

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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Area veterans responded to the news of Osama bin Laden's death this week. A few of the veterans from Marlborough American Legion Post 197 are shown here at the closing ceremony of the Marlborough Memorial Day Parade last year.

## Residents React to bin Laden's Killing

by Katy Nally

Nationally, Osama bin Laden's death was followed by raucous cheering outside the White House and remembrance ceremonies at ground zero. But local opinions on what his death will mean for the War on Terror differ throughout the *Rivereast* towns.

Many residents associated with various veterans organizations acknowledged bin Laden won't be missed. Still, some said his death should not be celebrated – while, for others, the tune “ding dong, the witch is dead” came to mind.

“Essentially, everyone is very happy that he's dead,” Ron Winter, a member of the Hebron VFW, said. “We're especially happy that he went head first into the ocean. It's a perfect ending for a guy who did what he did to our country.”

bin Laden was the leader of the terrorist organization Al-Qaeda, which the United States labeled as responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks almost immediately after they occurred. While bin Laden initially denied any involvement, in 2004 he claimed responsibility for the attacks via a video that aired on an Arabic TV station. He has also been linked to the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings that involved simultaneous truck bombs in several African cities.

Further details surrounding his death are still emerging, but according to published reports,

President Barack Obama authorized a raid on bin Laden's home in Pakistan last Friday, April 29. The following Sunday, U.S. forces approached the highly-protected compound in helicopters and Navy Seals, along with other soldiers, were sent in.

After a firefight, one woman, said to be bin Laden's wife, was shot in the leg, but Americans sustained no casualties. bin Laden was shot in the head and his DNA was later verified in Afghanistan, according to reports. After that, his body was flown to an aircraft carrier and was dumped into the North Arabian Sea.

“This was a despicable man, who did a despicable thing; he deserved to die,” Winter, a Vietnam veteran, said.

Carl Carlson, a member of Marlborough American Legion Post 197, had a more empathetic response.

“It's tragic that anybody has to get killed – even bin Laden,” Carlson said. But, he added, “We're not going to miss him.”

Carlson, a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Navy aboard an aircraft carrier, said bin Laden's death would probably not affect the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We still have to contend with terrorists,” he said. “It's a long war we're into.”

But, Winter said, with bin Laden gone, the morale of U.S. soldiers will probably improve.

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## Four Votes Defeat East Hampton Budget

by Joshua Anusewicz

As moderator Red McKinney read out the results of the East Hampton budget referendum, something between a groan and a gasp rose from those in attendance.

Total votes: 1,166 – 581 were in favor, and 585 against.

And with its defeat, the proposed 2011-12 town budget will send residents back to the polls.

In what Director of Finance Jeff Jylkka called “the closest margin in at least 20 years,” the \$37.86 million budget failed by four votes, disappointing town officials even more than the low turnout.

“Four votes doesn't give us much of an indication of where we need to go with [the budget],” said Thom Cordeiro, one of two Town Council members in attendance, Barbara Moore was present as well. “It's clear the residents are frustrated, but there aren't many places to go. I don't think we can cut much more.”

According to the Town Clerk, 14 percent of the town's 8,202 registered voters turned out Tuesday.

Board of Finance Chairman Matt Walton was equally disappointed, but took a more literal approach to the results.

“What it tells me is at least half of the people in town want a reduction to the proposal,” Walton said. “So we have to go back to the drawing board.”

During budget deliberations, town officials were able to cut \$321,798 from the original budget that was proposed on April 14.

Spending would be reduced by \$136,000, over the current year, but the mill rate would still increase by 0.76 of a mill, to 25.74. Jylkka said taxpayers will see an overall tax reduction of about \$100,000. According to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel on April 14, roughly 60 percent of residents would not see an increase in their taxes because of a recent revaluation.

Engel said on Wednesday she believed the low turnout was based on the fact that most residents wouldn't feel a tax increase, adding, the 40 percent who would see the increase were the ones that came to vote.

“When people see their taxes going up, they usually come out to vote it down,” Engel said.

When asked where cuts, if any, would come from, Engel targeted the area that most residents highlighted during budget deliberations:

the Board of Education.

The Board of Education originally proposed a \$26.61 million budget in February, which included a 2.82 percent increase from 2010-11. In April the Board of Finance, however, recommended \$146,600 in cuts to the education budget, but the reductions were not finalized. In light of the recent no-vote, more cuts to education might be on the way.

“We will need to cut more from the Board of Education because the general government has given more than their fair share,” Engel said.

The town has already decided to cut \$175,198, which includes \$67,137 from the building department. Engel said that cuts to the Board of Education won't be drastic, stating that four votes “indicates that we aren't that far off.”

Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden stated in April the proposed \$146,600 cuts “seem like a lot,” but Engel said Wednesday, Board of Education members have been open to making “reasonable cuts.”

Golden said it has not been decided where potential cuts might come from.

Education was the deciding factor for most of the voters canvassed on Tuesday afternoon,

most of whom did not want to be identified.

“I have two grandchildren and two more on the way,” said resident Bill Marshall, who voted to approve the budget. “I think it's fiscally responsible and I hope the Board of Education gets its increase.”

Another woman who asked not to be identified said she voted against the budget because “nobody's taxes should be raised at this point.” She did add, however, that if residents' taxes were going to go up, “the money should be put toward other town services.”

Last year, the town only had to go through one referendum, as a \$38.00 million budget passed by less than 100 votes, 947-860. That vote represented a larger increase in the mill rate, bringing it up 0.97 mills to 24.98.

The Board of Finance will now hold a special meeting on Monday, May 9 at 7 p.m. at the East Hampton Middle School Library to recommend changes to the proposed budget for a second referendum. The meeting is open to the public.

After Monday, the budget will go to the Town Council for approval, and then a Town Meet-



**After the \$37.86 million budget was defeated by only four votes, the Board of Finance, along with Town Manager John Weichsel, deliberated Tuesday and agreed to hold a special meeting Monday to discuss possible reductions.**

#### Budget cont. from Front Page

ing where residents can voice their opinions on the budget, before it moves to the second referendum. According to Cordeiro, the process usually takes a week or two.

After the budget is approved, the mill rate is officially set by the Board of Finance.

Jylkka said, in recent years, the town has held up to five referendums to approve the budget. He added, if the budget is not approved before the 2011-12 fiscal year starts on July 1, the town will continue with the 2010-11 budget.

#### Residents React cont. from Front Page

“Anytime a man like that dies, the morale goes through the roof,” Winter said.

Fred Schluntz, co-chair of East Hampton’s Citizens Helping Active Military Personnel (CHAMP), has had a hand in boosting morale through his organization, which creates care packages to send to soldiers overseas.

“I think justice is certainly done,” Schluntz said. “Now I think it’s time to get out of the Middle East.”

Schluntz, who participated in the 1980 helicopter attempt to free American hostages in Iran, said it’s “unfortunate” CHAMP still has recipients in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“We were over there for the War on Terror and justice was served by killing him,” he said.

