

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 37, Number 3

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

April 27, 2012



A.J. Pollock, a 2006 graduate of RHAM High School, made his Major League Baseball debut last week for the Arizona Diamondbacks, who selected him in the first round of the 2009 MLB Draft. Pollock, a centerfielder, has played in eight games this season and recorded his first career hit April 23, an eighth-inning single off pitcher Jose Contreras in a 9-5 win over Philadelphia.

Pollock Playing In the Big Leagues

by Geeta Schrayter

On Wednesday, Hebron residents Karen and Al Pollock were tired, but proud. The two had just returned home from a sudden trip to Phoenix, AZ, to see their son A.J. Pollock, who last week was called up to the big leagues.

Karen said when A.J., who was the Arizona Diamondbacks' first-round draft pick in 2009, first called home last Tuesday to share the news of his big league call-up, he made his mom believe his Triple-A team had benched him.

"He called us, I think around 10 o'clock right before his Triple-A team [the Reno Aces] was ready to start and he said, 'Mom, I got scratched from the lineup,'" shared Karen. "So my first thought was, I was a little shocked because he's been playing all along, and I said 'well, maybe they just feel you need to rest a bit.'"

But then, Karen continued, "he goes, 'No, Mom, I'm going to Phoenix.' And that's when I started to scream."

Karen said that, at first, it was thought Pollock wouldn't play for a while so they'd have time to make it down, but he called a few hours later to let them know he'd be in the starting lineup the next day – Wednesday, April 18 – so she and her husband started scrambling for an early enough flight.

"We were changing it on the way to the airport so we could be there when he walked onto the field," she said, "so it was incredibly exciting."

And although Karen and Al arrived in Phoenix just 40 minutes before the start of the game, they made it.

"We went directly from the airport to Chase Field; luckily, they're pretty close," Karen said.

"The first thing when we went in there was to see his name on the JumboTron. So even before we saw A.J. that was just like – it was surreal. It was just amazing. I can't even describe it," Karen gushed.

Al felt similarly, saying he and Karen were able to watch six games while in Phoenix and "that was awesome."

He added while it was hoped A.J. would get the call for the big leagues sometime this year, they never expected it to happen quite so soon.

"We were expecting it was very likely not to happen until they expand the rosters September 1," he said, adding he "couldn't even describe" the experience.

But to some regard, A.J.'s parents were "sort of prepared," since the 2006 RHAM High School graduate "just keeps on progressing," Al said.

"So maybe a few years ago it was more of an 'if' and now it became much more of a 'when,'" he said.

After being drafted by the Diamondbacks in 2009 – the 17th pick in the first round – A.J. signed a contract almost immediately so he could begin playing for the Diamondbacks' A-ball team, the South Bend Silver Hawks. Since the draft took place in June, Pollock played for the rest of the season, then went to the instructional league in the fall, which "is pretty typical for first-year minor league players" explained his father.

Additionally, A.J. squeezed in four classes at Notre Dame since he wanted to graduate and earn his degree in sociology and computer applications. To date, he has one semester

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Upcoming Convoy to Support Salem Family

by Katelyn Kelleher

A fleet of vehicles will travel from Colchester to Waterford Sunday to raise funds for a Salem family whose son was killed April 10.

Truck Toyz of Colchester will hold "Convoy for a Cause," a procession of vehicles from Colchester to Waterford benefiting the Bourgeois family, whose 6-year-old son Jeffrey was killed two weeks ago when he was pulled into a wood chipper while helping his father with yard work at a home in Salem.

The convoy will begin Sunday at 10 a.m. at Truck Toyz, 367 Lebanon Ave., and will end at Harkness State Park in Waterford where hot dogs, chips and beverages will be served.

Participating cars, trucks and motorcycles will be tagged with red ribbons.

Truck Toyz's Cassandra Marvin said this is the company's third convoy, and she expects it to be the largest by far.

Each convoy has been a different route with a different destination but have always started at Truck Toyz, Marvin said. She said about 20 vehicles have participated in the previous convoys.

Truck Toyz owner Richard Villar said the response they are getting for Sunday's event is incredible. "There's a fire truck involved, 18-wheelers involved," he said. "We'll have well over 100 vehicles."

Marvin said Truck Toyz had to get the word out quickly for the event.

"Usually it takes a couple months [to put together the convoy]," she said. "This is obviously very last minute but we did it."

This event is expected to be "extremely larger than normal," Marvin said, thanks to Facebook and word of mouth spreading news of the event. She said even people from Rhode Island and Massachusetts will be in attendance.

"[Villar] has one of his own very large vehicles, customers that come in and have work done [on their vehicles will be participating in the event]," she said.

Villar said the Bourgeois family was clearly a worthy cause for one of their fundraisers.

"They've been getting a lot of food donations, and they'll never be able to eat all the food, so doing this I think would raise money that they need," he said, and added, "It's a dev-

astating accident. I wouldn't wish that on anybody."

Marvin said Truck Toyz has already received some donations for the family, but most will be collected at the event. "Some people have even come to pick up the ribbon for their truck already," she said.

Villar said Truck Toyz employees thought of the idea to hold convoys as fundraisers last year. The first event they held raised \$1,000 for the Epilepsy Foundation, in honor of Villar's youngest child, who is epileptic.

"This is our third official one. We also had one for a friend of ours. We're hoping that this one's going to be large," Villar said.

Local police will help with the event, and Villar said they might hire a couple of off-duty officers to help guide the vehicles. "We're one signature away from having a police escort for the whole thing," he said.

Villar said he has reached out to the state to try to waive the \$6 parking fee at Harkness State Park at the end of the convoy but has not heard anything back yet. "It's just that much less money to hand over for the family," he said.

In addition to the help they have provided through their fundraisers, Villar said the convoys can help put Truck Toyz in a better light in the public eye. Truck Toyz is a repair facility that also customizes cars and trucks.

"It's just a way to give back to different groups and hopefully it puts us in a brighter spot with those anti-lifted truck people," he said. "We build some pretty crazy trucks sometimes. There are quite a few people that I don't think really enjoy them that much, but we build everything safe and roadworthy."

The event gives owners a chance to show off their trucks as well as support the cause. "We get people together and have good times; pretty much doing good stuff, that's all," Marvin said.

The cost of participating in the convoy is a \$30 donation per vehicle, all of which will be donated to the Bourgeois family after the event.

Those who are unable to attend the convoy but still wish to contribute can drop off donations at Truck Toyz at 367 Lebanon Ave. or NAPA Colchester Auto Parts at 24 Linwood Cemetery Rd.

Pollock cont. from Front Page

remaining.

Then, the following spring, he went to train at Athletes' Performance, a program that provides "training, nutrition, and physical therapy" to athletes explains the company website.

Afterwards, A.J. headed to spring training, where, unfortunately, he broke his elbow two weeks in and missed the entire 2010 season.

But that fall, a recovered A.J. was placed in the Arizona Fall League.

"It was really very prestigious and he was really the only player [there] below Double-A," Al explained, adding he did well there, "so it kind of helped salvage 2010."

