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Jubilation filled the air at the Portland High School soccer fields Monday evening, as the PHS Class of 2011 graduated. Students reminisced about the past, sang songs and looked towards the future.

Portland High School Looks Back, Ahead

by Joshua Anusewicz

On Monday night, the Portland community gathered on the sun-drenched high school soccer field to celebrate the graduation of 84 seniors from the Portland High School Class of 2011. Family, friends, neighbors, faculty, coaches and town officials were in attendance to cheer on the newest group of Highlanders to bid the school farewell.

Perched high on the hill, overlooking the quiet quarry town, students recalled fond memories of their 13 years in Portland schools, memories that shaped and molded young children into young adults that are prepared to spread their wings and take flight into the future.

After marching onto the field to the tune of bagpipes, boys in black gowns and girls in red, the crowd applauded as Principal Andrea Lavery introduced the class. Lavery joked that she “never thought this class would graduate,” not because of poor grades or behavior but rather the rough winter that produced an unprecedented amount of snow days.

“And in two weeks, we will all be complaining about how hot it is,” Lavery added as the sun beat down on the crowd.

Lavery gave way to Stanford “Sam” Law, senior class president, who took the opportunity to thank his teachers, all the way from preschool – “Mrs. Burgess and Mrs. Johnson, my first church preschool teachers” – to Portland

High School. He thanked the teachers at PHS for “the encouragement and support” that was given to him and his classmates over the past four years.

“They created an environment which allowed me not only to learn, but also to grow and yes, become an adult,” Sam said. “They pushed us and gave us the confidence to be more than we thought we could be. Without them, we would not be pursuing the opportunities which lie before each of us.”

Marissa LaMalfa, senior class vice president, spoke about making friends at PHS and how things would change now that the class would be going their separate ways. She reminisced about how close the class had become during their senior year and how they relied on each other to make it through.

“We’ve made it through many ups and downs

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More Grad Photos!

Additional photos from the Portland, East Hampton, RHAM and Bacon Academy graduations are available at rivereastnews.net, by clicking on “event photos.”

Bright Skies, Bright Futures for RHAM Graduates

by Courtney Parent

Sunny skies shone overhead the RHAM Class of 2011, foreshadowing a bright future for the 240 graduates who marched proudly to receive their diploma’s this Monday, June 20.

With Principal Scott Leslie absent, due to attending his own son’s graduation, Faculty Adviser William Block was in charge of the mic at Monday’s ceremony. Block began with a traditional introduction, welcoming students, family and friends.

As the Class of 2011 sat quietly (or at least somewhat quietly) in their seats, smiles lit up their faces as they listened to fellow classmates reminiscence about time with friends, quote the words of famous musicians and crack jokes about their “rebellious” years at RHAM.

The first of those to be introduced by Block was Class President Kelsey Goode. Goode, a Marlborough resident, began her speech by noting that while she would say it had been a long 12 years of school, it has gone faster than she ever imagined.

Kelsey pointed to all the things the class of 2011 had seen during their years of schooling, including the world population surpassing 6 billion, multiple natural disasters, the collapse of the twin towers and the country going to war.

She also referenced the Harry Potter books being written, the Boston Red Sox winning the World Series (which received loud applause from an apparent pro-sox audience), singing

along to Britney Spears and busting a move to the greatest hits of Michael Jackson. Finally, she turned to the evolvement of social media such as Facebook, which will allow the graduates to stay in contact despite parting ways and Twitter, which will allow them to “tweet” every move they make.

Kelsey also took a moment to remember a life lost, Eric Alexander, a classmate who she said “really made the world and the halls of RHAM a better place.”

She encouraged the class to never forget the friends made while at RHAM. Friends who she said were there for you on your best days and your worst; friends who made your face hurt from smiling so much and friends who showed you that sleeping in a tent; surrounded by a sprinkler system that no one turned off was more fun than just sleeping in a tent.

“To the friend that suggested I talk about shark mating habits instead of giving a real graduation speech,” Kelsey said, “maybe next year.”

Kelsey ended her speech by quoting the song “My Wish” by country artist Rascal Flatts: “I hope you never look back, but you never forget all the ones who love you and the place you left....and more than anything; I hope this life becomes all that you want it to.”

Next up was the Class of 2011 graduation speaker, a member of the RHAM High School

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Julieann Macrina of Marlborough gets a congratulatory hug from class advisor William Block after receiving her diploma during Monday’s graduation ceremony.

Bright Skies cont. from Front Page

Class of 1979, Chris Gilman. Gilman moved to the west coast shortly after graduating, and was a costumer in Hollywood. Later he began designing space suits for NASA.

Gilman began his speech by saying that he wasn't sure why RHAM had asked him to come tonight, and that his initial thought was that they had discovered a prank he pulled during his time there...but come to find out they hadn't.

He gave the Class of 2011 the following advice, which he said his father had given him when he was younger: "Do something you absolutely love and you'll never work a day in your life."

Before closing his speech, Gilman added a brief story about when he discovered that no matter who you are, everyone is still just a "regular Joe." While working one day on the set of *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, he was introduced to a "Tony" Hopkins. Gilman said "hello," not thinking twice, and then later thought, "Tony Hopkins...Anthony Hopkins." But as Gilman pointed out, he may be Anthony Hopkins to the world, but he is still just another "Tony."

Gilman was followed by the senior class members of the school chorus, who performed "What I Did for Love" from the musical *A Chorus Line*.

Next up was salutatorian Lucy Xu of Marlborough, who began her speech by explaining that the task of actually writing the speech proved to be a rather "daunting" one as it was difficult to decide how to sum up the "triumphs" and "tribulations" of the entire senior class.

As a "mathlete," Lucy said she was tempted to revert to numbers to describe the class, however, she said her fellow seniors were much too diverse and unique to have their experiences and futures quantified.

"For the past four years, I have had the privilege of being in the presence of erudite scholars, assertive leaders, aspiring musicians, courageous athletes, engaging performers, innovative artists and everyone in between," Lucy said.

Lucy thanked her classmates for making the high school journey memorable, teachers and administrators for their inspirational words and actions, and families for supporting their talents.

Veering away from a rather serious and philosophical speech, Lucy closed by passing along a piece of advice from whom she referred to as the "wise and venerable" Katy Perry, "Baby, you're a firework. Come on let your colors burst."

Finally, closing out the round of speeches was this year's valedictorian, Ryan Cummings of Hebron. Ryan began by saying that as it had become tradition among his classmates, he would appreciate a round of applause after everything he said. To which he received resounding hoots and hollers from the senior class.

Ryan described the difficulty in deciding what to write his speech about, whether he should include something inspirational, classic clichés or quotes from famous people. After a long self-debate, Ryan said he decided to simply tell a story instead.

The story he detailed was his own journey through the RHAM school system. He described middle school as a "rebellious time," sliding down the railing next to the cafeteria and "hitting the ground so hard your knuckles nearly buckled" and buying donuts in the back stairwell with money mom and dad thought you were spending on oranges.

Ryan also spoke of the fear and anxiety that came entering freshmen year and having to walk by the infamous "senior study." However, he said the closest he actually came to a "beat down" was when his mother utilized RHAM's parent portal to check up on him.

"By the way, I would like to thank the RHAM tech department for the convenience and usability of the parent portal system," said Ryan, "and especially the weekly e-mail update feature my mom so cleverly took advantage of."

As is custom, Ryan finished by thanking parents, faculty, and staff. However, he not only thanked them for their aid as becoming successful students and individuals, but also for "putting up with us always being right."

Before exiting the stage, Ryan reminded the Class of 2011 that they had "won at high school" and encouraged them to now go "win at life."

After diplomas were handed out by Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski and Board of Education Chairman Mike Turner, the Class of 2011 was presented. While few hats were strewn through the air, there was no lack of celebration as beach balls and silly string flew in every direction and a group of seniors began singing the soccer chant, "O lay, O lay, O lay,

O lay."

After the commencement ended, Class of 2011 graduate Danielle Barker, of Coventry, expressed her excitement.

"It just feels like my whole life is ahead of me," said Danielle, "and I'm excited about that."

Danielle will attend Emerson College in Boston, majoring in writing, literature and publishing with the hopes of one day publishing her own work. Danielle said she will be the first in her family to attend college.

While the graduates could not contain their excitement, it was not just the graduates with smiling faces; there were many parents with flashing cameras and glowing faces as well.

Proud father and Hebron resident Brian McKenna said it felt "great" to have his oldest child, Meghan, graduate. McKenna was smiling from ear to ear as he stood with his family after the ceremony. Despite an overwhelming happiness, McKenna said it was going to be tough to see Meghan leave home to attend Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven in the fall.

Fellow father Dave Bengtson also expressed excitement to see his son, JD, of Amston, walk across the stage to receive his diploma, as he is the last of Bengtsons three children to graduate. However, Bengtson said since his two eldest children have already moved away from home it will "take some time to get used to" the empty house.

Bengtson said his son was "relieved" to graduate. However, it will not be JD's last graduation as he is headed to Colby College in Waterville, ME, in the fall.

"It's just another phase in life," said Bengtson.

The members of the RHAM High School Class of 2011 are:

Haley Rae Adams, Amber Lee Albin, Andrew John Andrasik, *Matthew Wisner Angelo, *@ Janine Rees Appleton, Mallory Lynne Appleton, Jessica Deihanna Arel, *Lauren S. Arel, Sarah Lyndsey Arel, @ Lauren Elizabeth Arnold, @ Stephen James Arnold, Ryan Haney Asbridge, Raelene Nicole Asselin, *@ Audra Catherine Ayotte, Shannon Lee Baier, Victoria Ashley Baribault, Danielle Nicole Barker, Cody M. Barrett, Robert David Bates, Garet Thomas Bender, *@ John David Bengtson, Steven David Bielefield, Joshua Matthew Blanco, Israel Bonello, Jessica Elizabeth Bowcock, Kristen Marie Brenner, Timothy Brenner, @ Kristen Michelle Brett, @ Nicholas Graham Briscoe, Erika Lee Brooks, Nicole Marie Brooks, Rachel Lynne Brown, Danielle Marie Buczko, Erich Charles Buhagiar, Tyler James Burley, Scott Joseph Bushey, Steven David Buske, *@ Eileen Grace Cannon, Hillary Grace Cavender, Anthony Cameron Caye, Emily Christensen Stone, Jordan Taylor Christie, Benjamin Nicholas Chudy, @ Valentina Lucia Ciotto, Kevin Hobson Clay, David Taylor Coffey, Cassandra Carol Coladonato, Cassaundra Maria Colletti, Geoffrey Alexander Connors, Devyn Scott Coutant, John H. Crandall, Georgia Rose Cully, *Brian Michael Culmo, ** Ryan William Cummings, Kyle Cianci Cunningham, Michelle L. Cusano, Emily Kate Cyr, Kristen Elizabeth D'Entremont, Mary Frances Daudish, Marq Davenport, Timothy R. DeFlaviis, Jennifer Evelyn DelRosso, Adam Delventhal, James Lewis Desjardins, *@ Lauren Hartley Desrosiers, Breanna Giselle Devin, Austin Allen Corey Dolan, Brendan Michael Donahue, Dillon Thomas Donovan, Brett Andrew Dootson, James John Doppes, Michael Edward Einsiedel III;

@ Marina Rose Fanciullo, Alexis Dawn Farber, Dillon Raymond Fecteau, @ Michael James Figueiredo, Jr., Amanda Marie Finocchiaro, Sarah Rebecca Fish, @ Kevin Robert Fitzgerald, Matthew Aaron Fitzpatrick, Ethan J. Francks, * Abby Jane Fromme, Rachel Paige Alexa Fusco, Mitchell Thomas Gagne, @ Benjamin Robert Garmise, *@ Allison Marie Gattinella, *@ Julie Anne Gauthier, Niall Matthew Geoghegan, William MacKenzie Gerardi, *@ Blair A. Ginden, *@ Kelsey Katherine Goode, @ Matthew Antil Goodwin, *@ Alexandra Yu-Mei Gostanian, Dana Katherine Graefe, @ Marissa Lee Gress, Meaghan Elizabeth Guard, Samantha Lee Guay, Jason Peter Gunas, *@ Renee Ann Guyette, James Halleran, Matthew Reynolds Hallisey, Kody Heatherington Hanks, Injamamul Haque, Tyler Harris, *@ Taylor Cyr Hartman, Amanda Lindsay Hartwell, Kaitlynn Lydia Hatch, Andrew Jacob Hayden, Laura Rosemarie Healy, Julia L. Hersh, *@ Krista Lynne Hespeler, Shannon Katherine Hickey, Courtney Meaghan Hill, Elizabeth Mary Hoffman, Alec Lyon Holmes, Sabrina Rose Hund, Ethan Elias Boudinot Icaza, Michal Jandzinski, Ethan E. Jaskulski, Ryan Michael Kaika, Justin D Kamal, * Katherine Elizabeth Kasuga, John Michael Keller, Michael Joseph Kelly, Adam David King, @ Lauren Michele Lagassie, Luke Eugene Lampugnale, Daniel Michael LaRose, Taylor William Leahy, Emily E. Leclerc, Grant N. Lents, Cameron Castelli Lewis, *@ Amanda Rose LoBello, Kenneth Douglas Lord, Zachary MoreLand Lord, Adam T. Loubier, Britta Elizabeth Lower;

Julieann Elizabeth Macrina, Tiffany Anne Macrina, Charles William Mager, Mariah Garcia Maggiacomio, Kelsey Maher, Rachel Lynne Majewicz, *@ Kate Elizabeth Mango, Cheyenne Elise Martinez, Christina Paige Martins, Catherine



Members of the RHAM High School Class of 2011 get ready to graduate.