Another East Hampton resident, Ann McLaughlin, agreed with Schluntz, saying the U.S. should begin to downsize its forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“I really feel it’s important that we bring them home; they’ve been gone for too long,” she said.

McLaughlin’s grandson Arron, a sergeant in the U.S. Army, recently wrapped up his ninth year overseas. He came home to East Hampton last Christmas with a Purple Heart, which McLaughlin called “quite an honor.” He is due to speak at this year’s Memorial Day ceremony in East Hampton.

“We’re quite proud of him – he’s a soldier,” she said.

McLaughlin has organized a yellow ribbon committee that will welcome troops home by lining their streets with American flags. She also plans to have a ribbon-tying ceremony during the upcoming East Hampton Memorial Day parade.

While McLaughlin works to welcome home soldiers, she said she hoped bin Laden’s death would spell “the beginning of the end.”

“I was very, very surprised, but very grateful,” she said about the Al-Qaeda leader’s death. “It was something that needed to be done.”

But there’s potentially a downside to bin Laden’s death. Some say the U.S. could be subject to retaliatory attacks, from either Al-Qaeda predecessors, fringe terrorist groups or local terrorists.

“I think we’re going to have to be as vigilant

as we have been and maybe even a little bit more,” Bill Willinsky, a member of the Portland Veterans Affairs Committee, said.

“I have been, and will continue to be, a little more conscious of what’s going on around me,” Willinsky added. “Watching for anything that’s out of place.”

Chuck Walton, president of the East Hampton Veterans Association, agreed, saying “down the road” there will “probably be retaliation.”

Winter mentioned U.S. intelligence would have to monitor someone new, once bin Laden’s predecessor is selected – someone with new “tactics.”

As the events leading to bin Laden’s death are detailed in the media, the question of political ties and relationships with allies comes into the limelight.

Winter questioned the timing of the raid, noting Obama’s recent “declining poll numbers.”

“People can’t help but wonder,” he said. “Is this something to give the president a boost?”

The fact that bin Laden’s compound was in plain sight in a suburban town raises the question of how long intelligence officials knew of his whereabouts.

“The place was known about for quite some time,” Winter said.

According to published reports, officials had been monitoring bin Laden’s compound since August 2010, after one of his couriers began living there. However, Pakistani officials said Wednesday they shared information about the residence with the Central Intelligence Agency in 2009.

Either way, Winter said looking beyond the “flush of patriotism” to the ferret out political motives is, unfortunately, “the nature of the American political scene today.”

Still, Winter did not want to minimize the importance of killing bin Laden.

“That’s a big deal for us,” Winter said. “I’ve got tremendous pride in our military and special ops people.”

Walton echoed Winter’s thoughts.

“I think it was great they were able to accomplish that mission,” he said. “It’s a job well done.”

#### From the Editor’s Desk

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, I was one week into my first reporting job, at the *Journal Inquirer* in Manchester, busily putting together a story recapping the previous weekend’s Hebron Harvest Fair.

I was very much focused on writing the story – so focused, in fact, I didn’t notice that, gradually, the desks around me were emptying. Finally, I heard one of the more veteran reporters announce as he walked back to his desk behind mine, “A plane just crashed into the World Trade Center.”

That was enough to break me out of the little Hebron zone I was in that morning. I did a slight double take – “What??” – and looked up to see that, indeed, the corner of the office I and several other reporters sat in was fairly deserted. I looked down the hallway and saw the vast majority of people were gathered around the one TV in the office, intently staring at what was on the screen.

Like I said, I was very new on the job, and I knew I had a deadline I had to make with this story, but curiosity got the better of me, so I got up out of my chair and quickly snuck a peek at what was on the TV screen. What was on, of course, was the aerial image of the Twin Towers. I don’t recall for sure if the second plane had hit yet at that point, or if it was still that brief period after the first one hit where everybody thought, hopefully, that this was just a terrible accident. What I do recall is thinking that I needed to get back to my desk and hurry up and finish that story. Again, I was very new on the job, and wanted to make a good impression.

The story about the Hebron fair didn’t run that day. Still trying to work my way around the computer system, I had misfiled the story and (mistakenly) thought I had destroyed it. At that point, I still hadn’t read any of the wire stories, still hadn’t truly understood the gravity of what had happened down in New York. My editor, however, had, and when I told her what happened with the filing, she didn’t react quite the way I thought she would. After a few seconds of sheepish explanation on my part, she told me to just do the story for tomorrow. It could have very well been bumped anyway – after all, there were suddenly more pressing stories to put in the paper that day.

I went back to my desk and, with the deadline pressure behind me, began catching up on what had happened that morning, via the AP wire. It was there that I learned of both towers collapsing. I remember thinking how surreal it all felt.

Why am I recounting all this? Because I, like many others, thought about the events of that sunny September morning this past Sunday evening, when another “where were you when you heard the news?” type of moment occurred – we finally killed Osama bin Laden.

I was actually visiting my parents, who live nearby, when I heard the news. The Mets-

Phillies game was on TV, and I had been telling myself for the past three innings “Okay, one more half inning and then I gotta go home.” But this time I meant it, and had exited the TV room and was walking through the dining room when one of the ESPN announcers relayed the news. I only heard the tail end of the announcement (I knew someone had been killed; I just didn’t know who, although I figured it must’ve been pretty big for them to announce during the game) and went racing back into the room to see what had happened. My father and sister both told me it was bin Laden, and then my dad immediately turned over to NBC for its news coverage of the story.

I watched a little bit of the coverage at my parents’ house, then drove back to my place thinking, perhaps foolishly, that I’d head to bed. That didn’t happen; I found myself unable to turn away. I saw Obama’s speech, learned about how the killing happened, listened to some of the anchors talking (NBC even got Tom Brokaw on the phone, which I thought was nice), and thought about it all.

It took nearly 10 years, but we finally did it. We finally got bin Laden.

Like most of us, I wish we had been able to do it sooner. After the Sept. 11 attacks, I was all for invading Afghanistan and finding bin Laden. Unfortunately, while we of course did invade Afghanistan, the stupid war in Iraq took center stage, and it stayed that way throughout Bush’s seemingly interminable two terms in office.

But, justice belatedly done is still justice done. And we eventually got the guy.

Almost immediately after Bin Laden’s killing was announced, you heard some people saying, “Well, now, this doesn’t end the Global War on Terror,” as if we needed to be told. Of course it doesn’t. After all, Osama bin Laden was only one man. Al-Qaeda will still exist; terrorism will still exist. But killing off the head of Al-Qaeda, the man who, for all intents and purposes, was the face of terrorism is a giant blow for our cause. Simply put, it’s a huge victory, not just for our country but for the planet.

And speaking of victories, one would imagine this greatly strengthens Obama’s reelection campaign in 2012. After all, as MSNBC host Lawrence O’Donnell noted, George W. Bush had 2,686 days to capture bin Laden, and he couldn’t. Obama got the job done in 831 days. To all the Republicans who criticized Obama, and Democrats as a whole, in 2008, saying they wouldn’t be as strong on the war on terror, one need only to throw that statistic at them. Obama got bin Laden. He focused his attention away from Iraq, and he got the man Americans have been clamoring for since Sept. 11, 2001.