The following season, the Diamondbacks promoted A.J. to Double-A.

"That was good because we were afraid the lost year would mean he'd stay back," Al said, but A.J. repeated what he'd done in 2010 and again attended Athletes' Performance followed by spring training – this time, injury-free.

"He was in the minor league spring training camp, but they kept pulling him up to play in major league exhibition games – he ended up playing in like 25 and did great," Al said, adding that when he started playing Double-A with the Mobile Baybears, he continued to do well, making the Southern League mid- and post-season All-Star Teams, with great stats "pretty much all across the board."

According to A.J.'s biography on the Diamondbacks' website, he hit .307 (169-for-550) in 2011, with 41 doubles, eight home runs, 73 RBI, 36 stolen bases and 103 runs scored in 133 games.

"He was pretty driven to play because of being hurt the year before," Al explained, adding he was also selected to the USA team for the USA World Cup in 2011, where he earned a silver cup.

After his 2011 season, "I think he felt he had proven he was ok," Al laughed.

Before being called up to play for the Diamondbacks after infielder Geoff Blum was placed on the 15-day disabled list due to a strained left oblique, A.J. was listed in a Diamondbacks press release as having entered the season ranked by *Baseball America* as the No. 6 Prospect in the Diamondbacks' organization "and the Best Hitter for Average and Best Defensive Outfielder." He was also rated the No. 14 Prospect in the Southern League.

Now that A.J.'s been welcomed to the show, he hasn't had much time to rest. He flew into Phoenix April 18 and played his first game later the same day, batting seventh and playing centerfield. He was in the starting lineup for the first three games – filling in for injured outfielder Chris Young – which his father admits probably wasn't the best for A.J. performance-wise, as he had "no chance to adjust."

"It was up and down until he got his first hit," said his mom, which happened during the April 23 game against the Philadelphia Phillies.

"But it was still pretty amazing," Karen added.

So far, A.J.'s played in eight major league games.

Along with Al and Karen, those who know A.J. – including his baseball coach at RHAM, Paul Steiner – are thrilled with the news as well.

"I'm really happy for him," said Steiner. "It has nothing to do with me. He put all the work in. I just happened to be one of those people who happened to be around [at the beginning]."

Steiner said A.J. would try to do anything he could to help his team succeed since "he's not an individual player, he's about helping."

Steiner added he's seen A.J. play more than once since he's graduated. "I've seen him play quite a few times on every level... this is the only time I haven't."

But Steiner, A.J.'s family, friends and supporters could have a chance to see him play before long, as the Diamondbacks will make their way to New York to play the Mets May 4-6.

Al said it looks like A.J. will still be playing at that time, and he and Karen will definitely be in attendance – more likely than not with an entourage in tow.

"I'm from Long Island – my whole family is all ridiculous Mets fans so they are all chomping at the bit," he said. "They, of course, are trying to get seats in center field. And that's just Long Island!"

Al continued to say his sister had 40 tickets lined up they have to get for friends and family in New York, and "then in Connecticut, between RHAM folks and his high school friends – another 40 from here I would imagine," he said.

"Yeah, we'll be there," Al quipped, saying he was having a tough time not flying to Miami where the Diamondbacks will be playing the Marlins through April 30, before heading to Washington D.C. for the Nationals.

But the hope is, there'll be plenty more opportunities to see A.J. play.

"I'd like to see the Diamondbacks trade one of their outfielders [to allow space for] A.J., because half of the Major League teams right now could use him in their starting lineup," Al said.

But, he continued, "the Diamondbacks just happen to have four outfielders [under] contract who are all pretty good," and added that teams like the Mets and the Red Sox could also use a player like Pollock.

For now, though, Al is just happy his son got called up since, as he said, "we weren't expecting anything" so soon.

But time is all relative, and considering A.J.'s love for baseball extends back to about age 4 – and over the years he could be found in the Pollocks' basement, throwing a ball against the wall if there was no one to pitch with – it could be said A.J.'s moment in the big leagues has been a long time coming.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

No big shock here: Connecticut went with Mitt Romney Tuesday, as the former Massachusetts governor continues his march that will almost certainly end with him getting the Republican nomination for president.

Mitt dominated in all six of the *Rivereast* towns. According to the Associated Press figures, he collected 69.1 percent of the vote in Hebron; 68.6 percent in Marlborough; 65.9 percent in Andover; 62.6 percent in Portland; and 61.6 percent in East Hampton. The only town where he didn't get at least 60 percent of the vote was Colchester, but even there he well outperformed his closest opponent (scoring 54.9 percent of the vote compared with Ron Paul's 22.7%).

Who came in second place in *Rivereast*-land varied. Like I said, Paul came in second in Colchester, as well as in Hebron and Andover. But Newt Gingrich came in second in Portland and East Hampton, and in Marlborough Gingrich and Rick Santorum tied for second.

The constant though – well, in addition to Romney – was very low turnout. Vote totals for Romney ranged from a high of 179 in Colchester to a low of just 56 (!) in Andover. (How few voters were there in Andover? Gingrich and Santorum were separated more by percentage points – 10.6 percent to 9.4 percent – than actual votes – 9 to 8.)

Why did so many Republicans not vote? I'm guessing because, at this point, Romney getting the nod come convention time is pretty much a fait accompli. In 2008, Connecticut's Republican and Democratic presidential primaries were held Feb. 5, and turnout for both parties was significantly higher than it was this week. So many Democrats turned out in Colchester that year, for example, that the town clerk needed to photocopy extra ballots just to get through the day.

Because it was only early February, nothing had really been sewn up yet – particularly on the Democrat side, where Hillary Clinton was still battling Obama for the nomination. (Statewide, it was a very close race between the two, with Obama collecting 51 percent of the vote, compared to 47 percent for Clinton. Clinton actually picked up victories that day in two of the *Rivereast* towns – Andover and Colchester – and came close in a third, falling to Obama in Portland by a mere 21 votes, 563-542.)

But here it is, almost May, and Connecti-

cut's just now getting its primary. It's no surprise nobody bothered to vote. Like I said, the race is basically decided, and has been for some time, really. I know not every year can find Connecticut sharing the national glare of a "Super Tuesday," but I just hope next time the presidential primary comes to town it lands on a date that gives it a little more relevance.

* * *

As Geeta Schrayter writes in this week's *Rivereast*, Hebron's own A.J. Pollock has made it to the big leagues. I've written here in the past about A.J., who was the Diamondbacks' first-round pick in the 2009 baseball draft. A 2006 RHAM High School graduate, an injury in early 2010 sidelined A.J. that season, but since then he's been steadily moving up the minor-league ladder, and was hitting .340 at Triple-A Reno when he was called up last week.

A.J. was called up when infielder Geoff Blum went on the 15-day DL, and has seen time in the outfield filling in for injured slugger Chris Young and Justin Upton. Speculation I've read online says that when the injured players get healthy, A.J. might be headed back to Reno.