Jane Mather, Renee Lyn Mathiau, Richard George Matuszko, Carl Joseph Thomas Mayhew, @ Devin James McAfee, Meghan Catherine McKenna, Patrick Kirby McMahon, Melissa Jane Meotti, Alexander Ryan Miemiec, Brett David Mikkelson, Hannah Louise Mokoski, *@ Rebecca Lynn Mondo, Matthew James Moody, James Ian Morrison, Andrew Patrick Mulligan, Rachel Elyse O'Connor, Michael K. O'Halloran, Andrew John O'Loughlin, Kristen Miller Paesani, Rebekah Anne PetroRoy, Kyle Anthony Piacenta, Rachel Elisabeth Plank, Nicole Lynn Plaszewski, Joshua Timothy Proppe, Christine Elizabeth Proscia, @ Jocelyn Kathleen Queen, Elizabeth Marie Quesada;

Jacob Thomas Randazzo, Tealla Marie Rautenberg, Muhammad Khalid Razaq, *@ Naila Zaffar Razaq, Michael Joseph Reardon, Caleb L. Redfern, Justine Anne Ressa, Chloe Shea Rishell, Amitee Robin-Elaine Robinson, Desiree Raquel Roy, Kyle James Roy, Arianna Marquie Ruffino, Ashley Marie Rodriguez Russo, Kyle Michael Schilling, Thomas W. Schreindorfer, Hayden David Schwarm, Joseph James Schweizer, Alexander John Scott, Rachel Marie Scotti, David Ross Scoville, Jennifer Marie Sellier, * Stefanie Miller Shea, *

Emily Kathryn Shok, Paul Thomas Sibiga, Jr., Evan Richard Smiley, Adam Christopher Smith, Jenna Mae Smith, Kylee Michelle Smith, Jacob Earl Snarski, Renee Theresa St. James, Melissa Ann St. Pierre, Zachary Joseph Staba, Jeremy Earl Standish, * @ Samantha Jeanne Stokoe, Brian D. Surdel, Ethan P. Sutherland, Taylor Nathaniel Talmage, Jocelyn Melissa Taylor, Alex Cartwright Tlucck, Connor Edward Tlucck, Andrew John Uccello, Lea Beth Underwood, Kaitlynn June Verrengia, Kayla M. Viel, Austin Kyle Villar, Tyler James Wadhams, Joshua Glenn Walters, Elizabeth Diane Weir, Jaclyn Lee Werner, Brennan Patrick Whalen, Jonathan Michael White, Lauren Elizabeth White, Jason Allen Whitehouse, Michael Edward Whitmore, Rebecca Ann Whittemore, Jaime Kayla Marie Wilder, Nicholas Ryan Wytas, ** Lucy Xu, Shannon Marie Young, *@ Sophie Gabrielle Zimmermann, Jordan Zybrands.

- # Valedictorian
- ## Salutatorian
- * Member of National Honor Society in good standing
- @ Green Cord/100 or more hours of community service

Looks Back cont. from Front Page

and we've made it through together," Marissa said. "We all may not have been the closest of friends throughout our years here but if it weren't for each other, we wouldn't be graduating today."

She added that even though students would be going to different schools, "deep down within us there will always be a piece of the Highlander."

Class salutatorian Susanne Dickerson compared her four years of high school as a "military tour," with "four long years" of highs and lows. Describing herself as "a military brat," Susanne explained that she has learned how to leave her friends behind and adapt to different situations.

"As it came time to write this speech, I was upset to realize that I would be leaving everyone behind once again," Susanne said. "Then it hit me. This time I'm lucky. This time, everyone gets to move with me."

She also added to her classmates, "Change can start with a single person, and one single action. Make a difference. Be that change. And never forget your family, friends, and where you call home."

Valedictorian Ashley Johnson gave the final student speech, in which she sang the opening lines of the musical *Rent's* "Seasons of Love" to describe the class' moments together. Ashley reminded her classmates of memories over the past 13 years, including a trip to Nature's Classroom, wearing costumes on Halloween, a band trip to Disney World, and memorable teachers the class had throughout the years.

"Thirteen years have come and gone, and 13 years from now, we will still be Portland High School's Class of 2011," Ashley said. "No matter where the path of life takes us, we will still have our memories to tie us together. Now is the time to make new memories and new moments with which to define ourselves."

Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen then presented the class to members of the Board of Selectmen, announcing that the students at PHS adhered to higher graduation requirements than the state of Connecticut required. She told the students to take pride in the fact that they had passed a rigorous curriculum.

"Your educational accomplishments will stay with you your whole life," Doyen said. "Nobody can take that away from you."

Christopher Phelps, chairman of the Board of Education, also took the chance to thank all of the teachers at all of the Portland schools for the work they had done preparing the Class of 2011. He added that the graduation "was not simply a celebration for [the graduates], but a celebration for family, friends, community, faculty, and administration that is here today."

After the presentation of the class, members of the Board of Education came to the podium to present the graduates with the diplomas that they worked four years to receive. Some members of the crowd circled around the stage to catch a picture of the smiling grads as they walked across the grass. Students waved and congratulated each other as they sat patiently, awaiting the conclusion of the ceremony.

After the diplomas were handed out, members of the school chorus gathered in front of the stage to sing the school's alma mater. Sam Law and Marissa LaMalfa then stood in front of their classmates and led the class in moving their tassels from one side to the other, signifying their passage out of high school.

Moments later, red and black caps filled the air, along with multiple colors of silly string. The sound of whistles, claps, and yells rose from the crowd as the students exited the stage, officially graduates of Portland High School.

The members of the Portland High School Class of 2011 are:

Brendan Anderson *#^, Jason Anglis, Timothy Ryan Barksdale, Kaitlin Marie Berube >, Michael Anthony Bordonaro, Justin Michael Cahill, Jonathan Clark, Taylor Clark, Julie Anne Clausi, Kelly Marie Coleman #, Thomas John Coman *#^, Alyssa Erin Danielewicz ^, Sarah Elizabeth Daniels, Peter Nicolas Arthur Davis *# >, Susanne Marie Dickerson *++ # >, Lindsey Elizabeth Dionne ^, Melissa Helen Durkin ^, Nicholas Emond, Jacob David Errichetti * #^, Thomas Dylan Etheridge, Andre Etienne, Trevor Benjamin Fleischmann ^, Meaghan Anne Franklin, Jessica L. Garrison, Jesse Goodrich-Gotta, Norberto Guerra, Danielle Catherine Guzzardi ^, Ryan Arthur Healey, Alaina M. Hintz, Nicole Horton, Christopher Howell, Emily Amelia Jeffers, Ashley Elizabeth Johnson *+ # >, Kyle Johnson ^, Marissa Rae LaMalfa >, Marissa Laree Larson, Keith Lastrina, Michael T. Mazzarella, Cory James Nesci ^, Jordan Scott Nolan *#^, Julie Catherine Nolan, Jessica Laura Nursick >, Zachary A. Orcutt, Shannon Ashley Oursak ^, Danae Lyn Overton, Steven Daniel Paley *#^, Katherine Elizabeth Pelletier, Heather Ann Petzold, Kevin Philipchik, Kyle Philipchik, Nikolas Steven Piasecki, Gabrielle Marlena Pierini, Clayton Taylor Puida, Jeffrey D. Realejo ^, Connor Rudewicz, Laura Scaramella ~, Haley Marie Schmidt # >, Connor Sterling Schultz # >, Alexa Marie Schwartz >, Michelle Sienko, George D. Sirigos Jr., Richard S. Smazer ^, Brittany Lynn Smith, Anthony Angel Solis, Mary Helen Spakowski, Tyler William Stebbins, Erica Eleanor Stoto ^, Erin Elizabeth Sweeney, Gregory Tischofer, Amanda-Lynn Tobias #, Frank Tomboly ^, Nickolas R. Trudell, Juliana Rose Twichell ^, Nicholas Paul Vetrano # >, Lindsey Lily Virgaula, Jennifer Liane Wall, Brianne Webster >, Kevin Wicke ^ and Michael C. Zapatka.

* Top 10 percent of the class - Yellow Cords, # National Honor Society - White Cords, > Tri-M Music Honor Society - Pink Cords, ~ January Graduate, + Valedictorian, ++ Salutatorian, ^ CAPT Mastery (all tests)

Marlborough WPCA Talks Fee Schedule, Private Sewer Extension

by Bailey Seddon

The fee schedule for the upcoming fiscal year and the mailing of final connection letters were among the items talked about by the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) at a brief meeting last Wednesday, June 15.

However, it was a proposed sewer extension by Joseph and Carol Asklar that generated the most discussion.

According to meeting minutes, the meeting began with the board discussing 20 letters that were sent June 14 to residents in the sewer district who have yet to be connected to the system, have no permit for a connection or have a pending lawsuit. Town Planner Peter Hughes said the original connection notices were mailed out Sept. 7, 2010. Final connection notices were mailed out April 13, but some residents had still not connected to the system, so the June 14 letters were sent out as an absolute final warning.

Residents were told that they had until July 1 to connect; if they do not, steps will be taken for a "forced connection." To do this the board would have to go through the proper legal procedures, WPCA Chairman Jack Murray said. "We would have to really cross that bridge when we come to it, but the bridge will be crossed," he said.

Hughes reminded the board that the WPCA Operations and Maintenance budget is driven by the payments that are received by those who

are connected to the system. This means any residents who are not connected are not paying the O&M fees.

* * *

The board next approved a private sewer extension connection charge policy, which would affect residents who are in the original sewer district. The connection would pertain to homes between the pump station and Pettengill Road. Hughes noted between these roads there are 20 houses that are served with 1,600 feet of construction and that the area utilizes grinder pumps. The cost of the connection of the homes would be \$11,000 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU), Hughes said.

Hughes stated that the cost for the restoration of the roadway would be approximately \$150 per foot; in 2007 it was \$100 per foot. He stated that the price of piping was doubled in the last couple of years and that labor charges have increased five percent ever year.

Private construction to extend the sewer would necessitate curb and lateral stops. Residents who are passed by the extension are authorized to hook-up only if their current septic system fails and an open property within the extension would need to hook-up if there is something built on the site.

A reimbursement of 30 percent of the yearly connection charge per additional EDU will be paid for properties attached beyond the private

extension in the designated sewer district. The reimbursement will be for five years; beyond that there is no reimbursement.

* * *

The 2011-12 fee schedule was also discussed. Beginning July 1, there will be an application of \$125 for any new additions in the sewer system. This cost of the fee was decided upon based on the application fees of neighboring towns, Hughes said.

Other fees decided upon by the board were a connection fee of \$12,054 and a private sewer extension inspection fee. The inspection fee would be 8 percent of the construction cost, which is determined by the Marlborough WPCA. Hughes told commission board members that whatever funds are not used for the inspection will be refunded.

* * *

Also at the meeting, the WPCA approved a proposal by Joseph and Carol Asklar to extend the sewer from Pettengill Road/North Main Street to 152 North Main St.

In order for the town to be able to extend the sewer, several actions must be taken. First, an appropriate bond must be posted. Next, a roadway permit must be obtained by the Board of Selectmen. Then, 72 hours prior to construction, notice must be given to the town in a pre-construction meeting between the contractor, the owner and the town.

The Future of Old Firehouse in Hebron on the Line

by Courtney Parent

The old Fire Company No. 2 building at 93 Deepwood Dr., near Amston Lake, is in much need of work, Town Manager Bonnie Therrien told the Board of Selectmen.

Therrien told the selectmen the most recent use for the building was as a storage facility for the Public Works Department. She also explained that in its current state, the building is in need of a new roof and other exterior improvements.

According to Therrien, after doing a walk-through of the building, the Public Building Committee decided that in its current condition the building should be demolished, or if the selectmen want to keep it, it needs a new roof immediately.

The property where the building resides is owned by the Town of Hebron, Amston Lake Fire District and the Connecticut Water Company. However, the town actually owns the parking lot, and the rest of the land is owned by the other two entities. And the building itself is owned by still another body, the Amston Lake Volunteer Fire Company Inc.

At Thursday's meeting, Hebron Fire Chief Fred Speno began the public discussion by addressing the concept of issues evolving over time and looking at the big picture in regards to town facility needs.

"This board and the folks here now did not create these issues," said Speno. "They have been years in the making as a result of a lack of maintenance, if you will."

Speno added that the fire departments 1962 fire engine is currently being stored in the old Fire Company No.2 building.

"I really think this town needs to do something for all our facilities," Speno added, "maybe have a facilities manager rather than have the board consider these issues."

Bruce DeGray of the Amston Lake Volunteer Fire Company Inc., also spoke on the mat-

ter.

DeGray said he contacted Therrien last fall due to concerns over a leaking roof, a break-in and two windows which were broken during fire drills. In contacting Therrien, DeGray said he gave her a \$625 quote to fix the issues. Since the estimate was over \$500, DeGray was told the town would need to have an additional quote. At this time the issues have yet to be resolved.

DeGray said he felt Therrien "stepped in a hornet's nest" as nothing has been done to maintain the building, as mandated in the lease, during the past six years he has served as caretaker. (DeGray said he, Amston Lake Volunteer Fire Company Inc. President Dave Lynch and Amston Lake Volunteer Fire Company Inc. member Paul Rondeau have been the caretakers since 2005.)

