the fact that it costs approximately \$2,500 to hold a referendum — so essentially, the 77 voters Tuesday equated to approximately \$32.46 per vote.

Also on the ballots, voters were posed with two non-binding advisory questions. The two questions were in regards to whether voters felt the general government budget was too high and whether they thought the Board of Education budget was too high. While the budget vote passed with 84 percent voting in favor of it, voters expressed a different feeling in regards to the two advisory questions. Both questions were answered with a majority vote, 61 percent for general government and a whopping 76 percent for Board of Education, saying that they felt the budgets were too high.

The general government budget accounts for approximately \$2.43 million of the \$10.60 million budget. According to Burbank the most notable factors contributing to the \$2.43 million

general government budget lie within the Capital Expenditures line item. In the budget capital expenditures are valued at \$326,268, up \$80,268 from the current year. Included in the capital expenditures line item are \$105,000 for an expansion to the library parking lot and \$50,000 for breakout gear for the fire department.

Burbank also noted that some benefits, such as retirement have increased as the state has added "quite a bit" to the amount that the towns must pay for it.

"There are numbers that we have no control over," said Burbank.

Meanwhile, the Board of Education budget stands at \$4.08 million, which represents just a small 0.21 percent, or \$8,693, increase over the current budget.

The 0.21 percent increase to the school board budget is by far the smallest increase in over a half decade. During the last six years, the smallest increase (until now) was 1.91 percent, or \$76,409, for the 2010-11 budget, with the largest being 8.35 percent, or \$273,842 in the 2005-06 budget.

The largest increase found in the proposed budget lies in the insurance line item. There is a 7.36 percent, or \$43,225 increase, due primarily to a \$21,603 increase to medical insurance and a \$22,618 increase to municipal retirement benefits.

The largest proposed decrease is a \$29,261 drop in special education consultant fees that have been reduced as a result of two special

education students moving out of Andover. The students moving out of the school means two full-time teaching positions can be reduced to part-time.

Some of the major assumptions that the budget was based on include a decrease in overall student enrollment, no unanticipated major expenditures and that any federal or state grants will be utilized to offset expenses for professional development, special education, technology and curriculum improvement.

When asked why residents would vote in favor of the budget, but express opinions that the government and education budgets were too high, Burbank said simply people think taxes are too high.

"I believe it is that nobody wants to pay taxes and everybody thinks that the taxes could be less," Burbank said. "[The questions] were setup as an advisory for Board of Finance should the budget fail. [The Board of Finance] would see if the majority of people think the Board of Education is too high or government is too high and then they could advise cuts."

Burbank added that he could understand the thinking of his fellow taxpayers as he too feels that he pays too much for taxes.

"I feel the same way," Burbank said. "I think I pay too high of taxes and I can understand the feeling. You always think there are probably better ways to run the government so it would be less expensive."

The mill rate for the \$10.60 million 2011-12 budget has been set at 27.6.

Man Loses Control of Car, Strikes Mailboxes, Trees in Hebron

An Andover resident was sent to the hospital last week after striking mailboxes and trees on Old Colchester Road, State Police said.

At around 6:30 p.m. May 11, Niall Geoghegan, 18, of 60 Route 87, was traveling south on Old Colchester Road, one-tenth of a mile south of Cannon Road, when he lost control of his Ford Escort while negotiating a curve in the road, police said. Geoghegan's

car left the travel portion of the road and went off on the right side, police said, striking a traffic sign, two mailboxes and a "couple of trees."

Geoghegan sustained minor, "non-incapacitating" injuries, police said, and was transported via ambulance to Windham Hospital. He was also found at fault for making an improper turn, police said.

One-Car Crash Leaves Minor Lacerations

A one-car accident in Marlborough last week left the driver with minor injuries, State Police said.

Shortly after 5 p.m. May 10, Michael Appleton, 52, of 51 West Rd., was exiting the Citgo gas station on North Main Street, police said. He failed to properly turn out of the station, crossing both travel lanes and struck the wire rope guardrail across the street, police said.