But I hope he's at least still with the team next weekend, May 4-6. That's when Arizona comes to New York to play the Mets – and I've got tickets to one of those games. It'd be pretty cool to see him play live, and I'll be sure to cheer for him. Sure, my fellow fans may wonder why the dork clad from head to toe in orange and blue is rooting for the opposing team's outfielder, but hey, you gotta pull for the local kid who's hitting the big time.

If A.J. eventually winds up going back to Triple-A, I'm guessing it won't be long before he returns to the big leagues for good. He's put up impressive numbers wherever he's been – high school, college, fall/winter ball, minor leagues – and last year in Double-A ball sported an impressive .307 batting average, with 41 doubles and 36 stolen bases. So, not only can he hit, he can also clearly run. Teams tend to like players that can do that.

So, congratulations on making it to the show, A.J. I hope you have the time of your life.

* * *

See you next week.

\$51.06 Million Budget Sent to Referendum in Colchester

by Katelyn Kelleher

The \$51.06 million proposed 2012-13 fiscal year budget, which includes three bonding items, is now headed to a May 8 referendum, following Wednesday's annual town budget meeting.

The budget is a 1.12 percent increase over current year spending. It also features a mill rate of 29.63, an increase of 3.78 mills over the current year's tax rate.

Around 60 people attended Wednesday's meeting. Among them was resident Frank Lavech, who said he is "getting a little bit disgusted" by his tax increases over the past few years and asked residents to check their taxes before making the final vote on the budget.

"There was a 6 percent increase on taxes two years ago, 3 percent last year, and both my properties went down [in value this year] which is fine but I'm going to pay another 3 percent, another \$200 more next year," he said.

Resident Leroy Faulkner also had concerns about the mill rate. "This is my third year in Colchester and the second year the mill rate is going up," he said. "We have a lot of seniors in this town and a lot of senior housing in this town and we can't continue to carry everybody."

When asked how in-depth the Board of Finance looks at the education and town operations budgets before passing them, Chairman Robert Tarlov explained that the board only has control over the bottom line of the Board of Education budget, not how the money is spent.

"Not that we don't look at items and come back with suggestions in terms of the bottom line, but where things are actually being cut we have no discretion or authority over," he said.

"In terms of the [town operations] budget,

we look at things by department. The first thing we look at is any new initiatives. That's where we'll be most critical in terms of new things that weren't there last year," he said. "There's a lot of things that are already fixed in there that you can't control... We don't get down to the level of paper clips, so to speak, but certainly we're looking at departments."

Tarlov said most of the overall increase in the \$51.06 million budget comes from the Board of Education budget. The board has no control over the increase in heating oil costs and addition of unfunded state mandates.

All residents at the meeting voted for the town operations budget.

Resident Jim Kelly brought up three "dear-to-the-heart" programs cut in the Board of Education budget: marine studies program Project Oceanology, summer school for at-risk students and an enrichment program at William J. Johnston Middle School to identify gifted students.

Board of Education Chairman Ronald Goldstein pointed out that there is still an enrichment staff at Jack Jackter Intermediate School, so the program was not completely cut. While Project Oceanology was cut, Goldstein said the schools plan to replace the program through field trips and independent trips for the coming year and will try to restore it for the 2013-2014 year.

The summer school program will still be offered for students that are required to take it. "In past summers we've also had the availability for kids who are at risk to be in the summer school as well as those kids who need a little extra push," Goldstein said. "This year we had to eliminate that opportunity for those kids at

risk."

Kelly said had the Board of Education requested concessions from the union, some of those programs might have been saved. Goldstein said the board has received significant concessions from the unions over the years and "felt it was appropriate to put forth a budget that did not seek those concessions."

All residents at the meeting except Kelly voted in favor of the education budget.

The meeting also covered three bonding proposals for road repair, fire trucks and land acquisition for farmland preservation.

Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove said bonding \$3.2 million for the roads is not for routine maintenance, it is to bring them back to an appropriate condition level and the town operations budget includes funds to maintain them thereafter.

Tarlov said Public Works Director James Paggioli did two projections for the Board of Finance and to put the road repair costs into the town operations budget over the next 10 years, given the continued deterioration of the roads, would cost at least \$1 million more than a 10-year bond.

Kelly supported bonding \$1.125 million for two new fire apparatus to replace older vehicles.

"We're at the point where if we don't start getting them some new vehicles that either somebody's going to get hurt or lose a life because they don't have the right equipment," he said.

Town Planner Adam Turner explained that by bonding \$615,000 to purchase 75-acre Slembek Farm, the town could put an easement on the property so it could not be developed.

The town would then sell the property to a farmer as protected farmland.

Lavech strongly opposed the bond, saying Colchester has plenty of open space and he lives next to a property that was a farm but is not "all weeds." He said he lost several building lots on his property when the neighboring property became protected farmland and is "now stuck with a 200-year-old house."

"I can't believe that Colchester wants to be a landlord and now a real estate agent," he said. "I don't know who's running this town but you're doing a damn poor job."

Turner said the alternative to purchasing and protecting Slembek Farm is it would turn into a development and the additional students in the school system would cost the town. Additionally, the property is part of an 800-acre corridor the town is trying to preserve.

"We are losing a tremendous amount of rural character and our nature, our greenways and our corridors that allow wildlife," he said. "This is a 800-acre area and it's one of the last ones we have so there is some value in that, too."

Resident Danny Albert said the rural character, coupled with the school system, is the reason he and his family moved to town. "I advocate in favor of this bonding issue just to maintain the rural character of this town," he said. "You don't realize how nice it is here. From where I came from it was overbuilt, property values went down and if there's too much development that is what can happen here as well."

Residents voted unanimously in favor of the bonding proposals for roads and fire apparatus. Three residents voted against bonding for land acquisition.

Marlborough Finance Board Sends \$21.58 Million Budget to Town Meeting

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

Only two residents had questions for the Board of Finance at Monday's public budget hearing and the board voted 4-2 to forward the proposed 2012-13 budget to a town meeting May 14.

But the vote didn't come without fireworks, as Board of Finance member Beth Petroni was sharply critical of the local Board of Education's elimination of Marlborough Elementary School's \$55,000 Spanish program – as well as the finance board's inaction after the cut was made.

The \$21.58 million proposed budget is a 1.96 percent increase from the current year.

The spending package includes \$7.20 million for the local Board of Education budget, a 3.35 percent increase over the current fiscal year.

The rest of the budget includes \$7.33 million for the town's portion of the RHAM Board of Education budget – an increase of 1.98 percent from the current year – the \$4.42 million town operations budget, which shows a 1.13 percent increase from current year spending and \$2.49 million in town debt.

The recommended \$115,839 reserve for capital and non-recurring expenditures would go toward the 2015-16 revaluation reserve, North Main Street sidewalk design and engineering, a new roof on the Blish Park Pavilion, thermal imaging cameras for Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, a

new Ford F-350 for Public Works and two mowers.

Resident Deborah Bourbeau asked the board why the town needs \$9,000 in the budget for town garage uniforms. The number was the same for the 2011-2012 budget and close to that in previous years.

First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski said that by contract the town needs to provide uniforms and cleaning services to the public works employees and replace winter gear and work boots as needed.