In regards to the options, DeGray said if it were to be returned, the Amston Lake Volunteer Fire Company Inc. would not have the money to fix it and he is "not in favor of" tearing the building down. DeGray also noted the roof as something that would need to get "fixed fast," as mold would only grow with the leaking roof and no heat.

In addition to concerns of money and demolishing the building, DeGray said that what's upsetting a lot of members is that if the building were to come back, they would want it to be returned in the condition it was given to the town in 1968. DeGray also questioned why if the town had money to eliminate the building, they couldn't use that money to fix the broken windows and leaking roof.

"If you can pay \$6,000 to demolish it why can't you pay the money to fix the broken windows and roof," DeGray asked.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt addressed DeGray, asking if reverting the building back to the Amston Lake Volunteer Fire

Company Inc. was his recommendation. While DeGray said a lot of members would like that, they did not understand the involvement of maintaining it and that the only option would be to attempt to sell it. DeGray added that he would like to see the town fix it up so that the fire department could make use of it.

Following DeGray's lead, Lynch told selectmen Amston Lake Volunteer Fire Company Inc. does not want to own the building and "couldn't afford to pay the insurance on it for 10 minutes." However, he added, "we can't own the building and don't want to own it, but we would like very much to be involved in seeing what happens to the building."

Lynch added that a "nice perk" would be if the fire department could be allowed to take their families down and use the beach.

Mulligan questioned whether Amston Lake Volunteer Fire Company was classified as a nonprofit. If that were the case, then the company would not be required to pay taxes if the property were returned to them. A definite answer was not expressed.

Following suit, exploring further into financial opportunities, Watt asked Speno if the department was offered money if that would allow them to do some of the "things needed."

Since the property was separated into two main parcels – one containing the building and one the parking lot – Speno said it has "limited value." However, if the Amston Lake Fire District and the town could come together with the parcels there would be increased value.

Drawing the discussion back to the big picture, board member Brian O'Connell said his understanding from what had been expressed earlier in the evening was that one of the main concerns was keeping everyone involved in the process.

From there, O'Connell continued on to say

A private sewer extension fee would then be added in agreement with the fee schedule. The reimbursement rate will be set in accordance with the private sewer connection charge policy and all materials used for the extension must be equivalent to materials currently being used by the town. The WPCA would not be responsible for maintenance, operation or ownership of grinder pumps and the pumps will be supplied by the property owner. Lastly, the Board of Selectmen and the Askars would need to control traffic during construction.

Joseph Asklar questioned the reimbursement fee. He said he felt that the fee was unreasonable, and told the WPCA it has not yet even been voted on in a public hearing. The WPCA told Asklar the fee was not going to change as there had already been a motion to approve it, and said the fee was fair to everyone involved.

However, this did not appease Asklar, who reiterated that the fee had not yet been approved at a public hearing and did not seem fair. Carol Asklar jumped in after her husband and said the board was trying to "stick it" to them with the fee. After some discussion, commission member Bill LaPoint made a motion to include a condition that if the inspection fee were to exceed 8 percent the WPCA would reimburse the developer before the final connection. This motion was approved in a unanimous vote.

The (Spruced-Up) Eagle Flies at Midnight in Hebron

by Courtney Parent

While driving down Route 66, from Marlborough to Hebron, don't be startled by the large eagle quickly approaching your car. It isn't real. It is simply the new and improved Eagle Rock, looking as sharp as ever after being brought back to life by resident Andy Bordick and his family.

Attention was first brought to the Eagle Rock back in 2008, as it was the 300th anniversary of the town's incorporation. Hebron Historical Society President Donna McCalla said it was looking "bad" then and has since been looking "worse and worse."

While at this year's Maple Festival and asking around for volunteers, McCalla said she was approached by Bordick who offered to revive the eagle.

Bordick said he was surprised the Eagle Rock was chosen as the theme for the town's 300th anniversary celebration, and that was when he decided he wanted to "fix her up."

"I drive by the rock every day," said Bordick. "It looked shabby and tired. I just didn't like to think that Hebron welcomed its guests from the west with a tired, old, dirty rock."

That set the wheels in motion. According to McCalla, Bordick forwarded her a nine-step work plan, met with state officials as the rock resides on state property, and came up with a plan of action.

Bordick's work plan included retrieving supplies and snacks, setting up cones and signs for safety purposes, removing built-up soil and loose paint, begin painting from the top down, trim vegetation around the perimeter, and apply a second and possible third coat of paint.

The work plan was put into action on Memorial Day weekend and was not simply a one-man project. Bordick recruited his family to aid him in the effort: wife Lara, 10-year-old son Calvin and 9-year-old son Jack.

This was not the first project the family has completed together, Bordick said. He said the boys usually help with the family's volunteer activities, noting that Calvin has sold the famous icy maple milk at the Hebron Maple Fest, while Jack helped in selling hot dogs.

"They understand the need to give back to the town," Bordick said, "but this was a chance for them to invest their hard work and look at the town with a sense of ownership and pride."

As hundreds passed by "honking in approval," Bordick said that it really started to "sink in" with the boys. Calvin and Jack's work included pulling the weeds and painting the majority of the white and yellow on the west side. Bordick encouraged those who "like what they see" of the rock when driving from Marlborough into town, to thank Calvin and Jack.

According to Bordick, the project took just 11 hours to complete. Having said this, Bordick said he would encourage anyone else to take on the task of painting the Eagle Rock when they see a need.

McCalla had nothing but kind words to share about Bordick's work and artistic skills, noting that she made several trips to the rock over Memorial Day weekend and was "tickled pink" to see the final result.

"Andy is such a great artist," McCalla said. "He stayed with the original design, but added highlights to the iris so it looks like a real eagle iris and put reflection paint."

Though he has received nothing but positive feedback on the Eagle and is "flattered" by all the 'thank you's, Bordick contests that it was really just about a "desire by me to paint a rock."

"It's almost like the broken or worn part of your house that annoys you, but you procrastinate in fixing it," Bordick said. "It doesn't bother you enough to spur you to action, but it irritates you like a scratch. Now when I drive by, I feel like Route 66 is a little bit more tidy."

While Bordick was modest in receiving the thanks, he was eager to hand them out. Sending thanks first and foremost to his wife, Lara and the boys. He also expressed gratitude to the homeowners where the rock resides.

"It's technically on the [Department of Transportation] right-of-way," said Bordick, "but they tolerate a lot to host that Eagle and they were very supportive of our work."

According to McCalla, while this town landmark is now known to all as Eagle Rock, it was



The Eagle Rock, located on Route 66, recently got a cleaning and a fresh coat of paint, courtesy of resident Andy Bordick and his family. The rock made its first appearance in town in 1989.

originally referred to as "Shelter Rock." Also, prior to flying high as an eagle, the rock hopped amongst traffic as a frog, swam through possible Spring flooding as a whale and decided there was no need to cross the road as a turtle.

The eagle, which is referred to as a town landmark by many, made its first appearance in 1989, compliments of the artistic vision of former RHAM student, and current New York artist, Jason Sawyer, said McCalla.

"Jason's vision turned this rock into a landmark that has been recognized in a book of painted rocks across America published a few years ago," said Town Clerk Carla Pomproicz.

Since the time the Eagle Rock was created

in 1989, McCalla said the rock has been "touched up" four times, the last of which was nine years ago. In 1991 and 1995 Sawyer retained ownership of his work, doing his own touch-ups. In 2002, Sawyer had assistance in the maintenance, by East Hampton resident Tara Graham. Most recently in 2003, Graham took the reigns, completing a solo touch-up.

After years of transformation, finally finding the true representation of Hebron in the Eagle and being given new life with a recent make-over, the Hebron Eagle Rock prevails. And as Bordick said, "the project truly was its own reward."

Hebron Selectmen Discuss Boards, Buildings and Budgets

by Courtney Parent

The Board of Selectmen met last Thursday, June 16, to discuss the implementation of a solar scoreboard at Burnt Hill Park, town building needs and anticipated budget shortfalls.

Starting off the night was a short synopsis delivered by Parks and Recreation Director Rich Calarco. The brief summary was in regards to implementing a solar scoreboard for the baseball field at Burnt Hill Park.

"Working with the [Hebron] Little League we came up with the solar scoreboard. By going with solar we're not going to have to go through trenching," Calarco said. Little League is "totally paying for materials [and] also signed an agreement that it's their responsibility to maintain it once it's up there."

Calarco added that the solar scoreboards allowed the avoidance of any wetlands issues, which would have been a "much more involved process." Since regular scoreboards require electricity, Calarco said they require trenching and running across wetlands to get power.

Calarco said that, with the help of Town Planner Mike O'Leary, he was also able to secure a permit for the scoreboard. The scoreboard is anticipated to be put in place within the next three weeks, said Calarco.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt pointed to the "extremely generous" action of the Little League. He said the scoreboard being a solar one makes the project "that much better."

Watt also told Calarco that the implementation of the scoreboard would also give Parks and Rec. some good publicity, knowing that the project is through one of the town's youth groups.

Board of Selectmen Vice Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan also pointed to the recognition of youth group involvement.

"It's kind of nice to bring these types of things in front of the board, just to let the public know about them," Mulligan said, "and that

youth groups are participating and the park is being updated and renovated."

In moving forward with the Connecticut Council of Municipalities (CCM) Capital Improvement Energy Program, the selectmen discussed town facility needs. The board was asked to inform CCM of which buildings may be renovated within the next five to 10 years, as there would be no need for CCM to evaluate buildings which would be up for renovations in the near future.

The selectmen referred to the most recent building report, composed in 2003, which stated issues such as the location of the Parks and Rec. Department and cramped spacing at the town offices. Since that report was issued, the Parks and Rec. office has been relocated and the Town Office Building has been expanded.

Mulligan pointed to the firehouses in town as a topic of concern. Specifically, she said that Company 3 is "not in good shape," and said it is important that the selectmen look at these structures in regards to the long term.

Board member Dan Larson reiterated Mulligan's idea for a long-term solution.

"There needs to be a long-range plan as to how we are going to utilize some of our resources," said Larson, "and how those resources are going to change."

Richard Steiner, a member of the Public Building committee, said he would like the town to look at projects so that they are "ahead of the curve" and wants to make sure that "what the town sets as priorities are what align with the town's vision."

After a short discussion, Watt pointed out that all members present seemed to be "on the same page," pointing to the fire department and police department as a main focus, following the Public Works Department.

Also at last Thursday's meeting, selectmen

voted to endorse the town's Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant application for a traffic light in the amount of \$214,000.

The traffic light would be placed at the intersection of Route 66(Main St.) and John E. Horton Boulevard, as it was determined necessary by the State Traffic Commission.

"The traffic signal at this intersection would serve existing development on Main Street, would promote new business development in the business expansion area, would complement ongoing town projects on Main Street, as well as would enhance traffic and pedestrian safety," said the town's STEAP application.

Larson said the town's application meets all of the state parameters and, as the light was state-mandated, he did not foresee any reason why the application would be denied.

According to Town Manager Bonnie Therrien, notification of approval is generally during the August/September timeframe. Therrien said the light is expected to be installed in the fall.

"I think it's great that you guys picked this one and we can move forward," said Watt. "This is about as close to shovel-ready as we can get."

The total project is anticipated to cost approximately \$245,000, with the additional \$31,000 coming from local funds, privately-donated legal expenses and privately-donated easement expenses.

Lastly, selectmen turned to the status of the 2010-11 budget, which Therrien noted was "pretty much still on track." While there had been a budget freeze, Therrien said that has been "released somewhat," with town employees having come to the town manager's office and "plead their case" in regards to purchases.

However, the budget still appears to be in the red. Therrien said that, at this time, there stands a \$55,000 budget shortfall to the ambulance

contractual account.

"Although there is revenue being brought in to counteract the expenditures on the revenue side, the expenditure line item is down by an estimated amount of \$55,000," Therrien said, "so a supplemental appropriation still must be made to bring the expenditure side up to the estimated amount."

In a June 9 memo to the boards of selectmen and finance, Finance Director Lisa Hancock suggested that the town do a supplemental appropriation from fund balance in the amount of \$15,094. Hancock stated that "pursuant to the Charter, the Town Boards of Selectmen and Finance are limited to the amount of supplemental appropriations of \$102,744.65 for Fiscal Year 2010-11, as the amount that can be approved without a Town meeting." According to Hancock, the boards had approved supplemental appropriations in the amount of \$87,650.30 for the 2010-11 Fiscal year.

In addition to the shortfall in the ambulance contractual account, there is also a \$10,926 budget shortfall within the Colchester Inter-District Municipal Sewer agreement.

But, Therrien said, the largest unknown to the budget at this time is the state trooper amount.

"We have not received a bill from the state at all for their services from July 1 on," said Therrien, "so we have no idea how that line item will look by June 30th."

Watt added some humor to the economic hardship suggesting that the town just go to the state police and tell them how much they are prepared to pay for services.

"Well we can always go to them and say 'this is how much we're willing to pay,'" Watt said laughing. "Is that okay?"

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Town Hall.

After One-Year Absence, Fireworks Return in Hebron

by Courtney Parent

The Hebron Fireworks are returning this weekend, after a one-year hiatus. According to former Lions Club President Robert Lee, residents can expect food, fireworks and fun during the pre-July 4 festivities.

Festivities begin at 5 p.m. and there will be no lack of excitement and entertainment at this year's event. According to Lee, a variety of rock and roll songs will be performed by In Deep, there will be eight or nine food vendors, hayrides for all ages, and inflatables for the children. There will also be a Cub Scout recruiting event and face painting.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said the town is anxiously awaiting the return of the fireworks. Therrien also gave thanks to the Lions for their efforts in putting on the fireworks, as well as all their additional efforts in town and for the town's non-profits.