*This is Mission Accomplished.*

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See you next week.

## East Hampton Officials Expect State to Fund Pine Brook Pipes

by Joshua Anusewicz

At a special meeting Tuesday, the Board of Finance appropriated \$400,000 to replace a culvert under Pine Brook Road, which suffered heavy structural damage during flooding in March.

According to Director of Public Works Keith Hayden, the \$400,000 is expected to be covered by grants from the state’s Town Aid Road program.

Pine Brook Road, which is home to two families, crosses over Pine Brook. The water from the brook currently flows through a single culvert, which often can’t handle elevated water levels. During flooding this March, the brook rose over the road, washing out a large portion of the road and causing structural damage to the culvert. The two families were unable to cross the road for several days.

Hayden, Town Council Vice Chairman John Tuttle and former Interim Town Manager Robert Drewry, met with the families last month and recommended a plan that would replace the existing culvert with two 30-foot corrugated metal pipes. The road would also be elevated to help combat any

possibility of the washing it out again.

According to Hayden, the funding would cover the materials, design, construction, equipment, engineering, inspection, and any other expenses related to the project.

One of the Pine Brook Road residents, Karen Lee, was on hand Tuesday to make a final push for the board to approve the plan.

“Town services year after year get cut and issues like this escalate into a major problem,” Lee said. “As a property owner and a taxpayer, I’m asking you to approve the funding to replace the bridge.”

Lee also added, “until I see something in writing,” verifying the funding from the state is there, she will remain “doubtful.”

“I’ve heard support in the past,” Lee said.

According to Finance Director Jeff Jylkka, the resolution will now be sent to the Town Council and will be part of the agenda at its regular meeting, Tuesday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m. at East Hampton High School.

# Hebron Budget Passes by Narrow Margin

by Courtney Parent

Despite concerns over a 4.56 percent tax increase, voters passed a \$34.09 million budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year at referendum Tuesday.

The approved spending package represents a \$429,024, or 1.27 percent, increase over the current year's budget.

The vote was close, with a margin of just 49; 503 taxpayers were in favor of the budget and 454 were against it. The Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget of \$626,627 was also passed, by a slightly larger margin of 548 'yes' votes to 409 'no' votes.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said she was happy that the budget was able to pass on its first attempt. She added that the \$34.09 million would allow the town to operate efficiently, without making any decreases to services.

"I feel that the town can keep delivering the services at the same level we are now, which is important to our residents," Therrien said.

There were just 959 votes cast in this year's referendum. According to Therrien, the town has approximately 6,500 registered voters. This translates to a turnout rate of just 15 percent. It is also just over 50 percent of the 1,700 who came out to vote at the first budget referendum in 2010. (Last year's budget went to referen-

dum three times before it was passed; the multiple referendums were primarily due to concerns about the Board of Education expanding its all-day kindergarten program.)

Therrien said she was disappointed with the decreased voter turnout, noting that many individuals don't have the opportunity to vote on their town's budget.

"Hebron is one of those communities where people can actually vote for a budget, something citizens in other towns would love to have the ability to do," said Therrien. "I was hoping more people would utilize their right to vote."

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeffrey Watt attributed the small voter turnout and the close vote to the public's dissatisfaction with the bottom line and tax increase imposed by the budget.

"I think the low count and the closeness in the count was an indication to me that people probably weren't happy with the overall bottom line," Watt said. "They were probably tolerant with it, only because we focused on a zero percent salary increase, CIP and Open Space."

In Therrien's initial budget proposal, Open Space Land Acquisition funding was reduced from the current year's \$100,000 to \$25,000.

After much budget deliberation the Board of Selectmen decided to keep Open Space funding at its current level of \$100,000, a move several residents applauded at a public hearing on the budget last month. CIP funding was also kept steady, at \$626,627.

One of those casting their votes on Tuesday afternoon was resident Ray Bieri. Bieri was one of few during the afternoon rush who said he would be casting his vote in favor of the budget. Bieri, a man of few words, said simply that the budget was what was "necessary to keep things going."

Though there was little comment on the budget throughout the budget process at various meetings and the public hearing, there was concern stirring over the almost 5 percent tax increase, which several voters pointed to upon entering and exiting the polls.

Resident Mike Pagach said he was voting against the budget because of the tax increase. He pointed to his personal philosophy that if he worked hard, paid his bills and voted, it would pay off in the long run.

"I trusted those elected to do the right thing and they didn't," said Pagach. "It's my own fault; I should've paid closer attention."

Pagach continued on to give a few words of wisdom.

"Let me give you a piece of advice," he said. "Pay attention to what the elected officials do as opposed to what they say."

Resident Gary Lemire also cast his vote against the budget, describing a lack of information provided to residents as "upsetting."

"The budget just continues to skyrocket, with few services," said Lemire. "I don't see what I'm getting in return."

Lemire went on to point to the significant amount of money he pays in taxes per year, which would now be increased.

"I'm paying over \$10,000 a year and I'm not a doctor," Lemire said.

Another registered voter, who wished to remain anonymous, felt strongly against the budget.

"The people who are running this town are forcing a lot of people out of it because of their lies and bulls—t," he said upon entering the polls.

Ultimately, while the budget did pass, Watt said that he feels that the town's next budget needs to be one where the revenues and expenses are "more in line."

# Emotions Fly High at Marlborough WPCA Meeting

by Katy Nally

The Water Pollution Control Authority begrudgingly passed a draft Operation and Maintenance budget Wednesday, which will be finalized at a public hearing.

"I recommend we take it to a town hearing, but I'm not in favor of it," WPCA member Bill Lardi said. "I'm gonna go down fighting it."

The total O&M budget, using about \$150,000 of the credit from East Hampton, is \$252,324. A charge for one Equivalent Dwelling Unit will just about double, going from \$375 to \$562.

The vote was 4-1, Bill LaPoint was against.

At the public hearing, which has not yet been scheduled, residents will have their chance to voice opinions about the O&M budget and the WPCA will take a vote afterward.

However, residents in attendance Wednesday said they might as well speak out earlier than the upcoming WPCA hearing, and band together at Monday's town meeting where selectmen will present the overall town budget of \$21.13 million.

"Everyone in the sewer district has got to be there hollerin' and screamin' to vote their budget down," Lardi said.

But, Board of Finance member Cliff Denniss pointed out, Monday's meeting is not exactly a forum for public comment, as it's not even listed

on the agenda. Still, residents will be able to vote for or against the overall budget.

"I think everybody here needs to be at that meeting," resident Victor Battaglioli said. "You gotta go there Monday and defeat that budget. ... The only alternative we got is to shoot this budget down."

The majority of residents in attendance, as well as several WPCA members, spoke out against the approximately \$80,000 for legal fees. The "professional services" line item increased from \$12,500 for this fiscal year to the proposed \$87,500.