Resident David Porteus inquired about the accuracy of the town's \$2.48 million 2012-13 debt payment. Board of Finance Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout said the town has an accurate projection of the debt payments to the year 2015.

After the board made a motion to approve the recommended budget to send to a town meeting, Board of Finance member Susan Leser said she still felt the same way about the budget that she had in past meetings. At the April 5 budget workshop, an additional \$52,197 in reductions brought the overall budget increase under 2 percent. Despite this, Leser said more cuts could be made in the local Board of Education budget.

Board of Finance member Kenneth Hjulstrom agreed that "certain sections of the budget are still a little high," but said he will

leave it to the town to decide.

Petroni said she thinks the budget is a "travesty."

"Unfortunately, there's absolutely no economic development in this budget and the biggest economic development drive in this town is the school and what did we do? We put it at a disadvantage compared to the other two competing towns in our district by eliminating a basic requirement of most certainly any college preparatory program and that's a foreign language," she said.

Leser said the decision to cut the Spanish program was made by Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz and the Board of Education, so it was not the Board of Finance's responsibility.

"They didn't have to cut the Spanish program," she said. "They could have made other cuts, but that was their choice and we don't have the right to change that."

But Petroni said she thinks the Board of Finance is responsible for everything.

"That's the whole point of the Board of Finance," she said. "We could have pushed [the local Board of Education budget] back and said 'here's \$55,000 [for the Spanish program], there you go.'"

Leser pointed out that while the Board of Finance can approve or deny the overall number of the budget, they have no control over

how the money is actually spent.

Petroni still disagreed that the Board of Finance is free from responsibility for cutting the Spanish program.

"We could have done something," she said. "This board has decided to do nothing."

She added that the board needs to have a better plan for future budgets.

"I will not be voting for this budget. Not until we seriously, as a town, decide that we're going to take on economic development and put some money into that," she said. "All this budget does is trim a little bit more and a little bit more. We're beyond that point... We need to start deciding how we're going to look at the future of this town."

Ultimately, Leser and Petroni voted against sending the budget to town meeting, while Godbout, Hjulstrom, Cliff Denniss and Doug Knowlton were in favor of it.

The budget will move on to the annual town budget meeting May 14 at 7 p.m. at the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria. Godbout said if the budget is rejected at the meeting, the Board of Finance "would consider the same or amended recommendations and would schedule another town meeting within three weeks of our annual budget meeting and then hold similar town meetings every three weeks until we get a budget approved."

Local Man Upset With Residential Target Shooting in Marlborough

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

A Marlborough man disturbed by the sound of gunshots is calling for a ban on residential target shooting.

Resident Donald Nowsch said the unpredictable gunshot sounds inhibit him from using his property as he would like. Nowsch keeps horses on his Parker Road property and said the noise spooks his animals.

"I want to race the pony, but she's really skittish," he said. "You never know when that first shot's going to come."

Nowsch said he has invested \$35,000 in his barn and property in the last six months, but hasn't been able to fully enjoy it.

Shooting poses a danger to anyone in the area, Nowsch said. "You can shoot someone a mile away," he said. "All it takes is one careless discharge."

Nowsch has distributed letters throughout town urging residents to contact First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski to demand a residential shooting ban.

Gaudinski said because residential shooting is legal, there is not much the town can do at this point.

"The town doesn't have any action it can take against it unless there's a safety issue and [in that case] our residents are encouraged to call

Troop K barracks so our resident trooper or officer can investigate," she said.

Nowsch said the shooting has been going on for the past six to eight months, and his attempts to get the police involved have failed.

He said he can hear the shots loud and clear from a property on Blackledge Drive, approximately one mile from Nowsch's home. He said he was concerned about both the noise and the property's location, adjacent to Discovery Zone Learning Center, a daycare on Hebron Road.

Nowsch said he sent one of his letters to the property's owner, Andrew Marocchini, but said the owner "has no respect for anything."

Marocchini said he never received any letter, nor has he ever gotten a complaint from his neighbors. "The only complaints I've had are from this individual [Nowsch]," he said.

Marocchini said Discovery Zone has never made a complaint about the shooting either. "And I know them personally," he said.

The owner of Discovery Zone did not return a call for comment for this story.

Although Marocchini's residence is next to the daycare, he shoots in the woods further back on his property, away from any residences and the daycare, where he has barrels set up directly

in front of a steep dirt hill. Any bullets that miss the barrels would hit the large dirt hill and stop there.

Marocchini said he always shoots in the direction of the hill, never toward the daycare or any residences. He also said he is a member of the National Rifle Association, and is a firearms instructor with many years of experience.

Residential shooting is legal, Marocchini pointed out, and he said there are other shooting ranges within the distance between his property and Nowsch's.

"It's my private property and it's well within my legal rights to do so," Marocchini said.

Marocchini said he believes Nowsch may have pointed the blame at him due to a personal issue between Nowsch and a relative of his. He also said he shoots "maybe one day a week" and Nowsch may be mistaking shots heard from other properties as coming from his.

Gaudinski said she has had two calls of concern about residential shooting, neither of which regarded Marocchini's property.

"One of the two residents had concerns not so much about the shooting but about the length and time of the shooting. Noise," she said. "The other was a concern about safety."

Kalinowski Pre-Trial Next Week

by **Joshua Anusewicz**

Former Portland first selectman and police officer Edward Kalinowski has pled not guilty to charges that he attempted to solicit sex from a child, a representative from the Volusia County, FL, clerk's office confirmed this week, and a pre-trial hearing will be held on Tuesday.

The representative said Wednesday the case will either be continued or the trial will begin on Tuesday, May 29.

Kalinowski, now a resident of Ocala, FL, was arrested Sept. 2, 2011, and charged with use of a computer to seduce or solicit a child, use of a two-way communication device to facilitate a felony, and traveling to meet or lure a child for sex. The arrest was part of a seven-day sting operation called "Operation Cyber Sting" that ultimately netted the Volusia County Sheriff's Office 15 individuals.

A press release from the sheriff's office that

was obtained by the *Rivereast* in September alleged that Kalinowski, 59, traveled to a home in Volusia County to have sex with someone he believed to be a teenage boy that he met online.

According to Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson, all of the individuals that were arrested were found "lurking in e-commerce sites and social networks" and had made "overt declarations to undercover investigators of their intentions" to exploit children. The alleged offenders had believed the children were between the ages of nine and 15.

Johnson said that none of the men, who ranged from 21 to 66 years old, were registered sex offenders.

Kalinowski served as Portland's first selectman from 1993-2003, and was a police officer in the town prior to being first selectman.

RHAM School Board Looks at Insurance Options

by Geeta Schrayter

In an effort to grapple with a steep health insurance increase it's facing in the upcoming fiscal year, the RHAM Board of Education Monday received a run-down of its insurance options.

Steve May of Milliman Inc. – the health insurance consultant for Region Eight, which includes the towns and school boards of Andover, Hebron and Marlborough, as well as the RHAM Board of Education – explained to the board that dealing with the insurance increase with Anthem for the upcoming year (listed in the RHAM budget at 17 percent) made more sense than becoming self-insured.