"Everyone is very excited about having the fireworks back in Town and thank the Lions for putting this great event back together," said Therrien.

Lee said that the club is equally excited to be able to bring the fireworks back to the town this year and provide a fun, community centered atmosphere.

"I think the club is very happy that we are able to put on the fireworks," said Lee. "It is a community event that families can enjoy."

Lions Club President Adam Miclette described the event as a quasi-"picnic in the park" prior to the launching of the fireworks in the later hours of the evening.

Last year the Lions were unable to financially support the annual fireworks due to losses incurred during previous years.

It rained in 2008 and 2009, which resulted in

the club taking "a beating financially," Miclette said. As a result, the Lions decided to forgo the 2010 fireworks show.

"Members wanted to bring it back to life and hopefully the community will come out and support it," said Miclette.

According to 2009 Fireworks Committee Chairman John Johnson Jr., a decision has to be made in regards to whether the fireworks will be held as scheduled by 9 a.m. on the morning of the fireworks to avoid additional fees.

In 2009, when the fireworks were last held, the morning of provided a 50 percent chance of rain forecasted for both that day and the rain date. Unfortunately, Johnson said the committee "picked the wrong day."

"It looked like the storm was going to miss us, then at six it hit us," said Johnson, "and it stalled on top of us."

According to Johnson, once the fireworks are set up the only option is to shoot them, as it would be too dangerous to remove them from their shells. While the fireworks could have been left overnight and used on the scheduled rain date, Johnson said the town would've had to pay for police and fire protection until that time.

"Basically we would've had to babysit them," Johnson said.

According to Johnson, this year's fireworks show will be put on by Atlas PyroVision Productions. Johnson added that residents will be able to purchase half-price tickets to the Hebron Harvest Fair at the fireworks.

With a possibility of damp weather on the horizon, Johnson said this year could be similar to 2009 when the fireworks were last held.

"Right now it looks like the same thing as in '09 with a chance of showers," Johnson said



The Hebron Fireworks, shown here in 2009, will return to the Lions Fairgrounds this weekend.

Tuesday. "It's a real dangerous thing to start playing with. It's all about luck at that point."

Therrien added her thoughts on the weather and its impact on attendance.

"If the weather cooperates," Therrien said, "I think there will be a large crowd on hand to see the fireworks and have an early celebration of our country's birthday."

As of Wednesday, the weather forecast

looked hopeful, showing a mere 30 percent chance of precipitation during Saturday's firework festivities.

Advanced ticket purchases may be made online at hebronclions.org until midnight tonight; \$7 for general admission parking or \$20 for VIP parking. Tickets purchased at the gates will be \$10 for general admission parking or \$25 for VIP parking.

Portland Police Charge Teens in Car Thefts

by Joshua Anusewicz

Portland Police have arrested two residents in connection with a string of car thefts that occurred this winter.

Jesse Howard, 18, of 15 Chatham Court, was arrested Tuesday, June 14, and charged with second-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit second-degree larceny, both Class C felonies, police said. Also, a 17-year-old male was arrested on Thursday, June 16 and charged with first-degree larceny, two counts of second-degree larceny, third-degree larceny, sixth-degree larceny, first-degree criminal mischief and operating a motor vehicle without a license, police said.

According to Sgt. Scott Cunningham, warrants for the arrests have been out since the winter, but the suspects were only recently apprehended. The warrants were issued for four separate incidents between Dec. 26, 2010, and Feb. 11, 2011, during which the 17-year-old male stole a motor vehicle.

During each of the incidents, the vehicle

owners had left the vehicle unlocked and running. Cunningham said the four locations of the thefts were in the downtown area, at a residence, Quarry Heights Housing Complex, Rite-Aid Pharmacy and TD Bank.

Cunningham said the 17-year-old male had been the individual that stole the vehicles and drove them away, while Howard aided in the thefts. He added that all of the vehicles had been processed and returned to the owners, but one vehicle had sustained minimal damage after it was involved in a one-car accident when it crashed into a snow bank.

Howard was released on a promise to appear and is due to enter his plea on Thursday, July 14, at Middletown Superior Court. According to Cunningham, the 17-year-old was being held on \$27,500 court-ordered bond, but he did not say whether he had been released from custody or when he would appear in court.

East Hampton PD to Pay to Store Prisoners in Middletown

by Joshua Anusewicz

An informal agreement has been turned into a formal agreement, as the Middletown Common Council unanimously agreed on June 9 to charge the East Hampton Police Department for holding prisoners at the Middletown station.

According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, East Hampton has been sending those that have been arrested to Middletown for over 20 years. He said East Hampton is often not capable of housing prisoners because they don't have the staff to monitor them at all times.

Kelly said that prisoners are transported to Middletown, by the East Hampton Police, "a couple times a week." He added that on occasion, if the Middletown station is unable to hold prisoners, they are brought to the Cromwell station for free.

The formal inter-local prison agreement will be a one-year contract that will charge the EHPD \$50 a prisoner for an overnight stay.

According to Common Council Clerk Marie Norwood, the fee will include the monitoring of the prisoner and three meals a day.

Kelly said that the agreement is similar to the agreement Middletown currently has with Portland, which already offers compensation to Middletown for housing their prisoners. Kelly said that Middletown has been generous for allowing East Hampton to hold prisoners for free and is not surprised by the new agreement.

"They've always provided it for free, and they take on some potential liability," Kelly said. "They should be charging."

Chief Matt Reimondo said Thursday that the agreement is expected to begin on July 1. He also said that the funds for each prisoner, which he said will only pertain to prisoners that are held "overnight," will come out of the general police budget.

Man Arrested After Hitting Bicyclist

by Joshua Anusewicz

An East Hampton man was arrested Saturday, June 4, after a motor vehicle accident involving a 15-year-old boy on a bicycle.

Gary Young, 40, 71 Royal Oaks Ave., was arrested for driving under the influence, failure to drive right and second-degree assault, a Class D felony.

According to an accident report from the East Hampton Police, Young was traveling south on Smith Street in a 2004 Dodge Ram around 11:30 p.m. when he attempted to make a left into the Air Line Trail parking lot, just south of Flanders Road. Officer Matthew Hanlon stated in the report that a damaged bicycle was found three feet from the vehicle and the 15-year-old was seated near the bicycle, bleeding heavily from his head and face.

Hanlon stated that, when asked for his ac-

count of the accident, the boy said he had been traveling north on Smith Street when he was struck by a vehicle "traveling in the wrong lane."

Young said that he was prepared to make the left turn, but that a bicycle "appeared out of nowhere." He said that he hit the brakes but still collided with the bicyclist. According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, it was deemed that Young was intoxicated at the time and was charged with DUI.

Chief Matthew Reimondo said Thursday that the 15-year-old did receive medical attention, but said he was unsure of his status.

According to the state judicial website, Young was released on \$1,000 bond and is scheduled to enter his plea on Tuesday, July 12 at Middletown Superior Court at 10 a.m.

Democrat Slate Offers New Council Faces in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

With the town's budget now passed and the school year coming to a close, town officials are now turning their attention to November's municipal elections. The Democratic Town Committee made the first move last Thursday night, announcing its party-endorsed slate, with a lot of new faces, at its monthly meeting.

With all seven of the Town Council spots available, the Democrats will put five candidates on the ballot, but only two incumbents. DTC Chair Barbara Moore and Chatham Carillo will run for re-election, while Christopher Goff and Town Council Vice Chairman John Tuttle have chosen not to run.

Joining Carillo and Moore will be George Pfaffenbach, John Moore (no relation to Barbara Moore) and James Vick.

Barbara Moore said Monday the DTC is "anxious to start" the campaign.

"Already, the new ideas are bringing a new side to every issue," said Moore, who has served on the Town Council for two years. "I think we have a good mix [of candidates]."

Pfaffenbach is currently a member of the town's Board of Finance, where he has served for eight years, and is a member of the Rotary Club. Before being on the finance board, he served a four-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Pfaffenbach said Tuesday his familiarity with ongoing issues in the town gives him "a good feel for what the town needs." He added that issues that have plagued the town "need to be straightened out" and stressed the importance of running the town as a "two-party system."

If he is elected, Pfaffenbach said one of his goals will be to create a Police Commission, which he said would provide "better control

over [possible] issues" within the police department. He also said that he is a proponent of a town water system, which he called a "need."

John Moore is a relative newcomer to East Hampton, moving to the town from Manchester in April 2009. He has been working as a member of Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, helping to raise money for lake preservation.

John Moore said he had asked Barbara Moore if he could volunteer for a position with the DTC, and she recommended he try for Town Council.

"I hope I can bring a fresh outlook," he said. "I think I have an open mind and no bad habits." He said his biggest goals would be maintaining the town's infrastructure and improving the schools system, which he believes "would keep families in town" for many years.

Vick is currently the president of the Old Home Days Association, where he has served for two years, and has been chairman of entertainment for seven years. He has been an East Hampton resident for 15 years and has two children, first grade and sixth grade, in the school system.

Vick said Wednesday that he feels that some elected officials have "predetermined interests," which he said he plans to avoid. He used the proposed water system as an example, saying "it might not be something that benefits me directly, but it could be what is best for the town."

"We need to look at issues rationally," Vick said. "We can't let our emotions get the best of us and effect our decisions."

Vick is currently an eighth-grade English teacher in Hartford but has worked in marketing and insurance in the past, experience he believes gives him perspective on "both the

public and private sector."

On Wednesday, Tuttle said that the main reason he will not be running this November is that he feels the ability of the Town Council to be progressive has lessened.

"Serving in public office was to further my ability to affect progress," said Tuttle, who has served in elected office for eight years. "However, the political climate today in town has brought us to a standstill. Every task has become a struggle, every action arduous. Personal attacks on oneself and family are regular and deplorable. I decided it's time to let others step forward."

Tuttle said he is "pleased" with the slate of Democratic candidates, adding that there was "no shortage" of Democrats willing to serve on boards.

Goff said Wednesday that his decision to not run for Town Council came after he saw the large response from town Democrats that wanted to run for office, adding that it's hard to find willing candidates some years.

"I told the committee that if there are people that want the opportunity, then I would step aside to give them the chance," said Goff, who has served on the council for a total of eight years. He added that he "loves" serving on the council and stressed that his reason for not running had nothing to do with scrutiny that that council has faced.

"That's just politics," Goff said. He added that he believes "very much" that the Democrats have assembled a strong slate for the upcoming elections.

Aside from the Town Council, two DTC members from the Board of Education, Debra Robinson and Chairman Michael Vasquez,

will be stepping down and giving way to four new candidates: Terry Schlosser, Ken Barber, Denise Russo and Carol Williams.

Barbara Moore said Wednesday that each of these candidates can contribute with varying experience in education. Barber – who unsuccessfully ran for Judge of Probate last year, for the district that serves East Hampton and Portland – is a lawyer that has worked with education boards from other towns, Schlosser and Williams are both teachers, and Russo has children within the school system, giving each one, as Moore put it, "different assets" to lend to the board.

For the Board of Finance, Tom O'Brien will be running as an incumbent, joined by Ted Turner and Laura Taylor Borg, for just three open positions. O'Brien, Pfaffenbach, and Republican Maria Peplau all have terms ending this year.

Two other incumbents will be running as well: Brendan Flannery will be running for Zoning Board of Appeals and Andrew Tierney will be running for Municipal Planning Agency.

Barbara Moore said all of the new faces will add intrigue to the elections, as she admitted that the candidates might not be known to some residents.

"Usually we start the campaign process and everyone knows each other," she said. "That's not the case this year. We'll see what the residents think about it."

She said a Democratic caucus will be held on July 21 to formally vote for the candidates that will be running in the November elections. The Republicans and the Chatham Party have yet to announce their candidates.

Colchester Farm Stand Returns, in New Location

by Bailey Seddon

Customers were smiling and greeting Bill Loughery, owner of Bear's Produce Stand, as the stand opened Tuesday morning behind Wild Geese, 191 Broadway. Loughery couldn't be happier about being back in business.

Loughery started his seasonal produce business with his father 20 years ago. For most of that time, his stand was located between The Plum Tomato and Phillips 66 gas station. According to town records, Gibbs Oil owns the 1.56 acres the gas station sits on at 299 South Main St. Plum Tomato, at 275 South Main St., sits on 0.58 acres owned by Fenn-Tor LLC. In between the two parcels is a vacant lot listed at 283 South Main St., which spans one-quarter of an acre and is also owned by Fenn-Tor LLC.

Loughery paid \$150 a week in rent to Plum Tomato owner Brian Thomas to sell produce on that part of the property. However, two years ago, Phillips 66 told Loughery that his farm stand was on the gas station's property line. Loughery looked at a site plan map and moved over, thinking he had moved off the gas station's property.

However, Phillips 66 sent a surveyor out to check the property lines and was told that the produce stand was still on Phillips 66 property. Loughery was told he was still a few feet on the gas station's property and that he could pay back rent for the previous year if he wanted to stay. However, Loughery figured, he had already paid Plum Tomato rent for the previous year.

Loughery was then told he could stay until the end of the season, which for Loughery is around Labor Day, if he stopped talking to the press about the issues he was having with Phillips 66.

Fortunately for Loughery, while all this was happening, Debbie Leone, owner of Wild

Geese, told him he could use the back of her property to keep his produce stand.

"She said 'listen, if you need a place,'" hers was available, Loughery said. "It was good to know I had other options."