LaPoint said he would only approve a 10 percent increase in legal fees, keeping in line with how the rest of the budget numbers fluctuated.

Town Planner Peter Hughes said if the WPCA under-funds that line item, it's essentially saying to the courts, "we are not gonna defend these suits."

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

along with the WPCA; however, First Selectman Bill Black has said he would look to secure a summary judgment to remove the town from these two suits.

Resident Siobhan Peng said the levy of legal fees only on sewer district residents was "a huge due process violation."

In this case, if residents sue the WPCA, they're not only funding their legal costs, but also the WPCA's. And, in America's lawsuit-happy society, Peng said, this was a possibility.

Resident Stacey Francoline, who is also one of the seven plaintiffs suing the WPCA, questioned why WPCA members even think they're "responsible for legal fees."

"[Black] signed that agreement," she said.

Resident Amy Traversa presented a letter from the WPCA's attorney, Branse, Willis & Knapp, dated Aug. 20, 2009, that shows Black accepted "municipal legal services to the Town of Marlborough" from that firm for \$145 per hour.

LaPoint said so far only the lawsuits have been discussed with Branse, Willis & Knapp.

While the WPCA didn't agree on a new figure for the professional services line item (which includes legal fees), Lardi did mention the possibility of increasing sewer taxes for

town institutions including the senior center, town hall and elementary school.

These three buildings combined equal 47 EDUs – 41.5 for the school, 2.7 for the senior center and 2.8 for town hall.

Lardi said he's heard from town officials that "we have the right to tax."

However, WPCA Chair Jack Murray cautioned, "I have a feeling that increase is going to come to a grinding halt...if they're hit with a huge increase."

"I don't know what other option there is," Lardi retorted.

While the WPCA questioned what would be an "unreasonable" amount to tax institutions, residents said the proposed \$562 per EDU levied against them is already unreasonable.

Taxing town buildings, "That's your leverage," resident Dennis Hawrylko emphasized.

"You guys are going to be forced to tax the institutions in town – and let them eat that," he said. "The fight isn't over."

The annual town meeting will be held Monday, May 9, at 7 p.m. at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

The next regularly scheduled WPCA meeting will be Thursday, June 9, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

# Another STEAP Round for Upcoming Fiscal Year in Marlborough

by Katy Nally

STEAP funding has once again made it on the selectmen's agenda, and was discussed at a Tuesday meeting.

The Office of Policy and Management announced it is now accepting applications for STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) for the 2011-12 fiscal year, with a deadline of June 23. A total of \$20 million has been allocated for this round and about 100 communities are eligible to receive funding.

In 2009, the town was awarded \$250,000 from STEAP. The grant was originally meant to fund renovation plans of the Richmond Memorial Library; however, without having dollars allocated for engineering and design, the \$250,000 went toward site work outside the library.

The following year, Marlborough was awarded a \$150,000 STEAP grant to be used

to construct sidewalks downtown.

While it was not decided Tuesday if the town would apply for a STEAP grant for the upcoming fiscal year, First Selectman Bill Black asked his board to compile input to be discussed later at a special meeting.

When the Board of Selectmen was discussing which projects should receive the 2010 STEAP grant, the library renovation and sidewalks were the top two ideas. Also discussed were replacing the bath house at Lake Terramuggus, installing roads that lead to the business park and creating a public well in the town center.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Black gave an overview of how the STEAP funding would coincide with the Small Cities grant that will be used to make Richmond Memorial Library compliant with Ameri-

cans with Disabilities Act guidelines.

The Small Cities grant application is due to the state on June 3.

In total, he estimated the library renovation would cost about \$830,000, and would use the 2009 STEAP grant of \$250,000 for foundation site work, creating a dormer on the cemetery side and completing sidewalks around the building.

The maximum awarded from Small Cities, and what the town plans on applying for, is \$750,000.

As the project nears the end, Black noted there would be a financial "gap" of about \$100,000, which, he said, could be funded through more grants, fundraisers or taxes.

"We will go as far as we can with the dollars that have been made available to us," Black said.

With the library renovation, construction of

sidewalks, including those on Jones Hollow, Cheney and East Hampton roads, will be pushed off, Black said. Funding for that project will now come from the 2010 STEAP grant of \$150,000. This way, Black said, construction vehicles coming in to renovate the library will not damage newly laid sidewalks.

"You don't want to put in sidewalks and ruin them," selectwoman Riva Clark said.

The library board signed off on engineering plans last month that show an addition to the right side of the building, opposite School Drive. Proposed changes to the library include a handicapped-accessible elevator and staircase, handicapped-accessible restrooms on the second floor, widened doorways to the staff kitchen and workstations, and a second egress with a ramp on the Main Street side.

# Burbank Tops Haverl in Andover First Selectman Race

by Courtney Parent

The people have spoken and Republican incumbent Bob Burbank will continue his reign as first selectman. On Monday, voters visited the polls to give Burbank a prevailing 481 votes over his Democratic opponent Julia Haverl, who received 311 votes.



Bob Burbank

When asked if he was surprised by the outcome or nervous leading up to the announcement, Burbank expressed confidence, saying that he had expected to get re-elected. He said that many people had come up to him prior to the election to let him know they would be giving him their support in the first selectman race.

"It does feel nice to be appreciated for the work that we've done and to know the residents are aware of the conditions I came into and totally turned the town around," Burbank said, "as far as financial controls and expenditures go."

Though she was hopeful, Haverl said she knew she was in for a challenge, as it would be a "tough job" running against an incumbent. Saying that she never thought she was a "shoe-in."

"I'm still interested in road repairs, development of the ball fields, supporting the volunteer fire department and I am very interested in whatever we can do for the seniors," Haverl said. "I'm pragmatic and I like to work for compromises. Also I do appreciate all the folks that did support me."

Resident Teresa Murdock was one of the 481 residents who supported Burbank during the election. Upon leaving the polls Monday, Murdock said though she is normally a Democrat, her vote went to Burbank, due to the work he did after taking over for former first selectwoman Charlene Barnett, who resigned amid allegations of financial misappropriation.

Burbank has "been in office and straightened out the mess," said Murdock. "I felt bad for him taking over when he did, with the town in the condition that it was."

Resident Tom Anderson also said while ex-

iting the polls that he had cast his vote for Burbank.

"I think he's done a great job," said Anderson, who added with a laugh, "And interestingly enough I sold him his house."

Anderson said the house was originally his parents, then he lived there before selling it to Burbank and his wife Marie when they were just "a couple of young kids."

The town has 2,201 registered voters: 707 Democrats, 527 Republicans, 951 unaffiliated and 16 "other." Of those 2,201 voters, 808 came out to vote in this year's election, for a turnout rate of 37 percent. This was a significant increase over the last municipal election in 2009, when just 505 votes were cast.

Municipal Agent Cathy Palazzi credited this to the fact that the first selectman chair was being challenged this year, as last year Burbank ran unopposed.

"There's a really great turnout," Palazzi said Monday at the polls. "With people vying for a title it's just more interesting."