Appleton was transported to the Marlborough Clinic for minor lacerations to the area of the face, police said. The crash is under investigation.

Colchester Crash Sends Two to Hospital

Two Waterbury residents were sent to the hospital with minor injuries after a one-car crash last week, State Police said.

According to police, a car being driven by Michael McDuff, 18, of 49 Robinquest Dr., Waterbury, was traveling east on Route 2, in the area of Exit 18, when he drifted into the grassy shoulder of the center median. McDuff then went back into the left lane, went out of control, skidded back into the center median and rolled over, police said.

Both McDuff and his passenger, Sadife Rizvani, 28, of 47 Quarry Hill Rd., Waterbury, were transported to Backus Hospital with minor injuries, police said.

Marlborough Police News

5/10: Two tires on a motor vehicle were reported punctured at a residence on Coleman Lane, State Police said. Anyone with any information is asked to call Officer Ransom at Troop K at 860-537-7500.

5/15: State Police are investigating the larceny of a portable DVD player taken from inside a locked residence on Lafayette Road. There was no forced entry, police said.

EHHS Principal Leaving in June

by Joshua Anusewicz

Since 1995, Dr. Linda C. Berry has seen a lot change at East Hampton High School. Students, teachers, and other faculty have come and gone, but as principal, she has remained at the helm, the school growing under her tutelage.

Now after 16 and a half years, Berry is prepared to move on.

Berry will depart EHHS at the end of the school year to become the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (CIA) at Regional School District 13 in Durham beginning this summer. The Board of Education accepted Berry's resignation at its May 9 meeting.

After all of her time at EHHS, Berry could easily recite a long list of the school's accomplishments under her guidance. But, with great humility, she prefers to praise those around her.

"This school has tremendous students, just great students," Berry said. "I've always received great support from the students, parents, faculty and administration. I've loved this job."

Berry, who lives in Farmington, took over as principal in 1995 for then-principal Jane Baljevic. Prior to that, she had been the assistant principal at Pomperaug High School in Southbury and a teacher at Avon High School.

Coming in as principal, she saw a challenge that became one of her biggest goals: keeping the town's best and brightest in East Hampton.

"Sixteen years ago, a lot of students were leaving to go to places like Mercy or Xavier," Berry said. "My goal was to improve the image of this high school. I think that now, this is a school the community can be proud of."

Berry said that today, the school has added more Advanced Placement classes, provides more guidance for struggling students, and, most importantly, is sending more students to

two- and four-year colleges.

Board of Education member Don Coolican, who was on the board when Berry was hired, commended her for this work, saying the number of students leaving East Hampton schools has "dropped dramatically" and Berry is most responsible for keeping them there.

However, while she is at the helm of EHHS, Berry stressed the "team effort" it takes for the school to run, "from the faculty right down to the custodians and kitchen staff."

"It's such a supportive environment," Berry said. "We really love and care for the students." Berry said she always tries to remain "visible" and has an "open-door policy" for any students or faculty who need help.

Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden, who has worked with Berry for the past four years, said Wednesday Berry has had an "enormous impact" on the school and couldn't single out just one thing from the many she's accomplished.

"She has created a wonderful climate for the students and for the entire community," Golden said. "We have been very fortunate to have her and she will be sorely missed."

Golden added that Berry is "very deserving" of her new position, but is sad to see her go.

"I'm smiling for her on the outside, but crying on the inside," Golden said with a laugh.

In 2006, Berry received her doctorate in education from Central Connecticut State University and has looked for "a new challenge," which is what her new position will give her. The Director of CIA position, Berry said, is basically the same as an assistant superintendent, where she will work with grades kindergarten through 12. She will not work with the students as much, she said, but looks forward



After more than 16 years at the helm of East Hampton High School, Dr. Linda Berry will leave the school in June.

to the new environment.

"District 13 has a great reputation and a great administrative staff," Berry said. "I do have mixed feelings, though. I'll certainly miss it here."

Currently, Berry said she is doing most of her summer work now, so she will "leave [her replacement] in a good place" for next year. According to Golden, the Board of Education's

personnel committee is currently working on finding a replacement and would not say when that person would be announced.