Despite all the hardships Loughery was overwhelmed by the support he got from his customers during this time.

"I have loyal customers," Loughery said, "they supported me."

The "loyal customers" were excited to see Loughery and his produce stand opened again for the summer season.

"We are so glad you guys are back," long-time customer Tracy Fox said. When she first heard about the relocated stand, Fox recalled, "I said 'why would [the gas station] move him?' But this is a better location!"

Some customers, such as Henny Simon, have been coming to Bear's Produce Stand for 20 years. When asked if she liked the Loughery's produce stand more than any other, Simon seemed surprised by the question.

"Otherwise I wouldn't come," Simon said. "Where else do you get fresh strawberries?"

Loughery said his customers have been good about getting the word out to people about his move behind Wild Geese. Some people even put it up on Facebook, to help spread the word.

"I knew they were going to come to me...it's just about getting the word out," Loughery said about his customers.

"When it's something good, they [Colchester residents] will let everybody know about it," Loughery said. "Over 20 years we have established a relationship of more than just business," Loughery says about him and his customers.

His father passed away years ago, but Loughery still works hard for his produce stand. He is up at 5:30 a.m. to get all the produce he



Bear's Produce Stand is back for the summer, this time in a new location. Owner Bill Loughery has moved the stand to behind Wild Geese on Broadway. The business had been located on South Main Street between The Plum Tomato and the Phillips 66 gas station.

needs to start setting up around 10 a.m. Tuesday morning he was a little late; a lot of the pickers did not show up so things went more slowly, he said. However, Loughery said, he would rather wait and open up later with the best possible produce for his customers.

Loughery's produce is all Connecticut-grown, something his customers seemed to like as they were picking through the fruits and

veggies. He tries to have great quality and reasonable prices for them.

Loughery, once the owner of a video store, said he is sometimes blown away when he thanks a customer for buying his produce and they, in turn, thank him for providing it.

"I have been in retail for a long time; it's a very different thing to have people thanking me," Loughery said.



Shown at left, Nicole Chagnon makes her way up the steps to receive her diploma from Board of Education Chairman Michael Vasquezna. Shown at right, Olivia Halvorson and Anthony Repoli are nothing but smiles after officially being announced as the Class of 2011.

East Hampton Class of 2011 Shares Memories, Dreams – and Dance Moves

by Joshua Anusewicz

A dreary day with skies that promised rain couldn't dampen the spirits of the East Hampton High School Class of 2011, as the students marched, sang and danced their way around the school gymnasium during last Friday's graduation ceremony.

With the gymnasium filled to capacity with family, friends, faculty and other members of the community, the graduates entered to a hearty round of applause, girls in white gowns and boys in blue. The students' eyes darted back and forth as they searched for their contingency, beaming happily and waving as they found them.

The ceremony was kicked off by Nathan Abraham, senior class president, who recalled fond memories from his time at EHHS, including the class trip to Washington, DC, and the school's appearance on WFSB-TV Channel 3's "Cool Schools," where nearly the entire student body showed up at dawn to show their Bellingrider pride.

Nathan implored his classmates to try new things and make the most of their future experiences, whichever path they choose.

"I hope that next time I see all of you, I hope that you are new people," Nathan said, "with a new set of adventures to share."

Emily Gagliano, the class essayist, also shared memories of her times with her classmates. She spoke about a middle school program called "Mix-It-Up Day," where students were required to sit at random lunch tables and get to know different people each day, which she said "forced [them] to alter [their] frames of mind to connect with others."

She also reassured her classmates that they may be nervous about leaving high school that high school had prepared them for the new experiences they face.

"If we've made it this far, the lessons we've learned can only prove to support us in the years to come," Emily said. "High school has assembled, constructed and developed each and every one of us. As we recall past events that have influenced our present selves, we realize that we are ultimately the sum of our experiences."

Class salutatorian Kayla Perkins channeled a quote from a quintessential high school movie, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, when describing her

high school experience.

"Life moves pretty fast; if you don't look around once in a while, you could miss it," Kayla said. Ferris, she added, "was definitely right. As we move into this new phase in our lives, it's obvious now more than ever how important it is to slow down every now and then and take a look around."

Kayla also challenged her classmates to branch out from things they would normally do, be it a new college course or changing your major completely, or traveling or trying a new hobby.

"Take risks and try your hardest, and your definition of success will always be met," she added.

After the salutatorian speech, the senior choir performed a subdued a capella version of Billy Joel's "The Longest Time," causing many to tap their feet or sing along.

In her speech, Hannah Blondin, the class valedictorian, recapped all of the charity the class had performed at EHHS, which included donations to earthquake victims in Haiti and Japan, and to small mountain villages in Peru. She said that these acts of kindness could help her classmates in the future.

"By working together, we gained an even greater respect for each other and the world around us," Hannah said. "We understood the power of knowledge and awareness, the strength of working together, and used our resources, skills and personal drive to respond whenever we saw the need for a helping hand."

She asked her classmates to continue working to do good things, adding that "any act of kindness, no matter how big or small has the power to change lives, inspire others and make a difference."

Following the student speeches, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden and Board of Education Chairman Michael Vasquezna offered advice to the students, and also thanked the faculty of the East Hampton schools for preparing the students to go off into the world.

Golden told the students that they "have reached an important milestone on an incredible journey," but told them that the journey was far from over. She also shared a quote from Albert Einstein that she felt would serve the students well.

"Imagination is more important than knowledge," said Golden, who asked what would happen if people didn't imagine objects like staples or iPods.

Vasquezna reminded the students that East Hampton "will always be your home" and that they should use it as a "resource in a time of need."

But after all of the serious speeches were over, Principal Dr. Linda C. Berry – who is joining the Durham school district in the fall – stepped to the podium. Those expecting an authoritative tone to her speech were disappointed, as Berry used her last graduation at EHHS to have some fun.

"This graduating class and I have something in common," Berry said. "Not only are we good-looking and destined for success, but we are both leaving East Hampton High School." She also shared humorous stories about the class trip to Washington, the senior dinner and particular students that left a lasting impression. She also recalled "Senior Skip Day" – a day in which, incidentally, it rained.

"I feel like I got some justice that day," Berry joked.

She then took time to thank the students, saying that the kids in the school were "the reason [she] stayed for 16 and a half years" and that she knew the Class of 2011 would be destined for greatness. But instead of giving a formal send-off, Berry cued up the song "Price Tag" by Jessie J, donned glowing sunglasses, and touched off a dance party with the senior class.

After the students' groove things were sufficiently shaken, diplomas were handed out and Berry posed for pictures with the new graduates. The students tossed their hats then made their way out of the gym, each student ringing a bell to signify their last day as Bellingrider. As the crowd made their way outside of the school, a rainbow formed above the trees, drawing the attention of the crowd.

"Well that has to mean something good for you," one parent said to their graduate.

The following are members of the East Hampton High School Class of 2011:

Nathan Abraham*, Kailey Adametz, Bryce Annino+, Katherine Atkinson, Christopher

Baledes, Fabian Becker, Haily Beem, Savannah Begin, Michelle Berkenstock, Rosemary Biegaj, Hannah Blondin*, Catherine Bonoff, Kelsey Booth, Christine Boulanger, Joseph Boutillier, Evan Boyce, Tyler Brady, Colleen Butler, Nicholas Campisi, Robert Cannella, Cassandra Cartagena, Nicole Chagnon, Nicole Chambers, Alexander Chiu, Emily Clausi, Nathan Cleaver, Adam Coleman, Allison Coll+, Nicholas Costanzo, Kyle Coughlin, Kaitlyn Dash, Michael Dolde, Mark Doney+, Brittney Easter+, Krystle Epes, Brian Ewing, Colleen Ewing, Douglas Fellows, Dan Field, Madigan Flannery, Tyler Folkes, Benjamin Fortin, Vanessa Freeman+, Emily Gagliano*, Tasha Gawkowski, Jeannine Gemma, Alexander Genovese, Kelley Godwin*, Heather Gracie, Katelyn Grimshaw, David Grylka*, Timothy Hahn, Olivia Halvorson+, Briana Hansen, Christopher Dalton Hays, Nora Heidel+, Leonard Heroux, Catherine Howard, Alexander Iannone, Matthew Janca, Haley Karpa, Jenna Klemonski*, Jason Lambert, Ahryn Lehmann+, Levi Lincoln, Bryan Llaser, Jared Lockwood, Zachary L'Hote, Rosalie Lyons, Neiko Magri, Cory Manka, Sarah Markham*, Brandon Marselli, Lily Martin, Geoffrey Maynard, Charles Mauri, Erin McKinney, Abby Miner, Olivia Murphy, Seth Myers, Louis Nocera+, Elizabeth Nosal, Ryan Nowakowski, Christina O'Brien, Patrick O'Connor, Dylan Olzacki, Colin Parker+, Hillary Parsons*, Kayla Perkins*, David Peterson, Sarah Pethybridge, Emily Polo, Ashley Porter, Laura Pumphrey*, Henry Quinn, Collin Reinhard, Anthony Repoli, William Richards, Brian Roberson, Katherine Robinson+, Ryan Rubega+, Faryn Russenberger+, Kurt Schluntz, Emily Schramm, Heidi Scranton, Philip Selavka, Austin Shumbo+, Joshua Simmons-Telep, Rachelle Sirois+, Iain Snow, Jennifer Sobolewski, Ryan Springer, Brian St. Louis, Danielle Strzalkowski, Kyle Strong, Jason Swan, Chelsea Tibus, McKeighry Tierney, Heather Trotochaud, Anthony Valenti, Erin Walsh+, Benjamin Wilkie+, Anthony Williams+, Erika Wolf, Chelsea Zadrozny, Mary Zemina, Paula Zimny

* Top Ten Students, + Ferrigno-Bell Chapter National Honor Society

Colchester Students Succeed at Invention Convention

by Bailey Seddon

Connecticut's 28th annual Invention Convention meant lots of awards for Colchester students this year. Nick Janus, Gregory Romprey, Sarah Praisner and Chris Wilson, all received awards at the May 14 event.

Nick, a Jack Jackter Intermediate School (JJIS) third-grader, invented "Snow Defier," a device that helps people to snowboard better. The Snow Defier is actually a collection of poles that are stuck in the snow around a snowboard. When the rider is ready to go, they can move the front aside; this way, the snowboard will start out going the direction the rider wants it to, and the rider will start out on balance.

"I wanted to do something so I wouldn't get off balance," Nick said.

Nick has been snowboarding for years, and after this winter's fierce storms and heavy snowfall he thought his invention would be a good one to make.

"I thought it would be fun...it would make me think really hard," Nick said. That way, he said, he is not just doing regular school work.

Gregory, also a third-grader at JJIS, invented the "Knife Guard." This is an invention that allows a person to cut up whatever they are preparing for dinner without getting cut by the knife. To make the invention, Gregory cut the back and sides off of a PVC pipe to create a shape that could go over someone's hand. Gregory thought of this invention because he was not allowed to use a knife at home, for fear of his fingers getting cut.

"My mom will never let me use a knife," Gregory said, because she was too worried about his hand getting cut. But, he added, "I made this and now I can help out!"

Gregory thinks that being part of something such as the Invention Convention is good for the brain. "That uses your imagination, so I just thought it was going to be something for me," Gregory said. "I have a great imagination."

Sarah, a JJIS fourth-grader, invented the "Therma Serve," a device that keeps a person's food hotter or colder for a much longer period of time.

The Therma Serve is a Zip-lock bag filled with water, with layers of reflective insulation that you can either stick in the freezer or microwave, depending on whether one wants it to heat or cool food. The reflective insulation directs warmth or coldness to the food, which is sitting on a sheet of plastic, which is sitting on top of the Zip-lock bag.

Sarah took a survey of 30 people to see if her invention would be useful to them. A couple of the questions people answered were; if they would buy a container to keep food either hot or cold to which one person replied no and 29 replied yes. When asked if they had ever been

worried about their food spoiling at parties seven replied 'no' and 23 replied 'yes.'

Chris, a sixth-grader at William J. Johnston Middle School, created an "H2O Cleaner." According to Chris, there is medicine that gets into people's drinking water because of the pharmaceuticals that can be in people's urine due to the medicine they take. Chris developed his invention to take out the extra medicine that goes out from people's bodies through their urine, and into the water. In his invention, Chris put at the bottom of a toilet a piece of charcoal, the only thing Chris found that would sift out the unwanted medicine.

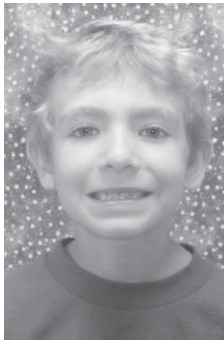
Chris has been participating in the Invention Convention since third grade and said he has always made up an invention based on the environmental problems society faces. "I found out this about medicines and water and I just read more about it," Chris said.

The environment, and figuring out how to help it, is important to Chris. "I just started putting them together," to find out how to fix a problem, he said. Chris said he goes online to research a problem in the world and then he goes about figuring out how he can solve it.

Chris, like all the inventors, only have until ninth grade to be part of the Invention Convention; once they reach high school, they can no longer qualify. That is why it is so important to Chris and others to be part of the Invention Convention now.

"I'm trying to do it every year I can," Chris said.

Laura Messinger, the enrichment specialist for both WJMS and JJIS, has been part of the convention for seven consecutive years. She believes in what the kids are doing and what the convention means to not only the kids, but the parents and teachers.



Gregory Romprey

"It incorporates everything I try to teach: critical thinking combined with creative imagination," Messinger said.