In this year's election, there were just four boards which were contested: Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate and RHAM Board of Education.

Resident Gerry Hardisty said he was a bit "disappointed" that there weren't more choices. When asked if he would ever consider running, Hardisty said he would consider running someday, but never thinks of it early enough.

"I actually didn't vote for a lot because there were only three names and it said pick three," said Hardisty.

Re-elected to the Board of Selectmen were Republicans Jay Linddy and Cathy Desrosiers, and Democrat Elaine Buchardt. Although Haverl lost the race for first selectman, she did receive enough votes to be offered a position on the Board of Selectmen and accepted it. She replaces Democrat Linda Ann Knowlton, who was the lowest vote-getter of the selectmen candidates.

"I look forward to serving on a full board," Haverl said. "I will represent issues that supporters that voted for me are passionate about."

Turning to the Board of Finance, it was close to a GOP sweep, with the three receiving the most votes being members of the Republican Party. Linda Fish saw the most supporters with



Andover saw a high turnout for this year's municipal election, as 37 percent of registered voters, like the ones shown here, cast ballots Monday. Receiving just over 60 percent of the votes was incumbent First Selectman Bob Burbank.

592 votes. Also elected were Republican Ted Sakelarakis and Republican David Gostanian. Dennis Foran was the sole Democrat elected to the board.

Those chosen for the position of Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate were Republican Kara Sakelarakis and Democrat James McCann.

Those chosen to serve on the RHAM Board of Education were the unaffiliated Ken Lee and Republican Danny Holtsclaw.

Linddy proved to be a town favorite, as he also pulled in the largest numbers among the candidates for the local Board of Education, with 496 votes. Linddy was followed by Republican Sharyn Keeney with 354 votes, Democrat Cathy Danielczuk with 343 and Democrat Kimberly Hawes with 301.

Murdock said that, as was the case with Burbank, she also felt strongly about voting for

Linddy.

"Linddy has contributed a lot to the town of Andover and I've actually always supported him since I moved here," Murdock said, noting that she moved to town seven years ago.

Burbank said he plans to continue what he has been doing in office to keep the town financially sound and to improve the life of its residents.

"I'm pretty much going to continue what I've done to keep taxes down and look for additional ways to get revenue," said Burbank. "I'm going to work with all the boards and commissions to try to improve the overall community life."

The election results will take effect with the start of the next fiscal year on July 1. The current members of the boards and commissions will remain until then.

## \$10.60 Million Budget Heads to Referendum in Andover

by Courtney Parent

Residents voted 32-3 Wednesday to send a proposed \$10.60 million 2011-12 budget to referendum later this month.

A brief overview of the budget was given before residents voted. Outlining the bottom line was Board of Finance Chairwoman Cathy Desrosiers, who explained that the \$10.60 million is a 2.03 percent, or \$210,739, increase over the current year spending.

Desrosiers explained that there is approximately \$2.58 million in anticipated revenue, which makes the actual net operating budget \$8.02 million. On top of that, there is an additional \$323,288 in budget offsets, which makes the total amount of the budget to be funded by taxation approximately \$7.74 million. This would make the anticipated mill rate 27.60, or a zero percent tax increase.

Upon noting the \$120,000 put in the budget to be used toward road improvements resident Priscilla Carroll posed a question, asking who

decides what roads get to be fixed and when. Carroll said that she lived on Lake Road, which is "in the worst condition of all" and pays the highest taxes.

First Selectman Bob Burbank explained that drainage issues need to be addressed with the roads prior to paving. He said that the specific plans to improve Lake Road had been sent in early last year, but were not returned until the fall. He said now they are just waiting for schools to be out for summer, so there will be less school bus traffic and interruption during paving.

Also included in the budget is a \$4.08 million Board of Education budget, which represents a miniscule 0.21 percent, or \$8,693, increase over the current 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.

The proposed 0.21 percent increase is by far the smallest budget 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.

Less than 30 minutes after receiving the basic information from Desrosiers and being given handouts of both the town budget and the Board of Education budget, Municipal Agent Cathy Palazzi made her way around the room to hand out the ballots.

While waiting for the ballots to be collected and tallied up, Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman Jay Linddy invited everyone to attend his play, *The Legend of Captain Smith*, which will take place this Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Andover Elementary School. He got a few laughs from the crowd, adding that those coming would be in good company as Thomas Jefferson, Betsy Ross and others would "all be there" too.

The \$10.60 million budget is now being sent to referendum on Tuesday, May 17, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. in the community room of the Town Hall.

# Residents Pass RHAM's \$24.65 Million Budget

by Courtney Parent

The \$24.65 million RHAM middle and high school budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year passed by a notable margin of 297 votes on Tuesday.

Out of the overall vote count of 1,467, there were 882 votes cast in favor of the budget and 585 cast against it.

The budget represents a \$432,845, or 1.79 percent, increase over current year spending.

According to Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski, he, along with other members of the Board of Education, were patiently waiting by the phone when the results came in Tuesday evening. As the votes came in Siminski recalled he wasn't positive whether the budget would pass, as there had been little public comment.

"I think people were unsure what to expect because usually there are a lot of letters going back and forth and there wasn't that discussion within the community this year," Siminski said Thursday. "We all want to be sensitive to the needs and wishes of community, but there was a silence."

Once the results came in, Siminski, along with members of the Board of Education, shared a moment of relief.

"Everybody was very happy that the budget passed and that we could go forward with the program we proposed," Siminski said. "We saw

it as a vote of confidence."

Voting was held in various locations in all three contributing towns: Hebron, Andover, and Marlborough. Hebron brought in the largest vote count of the three towns, with 957 voters coming out to the polls. However, the largest voter turnout also brought the lowest percentage in favor of the budget, with around 55 percent or 527 residents voting in favor of the budget and 45 percent or 430 residents voting against it.

Andover tallied 66 percent of voters supporting the budget. There were 189 votes cast in favor of the budget and 94 votes against it. Showing the most support through the smallest voter turnout was Marlborough receiving 166 "yes" votes, or 72 percent, with 61 "no" votes.

Last year when the RHAM budget was approved, there were 1,195 "yes" votes and 988 "no" votes for a total of 2,183, meaning the voter turnout dropped tremendously this year.

Siminski credited this to a line of constant communication between the RHAM Board of Education and the general public. Siminski pointed specifically to the board's efforts to hold meetings in each of the towns and post everything on the board's website. Siminski also said

that the RHAM Board of Education aims to have ample "availability" and show "transparency" in everything it does.

"We can take the silence as approval or disapproval," Siminski said. "I think the community saw us as being sensitive to the economic times."

The \$24.65 million budget takes into account increased enrollment numbers for both high school and middle school special education, as well as general high school enrollment that is predicted to go up by approximately 70 students.

It also includes an increased cost of both heating oil at \$2.55 a gallon and bus fuel at \$2.59 a gallon.

As in past years, the majority of the levy will be placed on Hebron. For the 2011-12 year, 54.22 percent or \$13.36 million goes to Hebron, 29.18 percent or \$7.19 million goes to Marlborough and 16.6 percent or \$4.09 million goes to Andover.