Coolican said that whoever takes her place will have "a big hole to fill."

"We couldn't have asked for more in a principal," Coolican said. "I'm very sad to see a terrific principal go, but I'm happy that she's moving on in her career."

FOIC Cuts Fines Against East Hampton Town Council Members

by Joshua Anusewicz

At a hearing last Wednesday in Hartford, the state Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) ruled in a 3-2 vote that the majority of the Town Council violated the state's open meeting law last June, when it met to discuss the removal of Police Chief Matt Reimondo.

The decision, however, differs some from what was recommended by FOIC hearing officer Kathleen Ross after a preliminary hearing last November. Ross recommended that each council member accused of violating the open meeting law should be fined \$50, but the FOIC decided to drop the fines and ordered the entire Town Council to contact the FOIC to arrange a training session on executive session procedures within the next three months.

The FOIC, like Ross did in November, found in favor of Reimondo in four complaints, but cleared the council of eight others.

The complaints stemmed from a meeting on June 22, 2010, where Reimondo alleged that Town Council members Melissa Engel, John Tuttle, Thom Cordeiro, Christopher Goff, Barbara Moore, and then-member William Devine "held an illegal and secret meeting" in violation of the FOI Act. The meeting was held to discuss a proposed severance package for Reimondo and appoint a temporary replacement.

According to the minutes of the June 22 meeting, council member Susan Weintraub, who was not named in the FOI complaint, expressed concern that Reimondo had to be notified of the executive session, which is re-

quired by state law. Town Attorney Jean D'Aquila, however, explained that the purpose of the meeting was "not employee performance review," but discussion of "attorney-client privilege."

The people in attendance were not named in the minutes of the June 22 meeting, but the FOIC determined that then-town manager Jeffery O'Keefe was "present during the executive session, and that he informed the members of the Town Council in attendance that he had...terminated [Reimondo] from his position as chief of police" earlier that day.

At the Nov. 4 hearing, Weintraub testified that a "discussion of Reimondo's termination ensued" and focused on whether the retaliation was "retaliatory." Engel testified that the discussion didn't take place, but the FOIC deemed her testimony "not credible," the report said.

The FOIC ruled that a violation was committed by discussing "a matter that had never been disclosed as an agenda item, either to [Reimondo] or the public." It also ruled the council members denied Reimondo "the right to attend and participate in the meeting regarding his termination" as well as "the right to request that the meeting on his termination be held in public session." The commission also ruled the council had "failed to list the attendees in the executive session."

However, not all of the FOIC findings were against the council. Reimondo also requested that the actions taken by the council at the June

22 meeting be declared "null and void," but because the executive session was to discuss a severance package that would benefit Reimondo, and Reimondo has since been reinstated as chief, the FOIC ruled in favor of the council members.

Reimondo also alleged that the council had failed to give him and the public "notice of a meeting on [Reimondo's] proposed termination," but it was determined that Reimondo had been terminated prior to the special meeting and the council had "no authority or intention" to terminate him.

When reached for comment Tuesday, Engel said she was "excited [the recommendations] were almost overturned."

"It was heartening that the commission felt differently than [Ross]," Engel said. "It was a close vote. Some of the FOIC members thought we did nothing wrong."

Engel said she was not in attendance, but Cordeiro and D'Aquila were there to represent the council members. Reimondo, his attorney Leon Rosenblatt, Weintraub and several East Hampton residents were also present, she said.

The training session is something that the Town Council does annually, Engel said, adding that she is "never unhappy about more training." She said the entire Town Council, including Weintraub, will have to attend the training.

Weintraub said Thursday that she didn't agree with the fines being rescinded, adding that the main reason the fines were removed was

due to a "lie" by D'Aquila. Weintraub said D'Aquila told the commission the Town Council had no history with FOI violations when, Weintraub said, there were at least two FOI complaints in the past several years: a violation in 2007 for an improper meeting held regarding then-Town Manager Jim Thomas and a violation for an illegal e-mail meeting held last year.