"It's a good deal even though it's a disgusting number that's recognized," he said.

After looking at the claims from March 2011-February 2012, May showed the board there had been \$7.3 million in claims.

"But," he stated, "at the time when [Anthem] put through" the numbers to calculate next year's premium, the claims only went from December 2010 to November 2011.

"The last month of claims they had was \$796,000" he said, adding as the three newest months were added, the three oldest [December 2010 and January and February 2011] dropped off. The claims over the three new months totaled almost a million dollars more than the claims over the three months dropped off.

So, by only going through November 2011, the RHAM board got a little lucky. The 17 percent increase was based on the December 2010-November 2011 claims, but, May said, when Milliman put together its claims projection for RHAM, it used the March 2011-February 2012 figures, and decided "a reasonable renewal would be 21 percent."

But May noted the board already had the guaranteed increase of 17 percent, with the possibility the number may drop a point or two depending on some other negotiations.

"That's the guaranteed fully-insured rate that Anthem is going to give you," he said, showing they had negotiated to a rate that was, while not favorable, better than expected.

"You have a proposal at 17, possibly 16 percent, to be fully-insured, plus pass all the risk back to Anthem."

As a result, "a very cheeky remark," said May, "is you don't save money going self-insured."

If self-insured, Region Eight would calculate and put aside the money it would have used to pay an insurance company and directly pay health care claims. Instead of the insurance company, the region would bear the risk associated with offering health benefits, he explained, and the premium tax would also be removed.

But May asserted "you've negotiated your fully-insured rate to below what your risk would be."

Additionally, as a smaller group, May stated the risk is higher, and a few unexpected large claims could be difficult to handle.

He went on to say if RHAM were to pull from the group and self-insure individually, the risk would be even greater.

"You would be looking at a need on your own of 40 percent... so your 16 percent [increase] is looking like a good deal," he said.

While May explained the self-insurance route may be something the region wants to examine down the road, "again, this year, with the deal you have with fully-insured, it doesn't appear best to go to self-insured."

Mays also added accepting the fully-insured rate will help the group in the short term, "but you likely will be dealing with the same pressure next year."

It was shown there had been a 115.4 percent increase in the amount of high claims (over \$50,000) received over the prior period (\$1.85 million paid by the Region compared to \$860,000).

But if claims were to stabilize, some of the costs might be mitigated said May, who then mentioned the benefit of disease prevention and wellness care.

Board of Education member Danny Holtsclaw asked May if he had seen any districts "take ownership of wellness" programs, to which May replied a highly-successful wellness plan had been put in place in Mansfield, which was "the gold standard in the state."

The program had grown to cost around \$100,000 he said, "but they haven't had [an-

insurance] rate increase in the last five years greater than three percent."

He added there was documented evidence that neck and back pain was down, "so it's working."

Later in the meeting, Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski mentioned a small wellness program had been put in place in the past, and out of about 40 people who were screened, a few went to the doctor for high cholesterol.

That's "the tip of the iceberg," he said. "Take that out a few years, we may have avoided heart attacks," he stated, adding the implementation of a wellness program was "something we need to pursue aggressively."

"I think paying for treatment is one thing, but if you can avoid paying for treatment, that's another thing," he said, adding health issues such as cancers couldn't be avoided, but "we can solve a lot of other issues" through a wellness program.

* * *

Additionally, the board authorized Siminski to re-enter into a group purchasing agreement with Lockton Companies LLC to serve as the health and benefits consultant for Region Eight.

Along with the RHAM Board of Education, endorsement needs to come from both the boards of selectmen and education in each of the Region Eight towns. To date, the Andover Board of Education, Hebron Board of Selectmen and Marlborough Board of Selectmen have approved similar motions.

"The intent of the motion is to let the towns and districts know we're entering into a collaborative again," said Holtsclaw.

It's a motion that says "we want to continue to stay in a group," he added, continuing on to explain there would be savings in the first year of about \$38,000 and Lockton was "very reputable," with a large client base and an increase in resources.

Tying the conversation into the previous discussion regarding wellness, Holtsclaw explained he had asked May about disease management because of the new resources and opportunities that would be available to them through Lockton.

"The resources they have – compared to what

we have had historically – is light years better," Holtsclaw said.

He continued on to say "the purpose is to help us understand" group purchasing and insurance arrangements going forward.

"We'll be smarter about looking [at insurance]," and in the long-term, the company will "continue to advise us for when the window may or may not come to explore" other options such as becoming self-insured or joining a collaborative.

"This group, in my opinion, is one of the top groups," he said. "I am pleased to come to you and recommend to the board that we move from the existing company and accept [the Insurance Advisory Committee's] recommendation for Lockton."

The committee has "been doing, just a lot of routine work, but this past year they got quotes from [seven] different requests for services, narrowed it down, and that's how we got to Lockton," explained board chairman Michael Turner.

"From the perspective of the Insurance Advisory Committee," said committee member and Andover Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia, "we have outgrown the services that we've had for the past several years and we need to reach for greater resources than we have now, and Lockton will provide those resources for us."

The motion to authorize Siminski to re-enter into the group purchasing arrangement for employee health benefits with the towns and school districts of Andover, Hebron and Marlborough with Lockton Companies LLC passed unanimously.

* * *

The board also decided to set the graduation date for June 20, with the last day for teachers as Friday, June 22.

"Well, we can't have it any sooner," said Turner, adding with a laugh, "and I don't think anyone wants to have it later."

The motion passed unanimously.

* * *

The next RHAM Board of Education meeting will be held Monday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the chorus room at RHAM High School.

Longtime Colchester Coach to Receive Gold Key Award

by Katelyn Kelleher

A man who has spent over half a century coaching sports at Bacon Academy will be honored with the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance Gold Key Award this Sunday.

Bacon Academy coach and former teacher Dave Shea will be awarded at the 71st annual Gold Key Dinner at Southington's Aqua Turf Club this Sunday, April 29.

Shea, 77, has spent much of his life at Bacon Academy. A 1952 graduate, he returned as a teacher, then moved to the guidance department, then physical education and finally became the athletic director. Before retiring in December 1999, Shea worked for 37 years at Bacon Academy.

In addition to his teaching career, Shea has spent the last 51 years as a coach. He coached the boys' basketball team for 24 years, spent the last 18 coaching girls' basketball and this spring will mark his 25th season as the boys' baseball coach.

Under his guidance, the teams won 12 regular season titles in the Charter Oak and Eastern Connecticut Conferences, four tournament titles, and three state championships, according to Bacon Academy basketball head statistician Rich Zalusky.

One of those successes included the Bacon Academy girls' basketball Class L State Championship last month.

Shea has an impressive resume of his own athletic achievements as well. He played four years of varsity soccer, basketball and baseball at Bacon Academy, was the first 1,000 point scorer in Bacon history, was an All-State basketball selection his senior year and signed a professional baseball contract with the Philadelphia Athletics. After playing professionally for five years in Philadelphia and Kansas City,

Shea's career was ended by a shoulder injury, his daughter Mary Ellen Mahoney said.