Towns' levies are calculated based on projected enrollment numbers. Hebron's projected enrollment is 957, Marlborough is projected at 515 and Andover at 293.

While many coming out to Hebron Elementary School to cast their votes on Tuesday ex-

pressed strong feelings against the Hebron town budget, the outlook was a bit more positive when individuals were questioned about how they felt about the RHAM budget. (A full story about the Hebron budget appears on page 22.)

Upon entering the polls, resident Ray Bieri said he was voting in favor of the RHAM budget. Bieri said his "yes" vote was based upon what is needed at the school. While Bieri does not have any children attending RHAM at this time, he does have two on their way, one attending Hebron Elementary and one at Gilead.

Likewise, resident Gary Lemire also said he was casting his vote in favor of the RHAM budget, though he admitted he is somewhat prejudiced when it comes to this particular vote, as his wife is a school teacher.

"The budget keeps getting slashed," Lemire said, "teachers' jobs are getting cut and para-professionals are taking those regular full-time positions because they can pay them minimum wage. I've got a real problem with that."

The Board of Education's next meeting is scheduled for May 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the RHAM High School chorus room, at which time members will have to vote to accept the \$24.65 million budget.

# Portland Selectmen to Replace Totaled Police Car

by Joshua Anusewicz

The Board of Selectmen passed a resolution at its Wednesday meeting to replace a police vehicle that was totaled during a chase last month.

A 2008 Chevrolet Impala, driven by Officer Dan Knapp, was totaled after it was repeatedly rammed by a stolen vehicle during a chase through Portland and Middletown on Friday, April 22. The car was driven by Ijeboi Holmes, of New Haven, who escaped from a halfway house and stole the car from a friend in West Haven. Holmes faces multiple charges as a result of the chase, including four counts of assault on a police officer.

No officers sustained injuries during the incident.

According to Lt. Ron Milardo, the vehicle will be replaced by a 2011 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor. Milardo said that the cost of the vehicle will be \$21,330, which he added was "a great deal." Milardo also said that another police vehicle, an SUV, suffered \$5,000 worth of damage but will be repaired.

In the resolution, it states that the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency will provide insurance proceeds of \$14,375, an additional \$6,000 is available from the town's Sale of Surplus Property, and \$3,155 will be transferred from the Budget Expenditure Account to cover the cost of the vehicle.

The remaining \$2,200 will be used to pay

for the transfer of equipment from the totaled vehicle to the new vehicle.

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Also at Wednesday's meeting, the selectmen scheduled a public hearing for later this month to discuss a Small Cities Block Grant that would provide funding for needed repairs at Quarry Heights, a state-funded public housing complex located on Main Street.

Members of the Portland Housing Authority have asked the town for permission to apply for the grant, which could provide up to \$700,000 in funding for repairs and upgrades.

The main upgrade that needs to be made, according to First Selectwoman Susan

Bransfield, is a new fire protection system. Bransfield said Thursday that the fire marshal has asked for the upgrades to be made, which would cost roughly \$171,000.

The Portland Housing Authority says that they currently don't have enough money to cover the upgrades, mostly due to residents not paying their rent, Bransfield said. The grant would allow the needed upgrades and would be at no cost to the town.

The Portland Housing Authority has agreed to pay for the grant writer and the architect, Bransfield said.

The public hearing will be held on May 25 at 7 p.m. at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

# \$29.82 Million Budget Headed to Referendum in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

The Portland budget referendum has been set for Monday, May 9, following a lightly-attended town meeting this past Monday. The polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at the Portland Senior Center at 7 Waverly Avenue.

Taxpayers will vote on a proposed 2011-12 town budget of \$29.82 million, which includes \$11.73 million for the general government budget and \$18.10 million for the Board of Education budget, a zero percent increase from the 2010-11 fiscal year. If the budget passes, the mill rate would go up 0.35 mills to 28.15.

Only 16 residents were on hand for Monday's meeting, the majority of whom were town officials or members of the boards of selectmen and education. First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said she was "disappointed, but not surprised," as few residents have spoken out

during budget deliberations in the past month.

Although displeased by the turnout, Bransfield said she is optimistic the budget will pass.

"This is the best budget we can put forward right now," Bransfield said Wednesday. "Most of the residents I've spoken with say the budget is reasonable and I think it will pass."

The proposed budget includes an \$895,000 lease-to-purchase plan that would provide funding for new emergency vehicles, dump trucks and plows for the highway department and a new roof for the Portland Public Library. During budget deliberations, the Board of Selectmen approved the lease and agreed to pay it off over five years, which Finance Director Tom Robinson recommended to keep the yearly mill rate lower.

At the town meeting, resident Don Bascom questioned the timing of the lease due to the economic climate. Two selectmen, John Anderson and Carl Chudzick, had similar concerns during budget deliberations and voted against the proposed lease.

"A number of people are wondering if [the lease] is a necessity at the moment," Bascom said Thursday. Bascom agreed that the roof needs to be replaced, but suggested that the lease be split so that the roof, which will cost \$300,000, is funded this year and the equipment upgrades be put off until next year.

"I just don't want the town to be on the hook for an extra \$600,000 if the economy turns down," said Bascom, who added that he will vote against the budget.

During budget deliberations, members of the

Portland Police Department and Director of Public Works Rick Kelsey stressed the need to replace existing equipment that is in poor shape. Bransfield has supported the lease and said Wednesday that existing vehicles will be used as "back-ups" or will be sold to help make interest payments on the lease.

The only other resident who spoke at the town meeting was Karen Johansmeyer, who asked that funding for music programs at the schools to "remain as steady as possible" and was satisfied to hear that the education budget would remain the same.

"It's great to hear children have the chance to learn different aspects of music," said Johansmeyer, who is a fife player. "If they are interested in music, they need the ability to nurture and develop their abilities."

## Last Suspect Arrested in East Hampton Bomb Investigation

by Joshua Anusewicz

East Hampton Police arrested a sixth, and final person in a case involving a series of bombs planted around town last year.

Andre Marie Galanto, 19, of 68 Abbey Rd., was arrested on April 23 for the illegal manufacturing of bombs, conspiracy to commit the illegal manufacturing of bombs, third-degree criminal mischief, and second-degree breach of peace, police said.

According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, this was the final suspect in the case, where bombs were crafted from household cleaners and placed in mailboxes and trashcans around the town.

While some of the mailboxes were damaged, none of the bombs caused any injuries.

In connection with the case, two 17-year-olds from East Hampton were arrested on Feb. 14, two 16-year-olds were arrested in January after a routine traffic stop, and Charles R. Mauri Jr., 18, was arrested on Feb. 11, after the investigation, according to police.

All of the suspects were charged with illegal manufacturing of bombs, conspiracy to commit the illegal manufacturing of bombs, third-degree criminal mischief, and second-degree breach of peace, police said.

## Driver Hospitalized After Striking Tree in Marlborough

An Andover woman was transported to Hartford Hospital Sunday, May 1, after hitting a tree, State Police said.