D'Aquila could not be reached for comment for this story.

Weintraub also said that D'Aquila never testified that Engel's testimony was "not credible," which she said proves that Engel was "untruthful."

Regarding the training, Weintraub said she doesn't believe it will prevent violations from happening again.

"The training will only help if [the council members] obey the law," Weintraub said. "And these council members have proven they are lawless."

Resident Bill Marshall, who was present at the hearing, said Thursday that he was concerned that residents are focusing on Reimondo's termination, but should be just as concerned that the police chief was also "denied due process."

"Nothing in this country is more fundamental than due process," Marshall said. "He never got the chance to represent himself."

Reimondo and Rosenblatt could not be reached for comment for this story.

Andover Man Killed in Bolton Crash

by Courtney Parent

An Andover man was killed Monday, May 16, when his 1999 Ford Crown Victoria went out of control and struck a utility pole along Route 6 in Bolton.

According to State Police Troop K, the vehicle being operated by Richard Adams, 82, of 14 Hendee Rd., was traveling east on Route 6, near Johnson Road, when it veered into the westbound lane and then back into the eastbound lane twice, before veering sharply off the right side of the road, striking a utility pole on the driver's side door.

Adams sustained severe injuries to the left side of his body and was transported to

Manchester Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead, police said.

His wife, Geraldine Adams, 78, who was a passenger in the car at the time of the accident, sustained chest injuries and was taken by ambulance to Hartford Hospital. As of Tuesday morning, Hartford Hospital said that she was in stable condition.

According to police, both passengers were wearing seatbelts at the time of the accident and both driver and passenger airbags deployed. The accident is currently under investigation, police said.

Hebron Police News

5/14: State Police are investigating the forced entry into a summer home on Deepwood Drive. The entry, into a window, occurred sometime between April 24 and May 14, police said. A flatscreen TV and a DVD player were reported missing. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call Trooper Denise Sevigny at Troop K at 860-537-7500.

5/16: Jameson W. Adams, 20, of 8 Attawanhod Trail, was charged with DUI, possession of less than four ounces of a "controlled substance/non-narcotic/hallucinogen," drug paraphernalia and public possession of liquor by a minor. According to police, Attawanhod was observed operating his vehicle in the parking lot of RHAM High School. He was stopped, given field sobriety tests and arrested, police said.

Colchester Police News

5/11: Erika Grant, 40, of 47 First St., Lebanon, was charged with reckless driving and DUI, State Police said.

5/14: Colchester Police Officer Shannon Owens is investigating reported criminal mischief to a vehicle that was parked overnight in a driveway at the Country Place Apartments on Cobble Way.

5/15: James Covino, 33, of 3 Downing Dr., Preston, was charged with possession of marijuana, State Police said.

5/17: A burglary was reported at NAPA Auto Parts, 24 Linwood Cemetery Rd., between 12:50 and 1 a.m., State Police said. The front window to the business was smashed and nothing was taken from the establishment, police said. The incident remains under investigation.

Obituaries

Andover

Marion Naiss

Marion Louise Hathaway Naiss, 87, of Wallingford, formerly of Andover, passed away Saturday, May 7, at Masonicare Health Center.

She was the beloved wife of the late John Naiss Sr.

She was born in East Hartford on June 26, 1923, the daughter of the late Newell Hathaway Sr. and Harriet Ashwell Hathaway.

She was a 1941 graduate of Windham High School. She had several jobs in her life, finally retiring from Pratt & Whitney in 1985. She then spent 15 years volunteering at the Masonicare gift shop.

She is survived by her children, Harriet Leverton and her husband John of Middletown, Whitney Merritt and his wife Carol of Florida, Lois Cole of Hebron, Lucille Sobielo of Amston, and April Lusher and her husband Ron of Manchester; her stepsons, Richard Naiss and his wife Anita of Waterbury, and John Naiss Jr. and his wife Sue of Cheshire; 19 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Maryann Moreau of Springfield, MA; a grandson, Philip Merritt of Lebanon; her sister, Anne Whitcomb of Andover; her "little" sister Shirley Hathaway, and her brother, Newell "Sonny" Hathaway Jr.