The convention selects the best representatives from a given grade level. Depending on how many children participate, there can be multiple inventors sent to the state.

Students are sent home with information about the convention and how they can sign up. Any student who wants to participate fills out an "Intent to Invent" form, which both they and their parents fill out and sign, with what they have in mind for an invention and bring it back to the school.

"They need a support system at home," Messinger said. This is why parents have to sign the form, so they can be aware of what their child is doing.

Once they have filled out their forms, WJMS and JJIS hold a half-dozen mandatory problem solving luncheons for the participants, from the time they sign up until the local event. Messinger said this is because the schools found out that, out of however many kids that would sign up, only one third of them would follow through and be at the event at the local level. Since the luncheons have started, half of the children that sign up now follow through.

Students are not allowed to work together or get help from family members. They are, however, allowed to ask family members about what inconveniences they have in their lives to try to get ideas on how to solve problems. The par-



Nick Janus

ents can only tell them what bothers them, not how to solve it.

Messinger expressed the importance of students figuring out what they want to fix and invent. "In real life you have to notice what is wrong," she said. "They start to understand that everything around them is an invention."

Children are given a guideline of \$25 or less to spend on their inventions and are encouraged to use recyclable materials.

There are volunteer judges, some even from companies such as Pratt & Whitney, who come to figure out whose invention is the most useful. Students are broken off into groups based on their grade and there are two judges per group. The kids present their inventions, one at a time, and the judges, as well as the student peers, ask questions. The children answer these questions as best they can, and when they are done, the judges have to decide. The judges get together, for each grade level, and decide who goes to the Connecticut Invention Convention. This year's convention was held at the University of Connecticut in the Gampel Pavilion.

"It is an incredibly hard process" for both students and judges, Messinger said.

That is why the school celebrates all the kids' inventions, regardless of whether they go to state or not.

"We celebrate at our event, because of the achievements....it's a remarkable achievement," just to make an invention, Messinger said.



Chris Wilson

Colchester Selectmen Send Ordinances to Town Meeting

by Bailey Seddon

The Board of Selectmen last Thursday reviewed several proposals and ordinances, and sent them to be voted on by residents at a town meeting next Wednesday, June 29.

The first of the ordinances that were proposed was the establishment of an Agricultural Commission. According to First Selectman Gregg Schuster, the purpose of an Agricultural Commission would be to "promote and preserve farming in Colchester." The commission would consist of five regular members and two alternate members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. If possible, members would be appointed because of their knowledge of agriculture and would serve as a means of information for the town.

The board proposed the installation of a rapid access system to allow fire and emergency personnel to promptly enter buildings with said access systems. The systems would be required in new or renovated, commercial and industrial buildings in the town of Colchester. Personnel with access to the systems would have a key to get into such buildings were an emergency to take place.

Another proposal that will be discussed and voted upon at the June 29 meeting is the pro-

posal to have a Building Committee, so that the William J. Johnston Middle School renovations project can move forward. The seven-member building committee will oversee the construction of a combined middle school and senior center at the site of the existing WJMS.

The board also sent to the town meeting an ordinance to regulate the installation, location and operation and maintenance of fire hydrants and alarm systems, devices and equipment in businesses and residences in the Town of Colchester.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in Town Hall.

Also at last Thursday's meeting, the selectmen approved the submission of an application of a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant, to advance the Pedestrian Access Plan and the Board of Education's "Safe routes to School" program. The STEAP grant will allow the town to construct sidewalks along short sections of Halls Hill and Chestnut Hill roads and reconstruct sidewalks along Norwich Avenue.

The town has previously received STEAP grants, for the last two fiscal years. One was for a Water and Sewer Master Plan, which is

almost done, and the other, which will go out to bid for construction next month, is a streetscape plan from Merchants Row to the Airline Trail along Lebanon Avenue.

The board also approved the contract between the Town of Colchester and the Nature Conservancy, regarding the Salmon River Watershed Partnership. In the past couple of years the town has participated in the Salmon River Watershed Partnership along with the Nature Conservancy and other towns in the watershed. The purpose of the partnership, according to the grant agreement, is to work together on certain projects "that will protect the health of the river system and support the long-term social and economic vitality of those communities."

The conservancy will use the funds provided by the town to develop long-term volunteer programming to monitor the water quality throughout the watershed, to develop and implement recommendations from the Municipal Land Use Policy Assessment and to conduct an outreach program to get partners and volunteers interested in carrying out the watershed plan.

Since the Watershed Partnership was first signed two years ago a total of \$196,700 has been raised, with Colchester's contribution and

money from federal grants and the Nature Conservancy. There have also been 65 land-use commission members, elected officials and staff from eight communities assembled to the Partnership to discuss the results of the policy evaluation.

The board approved a budget transfer to the general fund in form of \$45,379.10 the town received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The money was awarded to the town because of the cost to the town during the severe Jan. 11-12 snowstorm. The town had to pay for the removal of snow from school and town facilities, such as parking lots and roofs. The reimbursement was 75 percent of the cost to the town. The town is obligated to pay the other 25 percent, or \$15,126.37.

The board was hoping more money would be awarded by FEMA for other snowstorm costs from this winter, but FEMA guidelines state that the cost to the town had to have been from one 48-hour storm. Unfortunately for the town, the snow removal costs this winter stemmed from several storms, not just one storm, so the town did not get as much as was originally hoped.



Pictured at left, members of the senior class perform during Tuesday's ceremony. Pictured at right, Johnathon Adams shakes hands with Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein while receiving his diploma.

Colchester Class of 2011 Sent on its Way

by Bailey Seddon

"This has been Bacon's golden year," said Bacon Academy Class of 2011 salutatorian Michaela Belanger at the school's graduation Tuesday night.

Michaela's words kicked off a string of speeches Tuesday, which ranged from heartfelt to humorous. Michaela gave recognition to friends, parents, coaches and especially to her teachers at the school.

The teachers "have changed the way we think and the way we see the world," she said.

Hundreds of these relatives, friends and family and even members of the Bacon Class of 1961 were there to celebrate the achievements of the 242 Bacon seniors.

Julia Puscas, the Gilbert Lamb Essayist, told a touching story of her parents and the people in need they had taken into their home over the years. These people ranged from out-of-work single moms, to pregnant or alcoholic teenagers, to kids just looking to escape from troubled homes.

"Looking back, I never realized how much helping people in need" could affect her so much, Julia said.

The keynote speakers were none other than Bacon Academy's faculty, who gave the students advice and inspiration over the loud speaker. This was done through a pre-recording with a rendition of Sting's "Fields of Gold" playing in the background.

"Remember, when one of us suffers, we all suffer," said one teacher in the recording. "When one of us is happy, we are all happy."

Next, teachers murmured their approval when the senior class gift was presented, by the class officers. The gift was a new electronic message board to replace the existing one at the entrance to the school.

Valedictorian Melissa Zablonksi was the last of the student speakers. The start of her speech brought out many laughs from the audience.

"My biggest concern wasn't speaking in front of hundreds of people," she said. "It was whether or not I would be able to see over this podium!"

However, see over the podium she did, and delivered a speech of great depth and maturity to her graduating class.

"Figuring out who you are is a daunting task," Melissa said. But she encouraged her peers to strive to meet this daunting task. "You will shine and be left with more opportunities than you think."

Melissa touched on the enthusiasm the students felt over their achievements and how they are going to move on from Bacon Academy and into the adult world.

"Our excitement was not caused by winning, but how we won," she said. "Class of 2011, let's go shake the world!"

After the cheers from her classmates had died away, everyone stood to sing "Baconia We Hail Thee." The graduating Class of 1961 came for their 50th reunion to the graduation and was

on the field among parents and relatives. They stood proudly with everyone to sing the school song.

Next, Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein and Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle had a few words of wisdom to pass on to the class of 2011.

"What time-tested truism can I share with you?" Goldstein asked. "I decided I wanted to give you a lesson from you."

Goldstein told the story of a Sunday morning when he kept hitting the snooze button on his alarm clock. As good as it felt, he said, he urged students not to do the same. He made reference to the U.S., how standing by while terrorism expanded and the national deficit grew was a mistake.

"You will not ignore the calls to action," Goldstein said. "You have refused to accept second best...you achieved excellence."

"You have inspired your peers, teachers and superintendent," Loiselle said.

Loiselle started off her speech with a story of being on a river, among the crazy currents. She noted how the water was affected by the vessel she was in, the ripples going out, away from her and toward the shore. This led to a comparison of the students' accomplishments to a rippling effect in a pond. She told them to not just go out into the world but to impact it the way a pebble thrown into a lake would.

"Inspiring others is like throwing a rock into the lake and watching the ripples go out," she said. "Create a splash, and when it really, really matters, make waves."

The class song was played immediately before the diplomas were handed out. The words in the song, "100 Years" by Five for Fighting, probably resonated with many of the students.

"There's never a wish better than this, when you only got a hundred years to live," the song played.

After diplomas were delivered, members of the Class of 2011 threw their hats into the air and rushed over to meet their friends and family.

"It feels really good," said Stephanie Cruz, when asked how it felt to have graduated. "I am not nauseous anymore!"

"A relief," said Miles Putnam.

"It's not real yet," said Alexandra Merkourioa. "Give it a few weeks."

"It feels awesome," said Mike Dawson, "It's a very bittersweet feeling. I can't believe that I'm never going to see some of the people I saw everyday."

"Crazy, I think that is the only word that can fit it completely," said Kelly Gatesman.

The students were not the only smiling faces once the ceremony was over. Goldstein was also amazed, but proud, at the end of the ceremony.

"It's incredible...they really have made some amazing accomplishments...the culture that shifted with this class was unbelievable," he said.

The members of the Bacon Academy Class of 2011 are:

Johnathan M. Adams*, Gary Duane Ahlberg Jr., Chelsea Victoria Ahmed, Devon M. Alicata, Erika Nicole Alicea, Kellie Ann Allen, Alexandra Leigh Anfuso*, Alyssa Lynn Apelquist, Kevin Antonio Armagno*, Alyssa Nicole Armstrong, Sienna Brooke Avery, Jacqueline Elizabeth Barr*, Alexxis Lauren Barrios, Amaris M. Barsaleau, William H. Bartol, Michaela Renee Belanger*, Kyle Bentley, Taylor Berman, Manan G. Bhatt, Erica L. Bibee, Autumn Marie Biederstadt, Robert Blaisdell, Eric Kenneth Blandina, Jared Carl Bloomquist*, Christopher Martin Bogue, Rachael Dawn Boves, Rosemary Elna Bosse, Conor Vincent Breen, Sarah Lynn Brown, Bryan Andrew Burtis*, Zachary Daniel Bussiere*, Samantha Rumley Byrne*, Timothy H. Cameron, Alleta M. Carey, Brendan Thomas Carey*, Hunter Reed Carlson, Tyler P. Casey, Sierra Alyssa Cassone, Nicholas Cellini, Ka Chun Chan, Catherine Clark, Steven Lawrence Clark, Ryan Clauss*, Jared Turner Coffin, Megan M. Cole, Devon Laura Coletta*, John Coloccio, Zachary Paul Cormier, Jamie Jocelyn Correia, Tilor James Correll, Robert Ernest Cotton, Devin Christopher Covone, Jessica A. Creaturo, Jerlyn Robin Crowley, Joshua Duncan Cruickshank*, Stephania Lizzette Cruz, Brennden Cullen, Brian Richard Currie;

Melina Danahy, Michelle Lynn Dander*, Ciara Ashley Dasovic, Michael David Dawson, Anthony DiCioccio, Allison Dimberg, Kelly Grace Dixon*, Veronica Erica Doden, Nicholas David Dodge, Patrick Martin Dooley, Christine Elizabeth Drube, Ashli Duddie, Chelsea Durante, Summer Lily Egan, Kyle Thomas Elmy*, Taylor Faye Emery, Danielle Marie Fahy, Megan Catherine Fancher, Lauren M. Farrell, Brittany Fedus, Chelsey Wynn Ferro*, Julia Grace Fischer, Dylan Fitzgerald, Ryan David Fogarty, Stephen M. Fontana, Cody J. Francis, Taylor Lynn Frink, Alysha Gabree, Janelle Marie Gagnon*, Joseph M. Gardner, Kelly Elizabeth Gatesman, Corey James O'Regan Geisman*, Sara Ann Gernhard, Kathleen Mary Gilligan, Natalie Gioscio, Rachel Gosselin, Brenden William Gottlieb, Brianna Graff, Rachel Jane Graham, Russell Griffin, David Leo Gunas III, Briana Elis Habicht, Mary Elizabeth Hackbarth*, Kelsey Jade Hall, Thomas Everett Hanson*, Rachel M. Harlow, Parker Heckathorn, Matthew Louis Hemm*, David James Hennig, Kaylene Nicole Hersey*, Shane Holman, Brandon Alan Holroyd II, Chelsea Ellen Hope, Benjamin Roy Ivers*, Alexandra Elizabeth Jennes, Cooper Avery Johnson, DeVon Christopher Jones, Cailyn Elizabeth Josephs;

Jeffrey Ryan Kelly*, Mariah Lea Klein, Justin Andrew Kmetz, Dylan Robert Joseph Kniska, Austin Frederick Konon, Nicholas Matthew Koss, Artur Kowal, Gregory Krach, Hillary Sara Kranc*, Ashley