Ashley Robbins, 23, was traveling northbound on Portland Road just south of North Main Street, when she failed to negotiate a

curve in the road, struck a metal guy wire and then a tree, police said.

Robbins had minor lacerations and bruises and was transported via Marlborough ambulance, police said.

Her 1997 Honda Accord was totaled.

## Marlborough Police News

4/27: Jessica Gallagher, 33, of 326 Norwich Rd., Plainfield, was charged with second-degree larceny, State Police said.

4/27: Wesley Zaino, 22, of 22 Oak Rd., was charged with two counts of failure to appear, State Police said.

## Portland Police News

4/27: A 14-year-old male was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

4/30: Marc Rondinone, 27, of 262 Woodbury Cir., Middletown, was charged with misuse of plates, insufficient insurance, traveling too fast for conditions, and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

# Portland Resident Charged with Manslaughter in 2010 Crash

by Joshua Anusewicz

A Portland man who state police said is responsible for killing two women when he drove the wrong way on Interstate 84 in East Hartford last year has been charged with vehicular manslaughter.

Jamison Coppolino, 32, of 48 Rose Hill Rd., was arrested on April 18 and faces two counts of second-degree vehicular manslaughter while under the influence of alcohol/drugs with no intent, two counts of negligent homicide with a motor vehicle, and several other driving offenses.

According to an affidavit from the Connecticut State Police, Coppolino was traveling east on the westbound side of I-84 at 12:30 a.m. on June 27, 2010, when his Nissan Maxima struck a Nissan Altima head-on in the HOV lane. Witnesses said that Coppolino was driving upwards of 90 miles per hour.

The driver, Evelyn Velazquez, 33, of Glastonbury, and the front passenger, Linda Santana, 33, of Hartford, died in the crash. A third passenger, Stefanie Taylor, 32, of Windsor, was also injured in the crash and underwent extensive medical treatments, according to the affidavit.

Two occupants of another vehicle, Charisse Trotman, 24, of Bristol, and Alexis Grajales, 31, of East Hartford, were also injured in the accident.

According to the affidavit, when police ar-

rived on the scene and questioned Coppolino, he claimed he was not the driver, even though he was the only occupant of the vehicle. The affidavit states Coppolino had "bloodshot and glassy eyes" and his breath smelled of alcohol. Tests later showed his blood alcohol level to be 0.16, twice the legal limit.

Coppolino was taken to Hartford Hospital and treated for injuries, the affidavit states. While there, he admitted to driving the wrong way on the highway, but told police that, upon realizing he was doing this, he panicked and did not know what to do. He also told police he drank beers earlier, and had stopped two hours before the crash, according to the affidavit.

Coppolino has also been charged with second-degree assault with a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, drugs or both, driving under the influence, reckless driving in excess of 85 miles per hour, failure to drive in the proper lane and driving the wrong way on a divided highway. He posted the \$100,000 bond and was arraigned on Tuesday. He is scheduled to enter his plea at Middlesex Superior Court on Tuesday, June 7 at 10 a.m.

When asked this week why it took almost a year to arrest Coppolino, Lt. Paul Vance, a spokesperson for the State Police, said the investigation was "a long process," that he said included the involvement of "interviews, lawyers and the accident reconstruction unit."

## Colchester Police News

4/18: Around noon, \$140.42 worth of Red Bull was stolen from the Stop & Shop on Linwood Avenue, State Police said. The case is under investigation.

4/18: Justin Person, 27, of 225 Mack Rd., Lebanon, was charged with sixth-degree larceny and breach of peace, State Police said.

4/18: Around 6:24 p.m. a white, heavyset male wearing an orange long-sleeved shirt and black hat was seen leaving the Stop & Shop on Linwood Avenue carrying unpaid baby formula and candy, State Police said. The suspect was dropped off in a large red van or SUV. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Trooper Yvette Dziewa at 860-537-7500 ext. 4021.

4/19: Thomas and Melissa Caster, 37 and 30 respectively, both of 200 Old Hartford Rd., were both charged with risk of injury to a minor, Colchester Police said.

4/19: Kristoffer Sypher, 30, of 43 Antioch Rd., was charged with DUI, driving without insurance, operating an unregistered vehicle, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, Colchester Police said.

4/20: Alan Schaffer, 55, of 21 Blackledge Rd., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, Colchester Police said.

4/22: Thomas Pedevillano, 59, of 51 Blue Heron Dr., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane, State Police said.

4/26: Patrick James Burdo, 22, of 139 West High St., East Hampton, was charged with violating state park regulations, criminal impersonation and interfering with an officer,

## East Hampton Police News

4/19: Christopher Scaplen, 26, of 17.5 Wells Ave., was arrested for DUI and operating a motor vehicle without a license, East Hampton Police said.

4/22: John Crawford IV, 51, of 9 Country Club Rd., Sprague, was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

4/22: Adrian Johnathan Pompei, 22, of 71 Foxridge Dr., Colchester, was arrested for DUI, failure to drive right, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin and possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, police said.

4/23: James Jarzabek Jr5., 21, of Portland, was involved in a one-car accident, police said. Jarzabek Jr. was issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions.

4/23: John Ruttuck, 67, of Branford, was involved in a one-car accident on West High

Colchester Police said.

4/26: Stephen Labonosky, 46, of 55 McDonald Rd., was charged with evading and improper parking, State Police said.

4/26: Daniel Baldis, 19, of 52 Heather Ln., North Granby, was charged with third-degree larceny and having a defective windshield, Colchester Police said.

4/26: Samantha Dagesse, 21, of 35 Ginger Ln., Apt. 134, East Hartford, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and third-degree larceny, Colchester Police said.

4/27: Christopher Hanrahan, 28, of 279 Old Salem Rd., Bozrah, was charged with failure to drive in proper lane and DUI, State Police said.

4/29: Troy Sanborn, 23, of 4 Hillside Ct., Norwich, was charged with failure to renew registration, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, prohibited dumping and interfering with an officer, State Police said.

5/1: Gail Fisher, 55, of 25 Bass Lake Rd., Amston, was charged with DUI and failure to grant right of way, Colchester Police said.

5/1: James Amendola, 32, of 10 Walnut St., Ivoryton, was charged with failure to carry license, DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

5/2: Igor Zacharko, 48, of 32 Clarendon Ave., West Hartford, was charged with speeding and DUI, State Police said.

5/2: MJ Electric on Old Hartford Road was burglarized some time between May 1 and 2, Colchester Police said. Power tools and copper wire were stolen. The incident remains under investigation.

Street (Route 66) in the area of Keighley Pond Road, police said. Ruttuck was issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions.

4/23: Kevin James Owens, 29, of 81 Main St., was arrested for disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

4/24: Megan Lessard, 24, of Fairhaven, VT and Dsavid Guerette, 53, of East Hampton, were involved in a two-car accident at the intersection of Route 16 and Route 196, police said. Lessard was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle without insurance and a warning for making a restricted turn.