Joining him in the "1,000-point club" were his son, John Shea, and granddaughter, Katie Mahoney, both whom he coached in basketball. He also coached his grandson, David Mahoney, in baseball.

"[Coaching both his son and grandchildren] is pretty unique, that's for sure," Mary Ellen said.

Shea coached his son to his first state championship in basketball in 1981, and his granddaughter to a basketball state championship in 2009.

David now plays baseball at the University of Connecticut and Katie plays basketball at Brown University.

David said it was an honor to play baseball for his grandfather. "It is amazing how he continues to bring just as much passion and energy to the field today as he did when he first started coaching," he said.

Katie said she could think of no one more deserving of the award.

"He has accomplished so many admirable feats in his career...but it is the things off the court that make you realize how he has achieved so much success," she said. "His humility, generosity, enthusiasm and his big heart make him so special as a person and a coach. I was so lucky to be able to have him as a coach in my four years of high school, but I am much luckier to have him as my grandpa."

The Gold Key Award is one of many Shea has won over the years, Mary Ellen said. He is a member of the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the New England Basketball Hall of Fame, won Coach of the Year from New London's *The Day*, has been the Connecticut Coach of the Year, and

the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference gave him an Excellence in Coaching Award.

"We're very proud of him, but we're not surprised because he's always devoted himself to his coaching over the years," she said. "He's been very successful because he's such a hard worker and very knowledgeable."

Shea said being honored by the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance is one of the highlights of his coaching career and life, and thanked his players, "who wore the blue and gold and gave 100 percent effort," he said. "I was very fortunate to have many outstanding players," including his son, granddaughter and grandson.

Shea said the support of the Bacon Academy administration, particularly former principal Bob Warren, Principal Jeff Mathieu and Athletic Director Kevin Burke, contributed to this success.

"No program or coach is successful without the support of the administration," he said. "Criticism and scrutiny go with the territory of coaching. You need strong administrators to back you."

Along with Shea, retired Wilton soccer player Kristine Lilly, Trinity College hockey coach John Dunham and Trinity Catholic High School basketball coach Mike Walsh will be awarded gold keys.

Since 1940, the Gold Key Award has recognized many well-known individuals, such as baseball legend Connie Mack, former president George H.W. Bush and University of Connecticut basketball coaches Geno Auriemma and Jim Calhoun.

Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance President George Albano said the alliance is comprised of approximately 20-25 sports writers



Dave Shea

from print, broadcast and online publications. Each year the Gold Key Committee, of which he is a member, selects four honorees for the dinner. The committee bases its selections on "people that have excelled in athletics," he said. "Excellence in sports, collegiate and pro level, and coaching at all levels and in Dave Shea's case high school coaching legends as well."

Shea said he felt his career would be incomplete if he didn't have the opportunity to coach "both outstanding boys' and girls' teams."

"To all my players, I say thank you."

Hebron Community Responds to House Fire

by Geeta Schrayter

Earlier this month, fire ripped through the house of a Hebron family, leaving them to find a new home and replace a lifetime's worth of belongings.

But in the aftermath of the blaze, the community is looking to make things a little easier for the Carusone family, by setting up various funds and asking for donations that will help make their new house – when they find one to settle into – a home.

Fire struck the Carusones' Pepperbush Drive home the night of April 8, and while firefighters were able to bring the blaze under control in a little more than half an hour, it caused significant damage.

"There's nothing left," said Hebron resident Andrea Leuschner who, along with Meg Lettieri – both longtime friends of the Carusone family – helped put fundraisers together soon after the fire took place.

"We want to kind of help them in any way we can," she said. "There's going to be an awful lot of expenses. Even though there is insurance, it doesn't cover everything."

Leuschner added the family is going through "peaks and valleys."

"Some days they're better than others," she said. "I think the hardest thing was going through all of their belongings – or what was left," which, she said, wasn't much.

"Everything needs to be replaced, so that part is really challenging," she said. "Everything down to new measuring spoons and a whisk in your drawer to beach towels – it's everything.

Aside from just mementos and things, it's stuff you accumulate over 20 years."

Leuschner said the community has already "been amazing," and there has been "just an outpouring of support."

"The family is very fortunate – and they feel this way – that they live in such a community [as Hebron]," Leuschner said.

"One thing that the family has said to me," said Lettieri, "is that they're quite humbled by everything the community is doing for them."

The support, she said, "continues to spiral to so many individuals they know that are pouring out everything they can to help them."

Lettieri added the American Girl Doll Company had even donated two new dolls for the daughters in the family.

"It definitely lets you know that there's still a lot of good out there," she said.

In order to help spread the word about the funds, a letter was sent out to the community through AHM at the suggestion of social worker Stephanie Haines.

In the letter, community members were asked to support "a family in need in our community."

"In a matter of a few hours, their lives were changed forever," the letter said. "At this point in time, the family is looking for housing and will need to rebuild their lives."

It was explained the Carusone family would need clothing and "everything necessary to run a household on a day-to-day basis" and it would be most helpful to provide gift cards "to utilize

in their efforts to reestablish their home."

Gift card suggestions included gas cards and cards for HomeGoods, T.J. Maxx, Target, ShopRite, Stop & Shop, Kohl's, Mastercard or Home Depot.

An account for monetary donations was also set up with the help of Laurie Fauschino, another family friend.

"We thought it might be an easier way for people if they wanted to donate" money as opposed to a gift card, said Leuschner.

"In the wake of disaster this hurdle [of replacing everything] can seem monumental," the letter said.

However, Deputy Fire Marshal Dan Larson said Tuesday something much more important could have easily been lost – a life.

"The [mom] happened to be downstairs. She was watching TV and something outside caught her eye, which was the fire," he said. "She was able to warn everybody and basically get everybody out of the home safely."

And "everybody" included mother Renee, three children, and the family dog.

Deputy Chief Nick Wallick explained Wednesday the Hebron Fire Department was dispatched to the fire at 10:23 p.m. April 8.

"We had mutual aid response from many towns" including Colchester, Glastonbury and Willimantic, he said.

"Basically, we had the fire under control in about 35 to 40 minutes," said Wallick, but he explained the fire, which started in back of the

house, got up into the attic "and basically took off part of the roof of the house."

Additionally, there was significant smoke and water damage.

"The house is going to be unlivable," said Larson. "They're probably going to end up taking it down to the first floor area," he said, adding "the master bedroom was totally destroyed."

Larson explained the fire originated in a garbage can outside of the house, but he said "what we do not know is what the actual spark was."

"There was so little left of both the structure and the garbage can," he said, it's difficult to determine the exact cause. But he added "we were able to rule out electrical or any other things that we would consider a normal fire source."

But cause or no cause, the important thing is everyone survived – and Larson said it could have easily ended differently.

"God was actually looking over their shoulder," Larson said. If everyone had been asleep, "it could have very easily been an entirely different scenario. [The mom] being awake, and her prompt action, saved that family's life."