Marion enjoyed family-time with picnics, holiday gatherings and sleepovers with her "girls." She always loved seeing us all together laughing and having fun. She held us all together for many, many years. She will be greatly missed by all her family.

Funeral services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in her memory may be sent to the Masonic Charity Foundation, P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Yalesville Funeral Home, 386 Main St., Yalesville, CT.

Colchester

Elizabeth VanCedarfield

Elizabeth "Betty" (Weeks) VanCedarfield, 75, of Colchester/East Haddam, beloved wife of David, passed away peacefully Monday, May 16, at home, surrounded by her loving family.

Born April 29, 1936, in Westmoreland, NH, she was one of the 13 children of the late John Harry and Mary Blanche (Benware) Weeks. Betty was a 1954 graduate of Keene High School.

Mrs. VanCedarfield lived and worked in the East Haddam area for over 50 years. She enjoyed volunteering at local convalescent homes and other places within her community. She also helped care for her family as a wonderful, loving, generous, compassionate wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend. She loved to entertain, loved her animals, flowers, cooking, telling stories and jokes; as well as the occasion trip to the casino.

Betty was a foster mother to over 100 children for the State of Connecticut and was a strong advocate for foster children. Her time as a foster mother spanned over 30 years and enjoyed working with foster children in special education and highly respected David Scotta and his work.

She is survived by her loving husband, David; two daughters, Myra VanCedarfield of Colchester and Betty VanCedarfield of Calais, ME; her step-daughter, Jeanne Markowitz of Orangeburg, SC; two outstanding foster children, Todd "Precious Todd" Frechette of Oakdale and Edison "Super Eddie" Klotz of Taftville; 13 grandchildren; special nieces, Kimberly Martin, Christine Cruz-Santiago and Rebecca Lacy; three brothers, David Weeks of Lake City, FL, Richard Weeks of Milton, DE and Bruce Weeks of Gilbert, AZ; a sister, Dorothy Williams Cunningham of Paris, TN; dear friends, Diane, April, Deanna, Sabrine and Missy; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her foster parents, Ralph and Lovette Clark; a son, Kenneth "Kenny" VanCedarfield; a sister, Mary Weeks; and seven brothers, Harold, Francis, George, William, Ralph and Donald Weeks and Lawrence Williams.

Friends may call from 5-7 p.m. today, May 20, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral will gather starting at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, May 21, at the funeral home before a chapel service at 11 a.m. Interment will follow in the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111 or to the charity of one's choice.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Bruno J. Cordani

Bruno J. Cordani, 77 of Hebron, husband for 54 years of Betty (Miner) Cordani, died Tuesday, May 17, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Bruno was born in Manchester on March 15, 1934, the son of the late Effore and Esterina (Borsotti) Cordani.

He was raised in Hebron and New York City, served in the Army, and returned to Hebron for the remainder of his life. Prior to retiring he had been employed by Gray Ledge Farms, formerly of Glastonbury, and was a longtime member of the Bozrah Rod and Gun Club.

With his wife, he is survived by his son, Michael B. Cordani of Clinton, his two godchildren, Miranda and Jason Shilati, and several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Bruno was predeceased by a sister, Mary Whelden.

Funeral services will be held Monday, May 23, at 10:30 a.m., at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Burial with military honors will follow in the Gilead Cemetery in Hebron. Casket bearers will be Michael Cordani, Steven Borsotti, Kevin Borsotti, Jason Shilati, Cathy Durand, and Miranda Shilati. Visiting hours are Sunday, May 22, from 4-7 p.m., at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 2075 Silas Deane Hwy., Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, or a charity of the donor's choice.

For directions to the funeral home or to sign the online guestbook, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Portland

John Lennart Johansson

John Lennart Johansson, 81, of Portland, beloved husband of Mary (Govone) Johansson, passed away on Sunday, May 15, at Apple Rehab in Cromwell. A full obituary with funeral arrangements will follow in next week's paper.

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