4/25: Eckhard Wartig, 66, of East Hampton, and William Carlevalle, 55, of East Hampton, were involved in a two-car accident on Main Street, police said. Carlevalle was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle without insurance.

## Obituaries

Andover

### Grace West Hunderlach

Grace West Hunderlach, 93, passed away peacefully Wednesday, April 27. She was born Feb. 10, 1918, in Middletown, to the late Fred and Lyda (Havens) West. Formerly a longtime resident of Middletown, she spent her later years living in Andover and Mansfield.

Grace was a proud World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1943 to 1946. She worked as a branch librarian for the Russell Library, and then as a school librarian and administrative assistant at Long Lane School in Middletown. Grace enjoyed reading and was a passionate animal lover, and she was never happier than when she was curled up with a cat and a good book. Her family and many friends always enjoyed her wry sense of humor.

Grace is survived by her daughters and their spouses, Margaret Busch and her husband Richard of Andover, and Amy Hunderlach and her husband Robert Albert of South Windham; and granddaughter Bethany Busch of Andover; as well as many extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, John F. Hunderlach; by her parents; and by her sisters, Alice Mullen of Florence, AL, Dene Cornwall of East Hampton, and Barbara Henry of Middletown.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation for the wonderful care given to Grace during her stay there.

Memorial observances and burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Donations in her memory may be made to the Andover Friends of the Library or to Catales, Inc., P.O. Box 901, Middletown, CT 06457.

East Hampton

### John A. Prout Jr.

John A. Prout Jr., 71, of East Hampton passed away peacefully at his home Sunday, May 1. John was born July 30, 1939, to Janet (Rathbun) Prout and the late John A. Prout Sr.

John served in the U.S. Navy and later worked as an electrician, carpenter and concrete worker. He loved farming, the outdoors, and his second home that he considered Fillmore, NY. He enjoyed the simple things in life: laughing with his friends at Hometown Garage in Portland, "bending" anyone's ear who would listen, and joking around with his great sense of humor. He was a fan of basketball, football and NASCAR.

John is survived by his mother, Janet Prout of Boston, MA; sister, Harriet Prout of Boston, MA; brother, Jerry Prout and wife Karen Donnelly of Ridgefield; son, Todd Prout and wife Christina of Stafford Springs; daughter, Holly Russo of Portland; a step-son, Ronald Terrio of Portland; grandchildren, Justin Russo, Nicole Russo and Christopher Terrio; and many nieces and a nephew.

He also leaves behind his beloved dog Zach, a German shepherd.

The family would like to send out a heartfelt 'thank you' to the nurses who he spoke of with great fondness at the Dialysis Center in Middletown. They would also like to thank the Middlesex Hospice Home Care nurses and CNAs for their care and compassion.

No services will be held at this time.

Colchester

### Rosemay A. Riley

Rosemay A. Riley, 84, of Dorset Road, Colchester, beloved wife of Harry, passed away Tuesday morning, May 3, surrounded by her loving family. Born July 17, 1926, in Burlington, VT, she was a daughter of the late Arthur and Rose (Mercier) Destromp.

She will be remembered for her loving devotion to her family.

In addition to her loving husband of 56 years, she is survived by five children, Linda Hodge of Colchester, Debbie Austin of Summerville, SC, Robert of Leonard, NJ, Kevin of Ladson, SC, and Edward of East Hartford, 15 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by a son, Patrick; three sisters, Marie DeRosier, Lucienne Chase and Elsie Barkyoub; and two brothers, Harry and Raymond.

Friends may call 5-7 p.m. today, May 6, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral will assemble at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 7, at the funeral home before the celebration of the funeral liturgy at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Interment will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to National Kidney Foundation of Connecticut, 2139 Silas Deane Hwy., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or to VITAS Hospice, 255 Pitkin St., East Hartford, CT 06108.

For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

East Hampton

### Doreen Denise Mager

It is with heavy hearts and deep sorrow that the Mager family announces the unexpected passing of Doreen Denise Mager, 58, of East Hampton, on Sunday, May 1.

Doreen enjoyed spending time in Vermont with her partner, Fredrick Lemieux and loved spoiling her grandchildren. She was a beloved daughter, proud mother and grandmother, sister, aunt, niece and friend to many.

Doreen leaves behind her parents, Mike and Shirley Mager; partner, Fredrick Lemieux; son, Michael John Salafia and his wife, Lalena Rivera Salafia; and her grandchildren Skyler Catherine Rivera Salafia and Michael John Salafia Jr., whom she adored. She also leaves behind her sister and best friend, Kim Mager; niece, Mallory (Distefano) Adams and her husband, Jeremy Adams; her beautiful grandniece, Hailey Adams; aunt, Gloria Vanblaricom and her husband Gene Vanblaricom.

Doreen was predeceased by her grandparents, Gertrude and Raymond Barbour, and her beloved grandmother, Clara Mager, with whom she shared a special bond.

A private memorial service will be held at the convenience of the family. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).

In lieu of flowers, the family would greatly appreciate donations made in Doreen's name to the National Fibromyalgia Association at [firstgiving.com/fundraiser/lalenasalafia](http://firstgiving.com/fundraiser/lalenasalafia).

Colchester

### Carolyn Chyinski-Cheney

Carolyn Diane Chyinski-Cheney, 70, of Bozrah, beloved wife of Paul Cheney, slipped away from this life Wednesday morning, May 4, at home, surrounded by her loving family.

Born Nov. 26, 1940 in Norwich, she was a daughter of the late Stanislaus and Sophie (Zdunczyk) Jarosz. She attended Norwich Free Academy with the Class of 1958.

Carolyn was a successful businesswoman. In 1973, she purchased the former Colchester Mill Ends. A short time later after losing her lease, she founded Colchester Mill Fabrics and moved to the former location on Broadway in Colchester. After an arson fire destroyed her business on June 3, 1997, she decided that she could not disappoint her customers and decided to reopen. One year to the day, she reopened Colchester Mill Fabrics at its present location on Lebanon Avenue.

Through hard work, perseverance and a strong business mind, she built the business into the largest independently-owned retail fabric store in New England. She was also a talented seamstress and a longtime member of the Home Sewing Association.

She was very active and civic-minded, being a member of the Colchester Business Association since its inception, the Colchester Rotary Club for 20 years and was a member and contributor to the Goodspeed Opera House, as well as being charitable to numerous other causes.

In her spare time, she was an avid NASCAR fan and loved traveling, fine dining, jigsaw puzzles and never missed her daily morning ritual of completing the crossword puzzle and Cryptoquote. Her quick wit and very dry sense of humor will be missed by all who so dearly loved her.

In addition to her loving husband of 15 years, she is survived by four daughters, Deborah Chyinski of Colchester, Denise Wagner and husband Thomas of Hillsborough, NJ, Cheryl Dolloff and husband Joseph of Salem and Karen Rochette and husband Richard of Middletown; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her sister, Dorothy Hoyle.

Friends may call from noon-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Monday, May 9, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester Food Bank, 128 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