Diane Lawrence, Steven Ryan Lima, Zachary Payne Lincoln, Joseph Michael Lindsey*, Rachel Rose Linsky, Justin Andrew Litwin*, Ashley Marie Lockwood, Samuel Talcott Lounsbury, Sharifa Fatima Lowen, Allison Elizabeth Lund, Paul Martin Lynch, Duncan Scott MacKinnon, Katherine Shea Mahoney*, Peter Martin Malicki, Dorothy E. Martinez, Jazmyn Michelle Matos, Chase Austin Maxwell, Sean Patrick McAllister, Alyssa Louise McCall*, Jillian Shea McDermott, Kevin Michael McGrath, Erin Elizabeth McKenna, Ryan Edward McLaughlin, Emily Catherine McNally, Paige Shannon McNichols, Alexandra Merkouriou, Joseph Mielczarek, Mateusz Mikunda, Erica Lynn Montalvo, Daniel Alexander Morano, Chelsea Ann Morris, Lauren Whitney Napier, Marissa Napoletano, Michelle M. Neri Lorette, Lauren Marie Nicholas*, James William Nickerson*, Aren Daniel Norman, Jessica Rose Norris, Chelsea E. O'Leary, Adam Oliver Olczyk, Jonathan Raymond Palafox, Cameron Lynn Panagrosso, Tyler Patrick Parmelee, Rebecca Lynn Pendexter, Ryan Daniel Pennington*, Robinson R. Perez, Rubén Marti Pérez, Patrick Joseph Petro, Hannah Juliette Pettit, Jonathan P. Pikelis, Amy Elizabeth Pinto, Philip Ryan Powers, Julia May Puscas*, Miles Anthony Putnam, Michael John Putty;

Nathan John Raczewski, Nicole Raulukaitis, Nicholas William Reid, Chantalle Elise Rioux, Frank S. Robbins, Madeleine Ella Robinson*, Joseph M. Roccapriore, Tyler Rodriguez, Chad Michael Roggero, Carolyn Michelle Romano, Joel Richard Pe Rosiene, Cayla Marie Ruiz, Dylan Patrick Ruzzo, Richard Frank Sablitz III, Vanessa Arianna Salzarulo, Jason David Sattler, Allison Lindsey Schneller*, Deanna Sharon Scolsky, Jason Alexander Sedgwick, Evan James Sheehan, Corey John Silveira, Stephen Edward Simmons, John Carl Simonelli, Kira Marie Smelser, Jordan Daniel Smigiel, Christopher David McAllister Soares, Jacqueline M. Sosnoski, Brittany Rose Spalla, Anne Margaret Sposato, Marissa Anne Stanton*, Kathleen Elise Stirlen, Sarah Ashley Straker, Benjamin Trevor Stratton, Joseph Paul Strycharz, Kristine Caroline Sturgis*, Christopher James Sullivan, Matthew Scott Szymanski, Pooja Thaker, Riddhi Ketankumar Thaker*, Oliver Henry Therrien, Heather Addy Tirrell, Holly Ann Tirrell, Tori Alexis Tischofer, Ivonne Torres, Christian John Trantalis, Emily Mae Useforge, Jocelyn Marie Vincent, Ashley Victoria Wall, Richard Derek Wdowiak, Elizabeth Weinick*, Ryan Joseph West, Joshua Neal Wetmore, Sierra Elizabeth Wilder, Nicole Ashley Wildowsky, Logan E. Withee, Kelsey Wojcik, Brandon Wood, Briana Mae Woodin, Rebekah H. Worley*, Connor Wotus, Hayden Young*, Laura E. Young, Melissa Ann Zablonksi and Karolina Zygmunt.

* denotes member of the National Honor Society

Selectmen, BOE Look at Possible Repairs at Town Schools in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

Members of the Board of Selectmen met with members of the Board of Education and the School Facilities Study Committee Wednesday night to review a report on possible repairs at several Portland schools.

The report, which began in September 2010 and was completed earlier this month, recommended that the town stay at status quo for the short-term, but much of the discussion centered around future plans to make much-needed renovations, particularly at Valley View School.

"Some of those classrooms are well past their expected lifespan," said Board of Education member Ben Srb. The classrooms in question at Valley View, which holds kindergarten to second grade, are modular classrooms that were attached to the school in 1988. The modular buildings were expected to last for five years, but are still in use.

According to Paul Bengston, director of buildings and grounds for Portland Schools, the modular classrooms are still "structurally sound," but a problem with the gutters is causing water to leak into the walls, which he believes could cause a serious "mold issue."

A few ideas were discussed, including replacing the modular classrooms altogether or taking out the modular classrooms and moving second grade students to the Gildersleeve

School, which currently holds third and fourth grade.

School Facilities Study Committee member Stephanie Tatro gave estimates on how much replacing the modular classrooms would cost; including projected inflation, Tatro said the "most costly" plan would be roughly \$8.3 million and the "least costly," based on reimbursement from the state, would be roughly \$3.7 million. Tatro said the estimates included improvements to Brownstone Intermediate School, which the committee recommended remain open.

"Some savings could be realized if it closed," Committee Chairwoman Sharon Peters said of Brownstone, "but those savings would be outweighed by the cost of adding additional space [at other schools] in the future."

The cost of repairing the roofs and gutters of the modular classrooms was also discussed. Tatro estimated that replacing the roof would be roughly \$50,000, while Bengston said that the gutter repairs would be about \$18,000.

But Srb, who believes that moving second grade to Gildersleeve is the best option, rebuffed any idea of repairs to the modular classrooms.

"Soon reality will set in, and we'll realize we can't just keep throwing money at [the modular classrooms]," Srb said. "Gildersleeve

has the room."

But according to Bengston, one of the issues Gildersleeve faces is the lack of storage space. The building does not have a basement and he said the school was cited in the past for not having adequate space for students.

Much of the conversation on moving students to other schools centered on the educational impact it would have on the students, but also touched on projected enrollment and core space in the future. Frank Magnotta, the committee member that worked on enrollment projections, said that the number of students is projected to decline, but warned that projections are "extremely unreliable" if taken beyond a few years.

"It's a dangerous approach to close a school or move students based on projections beyond four or five years," Magnotta said. Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen reiterated the point, stating that enrollment has remained "fairly constant" at about 1,400 students for the district.

Board of Education Chairman Chris Phelps looked at the issue from a parent standpoint, asking if the educational needs of the students are met by making any of these decisions. Phelps, along with several others in attendance, recommended consulting outside help to analyze the town's situation.

"We need to find out if moving students is educationally a good idea," Phelps said. "We are all amateurs when it comes to a decision like this. We need to bring in somebody ready to make a plan."

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said that any additional repairs or outside consultation had not been factored into the 2011-12 budget beginning on July 1, but agreed that the board should look into the idea for the 2012-13 budget. For the time being, Board of Selectmen member Mark Finkelstein tried to put the situation into perspective.

"Our priority has to be what is best for the children," said Finkelstein, who also asked Doyen to work with any consultation to come up with "what is best?" "Portland is a town that has always supported education."

The Board of Selectmen took no action on Wednesday, but an additional meeting is expected to take place in August after the report is studied more thoroughly.

* * *

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Public Library. The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 5 at 7 p.m. at the Portland High School library.

Settlement Reached on Dog Kennel Proposal in Andover

by Courtney Parent

A new dog kennel and dog daycare facility is headed to town, as the Planning and Zoning Commission and resident Scott Beebe have agreed to a settlement.

"Gone Two the Dogz," a dog kennel and doggy daycare facility, which was originally proposed by Beebe back in 2009, has finally been approved. The facility will be located on a 10-acre piece of property off Route 6, on the north side of Hutchinson Rd., owned by Ellen Post.

According to documents on file at the Superior Court Judicial District of Tolland, the original application for the dog kennel was filed on Oct. 26, 2009, with public hearings being heard by the commission on Dec. 21, 2009, Jan. 19 2010, and March 15, 2010.

After the March 15 hearing, the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) voted to deny Beebe's Special Permit application. According to the March 15 meeting minutes, the proposal was denied "without prejudice" in a 3-2 vote, with board members Erich Siismets, Robert Russell and Leigh Ann Hutchinson voting in favor of the denial and member Susan England and Chairwoman Jeanne Gagnon voting against it.

Beebe filed an appeal against the decision on April 5, 2010.

In denying the application, the commission gave no reason for its decision, said the appeal. The appeal also stated that in denying the application the commission exceeded its statutory authority and powers, improperly interpreted its regulations, and failed to approve the application even though it conformed to the commission's regulations.

A settlement was reached last month, allowing Beebe to construct the facility. However, there are several stipulations listed in the settlement agreement.

The stipulations include: that outdoor training or activities start no earlier than 7 a.m. and go no later than 8 p.m.; that no more than 70 dogs be allowed on site at any time and no more than 50 dogs be allowed outside the building at any time; that a six-foot high wooden stockade-style fence be installed to reduce noise; and that a berm be installed and maintained.

The commission also made recommendations that a dry hydrant be installed at the pond on the property for fire protection and that the Board of Selectmen request that the state Department of Transportation conduct a traffic study to determine whether a traffic signal is necessary.

The kennel will also be under surveillance at all times with web cameras being linked to

Beebe's residence or another designated manager during the overnight hours.

While Post noted that it will still take a significant amount of time to complete the facility, (between the legal logistics and actual construction) she said she is pleased to see the process moving forward.

Zoning Enforcement Official John Valente did not return multiple calls for comment for this story. However, in 2010, Valente told the *River east* the location of the proposed kennel and daycare was of particular concern to Planning and Zoning Commission members when the application was originally denied.

The article pointed out that the property is located at the end of Hutchinson Road, which is a cul-de-sac. The street runs parallel to Route 6 and was connected to the busy road at one point. Since that time, the road was discontinued and the cul-de-sac was created.

In the article, Valente said that while the disconnected portion of the road is now closed to the public, there has been evidence of tire tracks. Valente added that individuals who are familiar with the area may be tempted to use the disconnected portion of the road as a short cut. Valente also noted that there was concern among board members over patrons' safety if

residents did utilize the shortcut.

PZC Chairwoman Jeanne Gagnon said she did not feel comfortable speaking on the issue. No other PZC members returned phone calls for comment.

Post said she had no timetable for when construction on the kennel and doggy day care would open. However, she said, the new business will not only be beneficial to dog owners, but also aid in Andover's business dilemma. Post said that since the business would be located on Route 6, it would be very convenient as the signs would be easily seen by passing drivers.

"It will give people a place to take their dogs without having to travel all over," said Post. "It would also employ a few people."

In regards to the business dilemma, Post said that when she moved to Andover in 1973 from next-door-neighbor Hebron, there were only a few businesses in town and "it's gotten to be less every year." She credited this decrease in business to a prolonged and exhausting approval process by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

"It seemed like they were going to take forever," said Post. "A lot of businesses just give up and go elsewhere."

East Hampton

Police News

5/31: Three East Hampton juveniles were issued summonses for third-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

6/11: Crystal Rose Watson, 30, and Michael Maurice O'Brien, 29, of 27 Renee Ln., Enfield, were both arrested for sixth-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit sixth-degree larceny, police said.

6/11: Ami L. Overton, 40, of 798 Glastonbury Tpke., Portland, was arrested for speeding, failure to drive right and DUI, police said.

6/15: Sarah J. Stannard, 22, of 27 Mallard Cove, was arrested for failure to respond to a violation, police said.

6/15: Sheryl Adams, 48, of 14 Royal Oaks Ave., and Joshua Simmons-Telep, 18, of 30 Walnut Ave., were involved in a motor vehicle collision on Main Street, police said. Adams was arrested for DUI, evading responsibility and following too close, police said.

Hebron Police News

6/17: Gregory G Stevens, 26, of 8 Silver St., Middletown, uprooted 16 feet of guardrail when he lost control of his 1997 BMW while traveling south on Jones Street. He was charged with failure to drive right, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

6/14: Michael Tancredi, 35, of 35 David Dr., was arrested for criminal violation of a restraining order State Police said.

6/14: Peter E. Kevorkian, 26, 95 Wall St., was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

6/15: Christopher E. Deroehn, 20, of 193 McCall Rd., Lebanon, was arrested for DUI, evading and improper right turn, State Police said.

6/15: Two 17-year-old juveniles and one 16-year-old juvenile were each charged with fourth-degree criminal mischief and simple trespassing, State Police said.

6/16: Gary Ahlberg, 18, of 28 Jurach Rd., was charged with failure to grant right of way, State Police said.

6/17: Edward Marrero, 19, of 5 Lincoln Meadows Dr., Lincoln, RI, was taken to the Marlborough Clinic for minor back and neck pain when his car hit metal rails a then a tree

on Route 2 west, near exit 16. He was charged with traveling too fast for conditions, State Police said.

6/17: Rhonda Tallman, 50, of 733 Norwich Ave., was charged with second-degree breach of peace and violating a protective order, State Police said.

6/17: Curtis Slayton, 37, of 47 Sumner St., Hartford, was charged with operating a motor vehicle under suspension and failure to have lights lit and devises illuminated, State Police said.

6/18: Nancy Chanthasone, 27, of 85 Neanda St., New Britain, was charged with DUI and improper parking, State Police said.

6/18: Paul D. Szymaszek, 25, of 125 South St., Vernon, was charged with speeding and driving while intoxicating, State Police said.

6/18: A 15-year-old juvenile was charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle (a dirt bike), State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

6/19: Daniel P. Finigan, 21, of 11 Anja Dr., Simsbury, was charged with DUI, failure to drive in proper lane and failure to carry a registration and insurance certificate, State Police said.