Individuals who wish to help the Carusone family can send gift card donations to: Carusone Family Fire Fund, P.O. Box 32, Hebron, CT 06248. Monetary donations should be made to: Carusone Family Fire Fund, Acct. No. 9860004292298, C/O Savings Institute Bank & Trust, Attn: Paula Billard, 115 Main St., Hebron, CT 05248.

Hebron Band Heads to Kentucky Benefit

by Geeta Schrayter

Six days a week, Hebron resident Ron Haugh works as a clerk with the Hebron Post Office – but that's not all he does.

Haugh is also a member of the rock and roll band Storm, and during the weekend of April 13, the group traveled to Newport, KY, where they played at a concert benefiting the victims of the March 3 tornadoes.

"It was like marathon driving," said Haugh, adding the band left around 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 14, and arrived in Kentucky at about 4 a.m. Sunday.

"We slept for a couple of hours then did the gig," he said, adding, "It was great."

The band, which includes Haugh on drums and background vocals, and Plainville residents Paul Spak as lead guitarist and singer, Paul Spak Jr. on the bass guitar and Phil Asarese on guitar and keyboard, ended up at the concert after Spak went to Cincinnati, OH, to do a recording session and open microphone performances.

At one of these venues, Bootsy Collins, the Grammy Award-winning bass guitarist who's toured with artists such as Hank Ballard and James Brown, and recorded with such names as the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Cyndi Lauper, Keith Richards and Motown's Funk Brothers, was in the audience.

Spak played a rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," and according to Haugh, Collins said he was blown away.

"He said, 'I haven't heard anyone do that song [like that] since my buddy Jimi Hendrix,'"

Spak recalled.

Collins then told Spak he'd like him to play on his upcoming CD, and after informing Collins about his band back in Connecticut, an invitation was extended for Storm to perform at the Bootsy Collins Foundation Keep on Music Festival to raise money for families in Ohio and Kentucky who were impacted by the March tornadoes.

So the band, which plays its own original music as well as covers to songs by artists like Jimi Hendrix, Ozzy Osbourne, Stevie Ray Vaughan and Tom Petty, made the trip.

In a press release, the band wrote, "Storm was eager to help, in any musical way that they could, to aid Bootsy's efforts for the tornado survivors."

"It was awesome," said Haugh, who added they got to have a meet-and-greet with Collins and his wife Patti (known as "Peppermint Patti") and said they were all "down-to-earth people."

"We talked about a lot of things; business, the past and future music collaborations," said Haugh.

And now that the band is back in Connecticut, it plans to continue playing music for a cause. On July 7, Storm will host the third annual BIG Summer Jam benefit concert – a day-long music event with local bands held at the Franco-American Club in Windham. Last year, the event drew around 150 people and this year, Haugh said he'd like to see that number grow to 300-400.



Hebron resident Ron Haugh, far left, stands with fellow band member Paul Spak, manager Linda Allen, Grammy Award-winning bass guitarist Bootsy Collins and bandmate Paul Spak Jr. during a recent trip to Kentucky to play at a benefit concert held by Collins.

A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will go to the newly-opened Center for Wellness in Colchester and its nonprofit branch, Helping Hand.

Money from the Helping Hand fund pays for certain individuals to receive holistic services at the center.

"Helping Hand's focus is those individuals with a cancer diagnosis as well as military personnel and veterans," the center's website said.

"Money is going to be put toward a fund for

[them] to come in and be able to get discounts or totally paid for services through the center," said Haugh.

Haugh added, "We like to do benefits. Paul [Spak], over the years, has done a lot with [The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund]," which supports wounded or injured service members and their families. "And we plan to do something in the future with that foundation" as well.

For information on the more immediate benefit in July, individuals can visit stormrocks.us.

Colchester Resident's Late Daughter Featured on I-95 Billboard

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

In continued efforts to raise awareness for organ and tissue donation, a Colchester resident recently put up a billboard on Interstate 95 in honor of his daughter, to mark the 10th anniversary of her death.

Peter Kupczak lost his 24-year-old daughter, Jessica, after she suffered a massive asthma attack in her New York City apartment and went into cardiac arrest on Nov. 17, 2002. She was put on life support but was declared brain dead and passed six days later on Nov. 23.

Jessica's heart, pancreas, kidneys and liver were donated to four people.

Since then, Kupczak has made it his goal to make sure not only is his daughter remembered, but to spread awareness for organ and tissue donation.

On March 30, a billboard went up in Bridgeport with Jessica's picture for travelers passing exit 25 on I-95 to see. By sending out 95 letters, Kupczak was able to raise \$3,500 for the billboard.

Kupczak said a typical billboard costs \$10,000 per month, but, through the generosity of the advertising company, Lamar Advertising, the cost was waived. "All I had to do was pay for the printing," he said.

Kupczak said he had no idea what the project would cost when he first began fundraising last year, but when he reached out to the advertising company, he got a call back notifying him they would give him the space for nothing. Then, a representative higher up in the management chain told him the company would split the cost of the printing.

The company gave Kupczak the billboard space at no cost until it receives a bid for the space, at which point it will be moved to another vacant space.

The company told Kupczak the billboard will likely stay in its present location for 30 to 60 days, depending on when they receive a bid for the space. When it moves, the billboard will stay primarily within the Connecticut borders but could be relocated throughout New England.

"The new billboard materials are all done on vinyl so it can easily be taken down," Kupczak said. "With the materials, it may be up for as long as a year."

While there is no guarantee where the billboard will go, Kupczak said he hopes it will stay in congested areas where many will see it.

Kupczak and Donate Life Connecticut partnered with Donate Life America for the design of the billboard so it would align with the organization's mission and look. Any funds raised above the \$3,500 – and at this point he has raised \$4,000 total – will be put into a fund to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors at Donate Life Connecticut, Kupczak said.

Donate Life Connecticut Director Kari Mull said Kupczak did a fantastic job fundraising and getting the billboard up. "He got it in his mind, did all the research and we got behind him," she said.

Donate Life Connecticut Chair Caitlyn Bernabucci said she was surprised by how quickly Kupczak was able to raise funds for the project.

"A lot of people have been impacted by his daughter's story," she said. "Volunteers who have seen [the billboard] really are impressed by it. It's a beautiful tribute to Jessica."

Mull said Donate Life has already received a lot of feedback from the billboard. "We get calls and comments on our Facebook page and emails and it's really a positive thing," she said.

Kupczak said he wanted to do something big to honor his daughter for the 10th anniversary of her passing and to promote organ and tissue donation. "What better way to do it than a billboard?"

It went up just in time, Kupczak said, as April is National Organ Donation month.

When he went to see the billboard in Bridgeport after it went up, Kupczak said he was pleased to find it overlooking an inner-city skateboard park.

"All these kids came over and talked to me...They were very friendly, but they didn't quite get what it was all about. They knew it was a picture of my daughter, but I don't think they got it that she had passed away," he said. "They went back and I could just see them huddling over their friends and I think they went 'Oh, that's what it was all about.' Then by the time I drove out of the parking lot I think they got it."