Portland Police News

6/13: David Smith, 21, of 7 Freestone Ave., was charged with misuse of plate, unregistered motor vehicle, failure to display plates and operating a motor vehicle without a license, Portland Police said.

6/14: Jesse Howard, 18, of 15 Chatham Ct., was charged with second-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit second-degree larceny, police said.

6/16: A 16-year-old male was arrested for sixth-degree larceny and simple trespass, police said.

6/16: A 15-year-old male was arrested for sixth-degree larceny and simple trespass, police said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Richard Hitchcock

Richard Davis Hitchcock, 84, of East Hampton, widower of the late Beth (Silliman) Hitchcock, died Tuesday, June 21, at Cobalt Lodge. Born Jan. 18, 1927, in East Hampton, he was the son of the late J. Davis and Gladys (Nelson) Hitchcock and had resided in East Hampton his entire life.

Before his retirement in 1987, he was chief draftsman for HELCO and later an electric distribution budget analyst for CL&P for 38 years. He was a former member of the Mt. Washington Observatory, Appalachian Mountain Club, Sierra Club and Randolph, NH Mt. Club. He was an avid hiker and camper.

He was a former member of the Association of Retired Employees of Northeast Utilities, past Commander of Treadway Cavanaugh Post No. 64 American Legion in East Hampton, a member of the Anchor Lodge 112 AF& AM and a member of the East Hampton Congregational Church for over 56 years. He served aboard the U.S. Portsmouth in the Navy during WWII.

He is survived by his son, David A. Hitchcock of West Hartford and his fiancé Miriam Hyman; a daughter, Lynn H. Smith and her husband Kelly of Moodus, formerly of Colchester; granddaughters Emily Coelho, Hilary Smith, Aleta Naujunas and Keira Thompson.

Funeral services will be held Monday, June 27, at 10:30 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating.

Burial will follow in Rose Hill Cemetery in Rocky Hill. Friends may call at the funeral home Monday morning from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Masonicare, PO Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492.

The family would like to thank the staff at Cobalt Lodge for their kindness and loving care.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Janine Dawnorowitz

Janine Dawnorowitz, 76, wife of the late Henry F. Dawnorowitz of Colchester, passed away Friday, June 17, at Hartford Hospital. She was born on April 18, 1935, in Van Buren, ME, daughter of the late Leon and Leona Theriault Dumais.

Janine was a wonderful, loving and caring lady. She was always there for people in need and she was well known for her baking cakes for any occasion. She loved gardening, and was always caring for stray animals. Janine was a member of the National Republican Committee and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

Surviving are her son, Darren Dawnorowitz of Clayton, DE; her daughter, Debra and her husband Ben of Lyme, NH; three sisters, Cecile White of Bangor, ME, Genie Pelletier of Nashua, NH, and Rita Westman of Van Buren, MR; her special granddaughter, Susan Barna and niece Carla La Pierre and other numerous nieces, nephews plus her special cat Pixx.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Gail, and four sisters and three brothers.

Funeral service was held Thursday, June 23, at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester. Burial took place at St. Joseph Cemetery. Visitation was one hour prior to her service.

Memorial donations may be made to the Colchester Senior Center or to a charity of one's choice.

East Hampton

Nelson Purple

Nelson "Coop" Purple, 96, of East Hampton, passed away Thursday, May 12. He was born July 15, 1914 in Middletown, to the late Eleanor and Arnold Purple.

Nelson was a longtime resident of East Hampton and a member of the Congregational Church of East Hampton. A graduate of Middletown High School and Connecticut State College (now known as the University of Connecticut), Nelson also served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Prior to his retirement, he was the Superintendent of Maintenance for the East Hampton school system. Coop enjoyed hunting, fishing and loved animals. He owned several horses and bred English Springer Spaniels as a hobby. Coop also enjoyed spending time in Vermont and Florida with his wife Louise.

Nelson was predeceased by his wife, Louise Purple, and sisters, Mary Newhall and Eleanor Tolhurst.

He is survived by his two sons and their wives, David and Krystyna Purple of East Hampton and John and Linda Purple of Portland. He also leaves six grandchildren; Rebecca Purple, Emily Asklar and husband Jamie Asklar, Lauren Purple, Bryan Harris, Elizabeth Kirej and Christine Kirej; three great-grandsons, Joshua Kirej, Jaden Asklar and Beckett Asklar as well as several nieces and nephews.

A very special thank you to all of the employees of the Portland Care & Rehabilitation Center who lovingly cared for Coop during the past three years.

The family will receive relatives and friends from 10-11 a.m. today, June 24, at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. A memorial service will be held at the funeral home immediately following the calling hour. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Congregational Church of East Hampton or the charity of your choice.

Colchester

Paul Palmer

Paul Palmer, 60, of Hooksett, NH, originally from Colchester, passed away peacefully Wednesday, June 15, at Community Hospice House after a short but courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by loving family. Born May 30, 1951 in Hartford, to George and Catherine (Fields) Palmer, he was raised in Colchester with his family and friends.

Seventeen years ago, he moved to New Hampshire with his wife Mary and his two sons. Paul was employed by the Hooksett School District since 2004 where he worked closely with not only friends but also his wife.

Paul was a avid NASCAR fan, loved the outdoors, loved cooking for the family, always spoke of opening a breakfast and lunch restaurant (if he hit the lottery), loved his family and friends and especially his grandchildren, he was a very proud grandpa.

In addition to his mother Catherine (Fields) Palmer, he is survived by his wife, Mary (Cavanaugh) Palmer; his children, daughter Kimberly (Palmer) Burr of Bozrah, son Shawn Palmer of Hooksett, NH, and son Richard Palmer of Hooksett, NH; his brothers, Roger Palmer of Colchester and George Palmer of Quaker Hill; his grandchildren, Maize, Gavin, Koen and Aubrieh; and many family and friends.

Paul was predeceased by brother Richard (Dickie); sister Sandra; brother Thomas; nephews Gary and Thomas Jr.

A memorial service is going to be held to celebrate his life Saturday, June 25, at 7 p.m., at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church St., Hebron.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Community Hospice House, 210 Naticook Rd., Merrimack, NH 03054 or The Richard Palmer Education Fund, c/o Kimberly Burr, 62 Hough Rd. Bozrah, CT 06334.

Our family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of Community Hospice House for the care and comfort that we received as a family for the short stay during this hard time. It takes special people to do that job and God bless all of you!

Hebron

Muriel Ann Klemola

Muriel Ann (Mimi) Klemola, 72, of the Elliot section of Pomfret, died Saturday at the Matulaitis Nursing Home. She was the widow of Allan M. Klemola who died in 1992. She was born Dec. 18, 1938, in Hartford, daughter of the late Norton and Viola (Dingwell) Warner and grew up in Gilead.



She and Allan had made her home in Pomfret since 1958, and she had worked as a cook at the Pomfret Community School for over 15 years. Mimi was a member of the Abington Congregational Church, where she was a Sunday School superintendent and a teacher, and a member of its Women's Guild. She was a lifelong member of the Wolf Den Grange, and received their Golden Sheaf Award for 50 years of membership. Mimi was a cat lover, enjoyed puzzles, and trips to Cape Cod. In her youth she was a member of an accordion band and was a Rainbow Girl. She was active with the Girl Scout Troop 5133 in Pomfret, serving as a leader for several years.

Mimi leaves her son, Richard and his wife Cindy (Knight) Klemola of Pomfret Center; her daughter Kimberly Mele and her husband Vincent of Torrington; two brothers, Charles Warner of Stuart, FL, and Robert Warner of Gilead; three grandsons, James and Jeffery Mele and Andrew Klemola; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a sister Carol Houghton, late of Andover.

Calling hours are today, June 24, from 4-6 p.m., at the Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove St., Putnam. The funeral service will be this Saturday, June 25, at 11 a.m., at the Abington Congregational Church, 542 Hampton Rd., Abington section of Pomfret, with burial to follow at the Abington Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Wolf Den Grange, 772 Hampton Road or the Pomfret Ambulance Service, 67 Hampton Road, both in Pomfret Center, CT 06259.

To share a memory with her family, "Light a Candle" at smithandwalkerfh.com.

Hebron

Joseph E. Fracchia Jr.

Joseph E. Fracchia Jr., 83, of Manchester and formerly of Bolton and Hebron, husband of the late Thelma (Pesce) Fracchia and life partner of Jean A. Wright of Manchester, died unexpectedly Friday, June 17, after a brief illness.

He was born May 10, 1928, in Hebron, son of the late Joseph and Theresa (Gambolati) Fracchia Sr., he moved to Bolton in 1952 and had been a resident of Manchester since 2003. Mr. Fracchia was a truck driver for many years with the former Case Brothers Paper Mill and retired in 1988 as a mechanic with Cellu-Tissue. He attended St. James Church in Manchester, he was an avid Red Sox fan, UConn women's basketball fan and was an antique car enthusiast.

In addition to Jean, he is survived by his sister, Eleanor R. Fracchia of Hebron, numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and his beloved dog "Henri."

Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 21, with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at St. James Church, 896 Main St., Manchester. Burial was in St. James Cemetery. Calling hours were held Monday at the Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester.

Memorial donations may be made to the Humane Society of Connecticut, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT. 06111.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

“Farewell the neighing steed and the shrill trump,
The spirit-stirring drum, the ear-piercing fife,
The royal banner, and all quality,
Pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war!”

The above passage is from Shakespeare’s *Othello*. Why did I include that? Well, it’s the passage from which the march “Pomp and Circumstance” derived its name – and that’s a march that’s been heard a lot in the *Rivereast* towns the past week.

When the glut of snow days earlier this year conspired to reshape the school calendar, it meant that all four high schools we cover – Portland High School, East Hampton High School, Bacon Academy and RHAM – would have their graduation ceremonies fall in the span of one *Rivereast* week. East Hampton saw its Class of 2011 graduate last Friday, while the other three had theirs occur on Monday and Tuesday of this week. As a result, this week’s issue contains four different graduation stories – certainly a rarity for the *Rivereast*.

As a reporter, I always looked forward to covering high school graduations – something that set me apart from some other reporters, who found the ceremonies so similar and, well, boring, and can’t wait to pawn them off on interns whenever possible. But I always found them optimistic. A bunch of 17- and 18-year-olds are gathered together, ready to embark on the future, not knowing for sure where it will take them, but confident it will be a positive, and fun, ride.

Hope is a nice thing to have, but it’s also a nice thing to see others have, and that’s what high school graduations are primarily about. Yes, there’s a good deal of reminiscing – particularly in the students’ speeches – but it’s mostly about closing the door on one chapter of life, and opening the door on another, longer chapter. Country star Brad Paisley once sang of high school life, “Have no fear, these are nowhere near the best years of your life” – and these graduates are eager to prove him right.

So yeah, I enjoyed covering graduations – particularly if it were an outdoor ceremony. Getting paid to sit outside on a warm summer evening, surrounded by happy students and proud parents...well, that’s pretty great.

Congratulations, to all the graduates, and go out there and have great lives.

* * *

By the way, you may be wondering: how in the world does a song played at high school and college graduations get its name from an *Othello* line dealing with “glorious war”? Because it wasn’t designed for graduations at all. Sir Edward Elgar composed it in 1901, and it was used for the coronation of King Edward VII. American performances of the piece began in 1902, but it wasn’t associated with graduations until 1905.

In 1905, Elgar received an honorary doc-

torate at Yale University, and the song was played as a recessional. It must’ve made quite an impression, because in 1907 Princeton started using it, followed the next year by the University of Chicago, then Columbia in 1913 ... and gradually, it just overtook the country. In fact, I imagine you’d be hard-pressed to find a high school or college that *isn’t* using it in their commencement ceremonies.

* * *

There was some truly bizarre news out of Hartford late last week. According to the *Hartford Courant*, at around 1 a.m. Saturday, June 18, a woman named Blessing Smith approached a man of Middle Eastern descent on Main Street and began pelting him with eggs, yelling at him to “go back to your own country.”

Police responding to the scene later located Smith and an empty egg container. Police told the *Courant* it was unclear why the woman was carrying eggs in the first place.

Smith was arrested on breach of peace and hate crime-related charges.

* * *

It happened again. I was casually checking my e-mail earlier this week on Yahoo! when I noticed one of the top 10 “trending topics” of the day, and my mind was sufficiently boggled. The topic in question was “Fried Kool-Aid.” Yes, you read that right: *fried* Kool-Aid.

After I recovered from my double-take, I had to see what that was all about. And apparently, much like fried Oreos or fried Twinkies, it’s the next big deep-fried treat at county fairs.

The item was unveiled recently at the San Diego County Fair. Charlie Boghosian of “Chicken Charlie’s,” which provides fried delicacies at fairs across the country, created the treat, and he estimated between 400 and 600 batches were sold the first weekend of the fair. “That’s because it tastes so darn good,” Boghosian told the *San Diego Union Tribune*.

Perhaps simplicity is the secret to its success. The novelty consists of just Kool-Aid powder and flour, fried up in a little doughnut hole-shaped ball.

“It starts off tart and tangy, and then finishes really sweet,” Seth Baldwin of Vista, CA, told the *Tribune*. “I love this stuff.”

I’m always game to try a new food adventure, so if fried Kool-Aid pops up when the county fairs return to the area this fall, I’ll give it a shot. Truth be told, though, I’m more interested in some of the other fried Chicken Charlie’s creations the *Tribune* mentions, such as deep-fried Pop-Tarts and even deep-fried Klondike bars.

Okay, now that I’ve likely grossed most of you out – although I bet at least some of you are intrigued – I think I’ll call it a day.

* * *

See you next week.