Kupczak has embarked on several other projects to honor his daughter and support Donate Life. This is the second year the town of Colchester has flown the Donate Life flag in the Town Hall flagpole. Kupczak said many more people showed up at this year's flag rais-



After a year of fundraising, resident Peter Kupczak, partnering with Donate Life Connecticut, put up a billboard honoring his daughter, Jessica, who died 10 years ago.

ing ceremony than last year.

In 2009, Jessica's image was selected for a spot on the Donate Life float at the Rose Parade. Donate Life has "had a float in the parade, you've always been able to honor a loved one," Kupczak said. "For the \$50 it cost me to put a rose in Jessica's honor, they gave me back so much more than what it was worth."

Donate Life called Kupczak and asked him if they could honor Jessica with a "floralgraph" on their float, a picture of her made entirely of organic materials.

"[Kupczak and his wife] flew out there for a week and did part of it," he said. "Sometimes people actually go out there and do the floralgraph themselves."

The team used spices to depict organ donors, including Jessica, on the float. Kupczak said he got the opportunity to finish his daughter's eyes for the floralgraph.

Fifty-five people rode the Donate Life float that year and Kupczak said he hopes to ride the

float one day.

And Kupczak is thinking even bigger for future projects to honor his daughter. "Get a Donate Life balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade," he said. "I would love to get a giant helium heart and have pictures of organ donors on there, and not only donors but also recipients and living donors."

The balloon handlers would be organ recipients, living donors and their families.

Kupczak said it would be a difficult project but he thinks he would be able to cover the cost.

Mull said Donate Life has about 125 active, dedicated volunteers, like Kupczak, who propel the organization's mission. "It's a small group of very powerful people," she said. "They really can do some amazing things and Peter is one of those people."

Donate Life provides information on organ and tissue donation and those interested can register online to become an organ donor at DonateLifeNewEngland.org.

Colchester Selectmen Discuss Land Acquisition Policy

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The Board of Selectmen discussed developing a policy regarding future land acquisitions for farm preservation at its Thursday, April 19, meeting.

The \$51.06 million proposed budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year includes a \$615,000 bond for the purchase of 75-acre Slembek Farm on Prospect Hill Road for agriculture use. First Selectman Gregg Schuster said the property was appraised three times with three different numbers. The town did an outside appraisal of the property and assessed it at \$556,000 then agreed on a \$540,000 purchase price.

"It's in a strategic location in the agricultural corridor," he said. "It just makes financial sense to go ahead and do this deal."

Members of the board discussed a policy for future land acquisition. Selectman James Ford said displaying a template of the land to the public could help residents understand what they're voting for. He also suggested looking into grants to assist with the purchase of Slembek Farm and other acquisitions in the future.

"As a member of this board, I have a fiduciary responsibility to reach out and try to maximize the amount of aid we get or even try for," Ford said.

Town Planner Adam Turner said one option is purchasing easements on the lands to reduce the development potential and to buy more time for grant applications because "applications in spring and early summer wouldn't see money

until the end of the year."

Ford said the Agriculture Commission is working on an application, but that the process "looks like it's probably going to take up to a year."

Agriculture Commission Chair Elizabeth Gilman said Slembek Farm has been on the market since April 2011, so it's important for the town to proceed carefully and slowly.

Funding was a major concern for the commission, Gilman said.

"I feel that having adequate funding from sources, the federal government, the state, whatever, makes it much more likely that the property will become a farm, it'll stay a farm, it'll have the funding so that an actual farmer can purchase it, it won't be divided and it'll have the correct easements on it," she said. "We also had a lot of concern about the future of the farm...if the town bought it outright and didn't resell it because we've had a number of professionals tell us that that's not a particularly successful way for a town to preserve farmland."

Gilman said a better option is to buy agricultural easements and sell the land back to a farmer rather than the town buying it off.

Connecticut Farm Bureau liaison Christopher Bourque said the town buying a farm is not the same as preserving the farm, and "getting the land back in the hands of a farmer" is in both the town's and the farmer's best interest.

Selectman Stan Soby said a lot of effort has been put into the Slembek Farm acquisition process and "for the first time through, there's

always going to be some bumps and certainly I think we learned a whole lot. So I think we're all hopeful there'll be a next time to go through all this and we should not lose sight that this is a good thing and we'll work out some of the process issues."

Also at the meeting, local Boy Scout Kyle McCormick presented the trail improvement project at the Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands he began in July 2011 as a requirement to earn his Eagle Scout rank. McCormick said he chose this project because he enjoys working outdoors and in several visits to the Cohen Woodlands he found areas for improvement.

"The maps on the town website previous to the project [were] somewhat unclear and they were hand drawn instead of created using GPS data so there was room for improvement there," he said. "Also, some of the trails were in a state of disrepair. Some were overgrown, covered in garbage. We found bottles, tires, even a sink, and other sections flooded."

McCormick, along with volunteers from his and several other local Boy Scout Troops, rerouted flooded trails, connected western trails to northern trails, cut a path through an overgrown meadow, removed garbage, and have plans to implement a trailblazing system using colored squares on trees and create new maps using GPS data. McCormick said the project is also a good opportunity to contrast a wildlife viewing area overlooking a scenic marsh.

So far, the project has taken McCormick and the volunteers six three-hour work sessions. Schuster commended him on the "great improvement and fantastic project."

The board also gave Colchester Hayward Fire Department Chief Walter Cox permission to apply for a \$50,000 Fire Prevention and Safety grant, which would be used to purchase 1,250 residential smoke alarms and distribute them to senior citizens and families with children.

The board voted to authorize Schuster to sign a new memorandum agreement with Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3). C3 member Cindy Praisner said the only change is increasing the memorandum to a five-year term.

The selectmen also voted in favor of a two-year continuation of C3's Discovery Initiative Grant, used to "provide technical assistance in many different areas and learning opportunities," member Shelly Flynn said. Flynn explained C3 is a step-down grant, and the past two years have provided \$50,000 in funding and the next two will be \$40,000, requiring a \$35,000 cash match from C3.

The board appointed Steven Schuster – father of Gregg Schuster, who recused himself from this agenda item – for a three-year term on the Fair Rent Commission. The selectmen also re-appointed Jack Faski to the Fair Rent Commission and appointed Christopher Bakaj for a three-year term on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Bacon Thespians to Perform ‘Our Town’

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

A minimalist set will challenge the actors in Bacon Academy’s drama club in next weekend’s performances of *Our Town*.

Bacon Academy Drama Club advisor Rachel Mansfield said the set for the play, which will be performed May 4, 5 and 6 at Bacon Academy, was purposely kept simple by playwright Thornton Wilder.

“He didn’t want any kind of sets or scenery,” she said. “He felt that American theater in the 1930s, when this play came out, was getting too caught up in presenting the whole show for the audience, having beautiful sets and costumes and the music. The audience didn’t have to do any work at all.”

Mansfield said it must have been shocking for audiences to come in and see black curtains and a blank stage. “[Wilder’s] thought process was ‘if I don’t give them anything they have to be involved.’ They have to tune into all of the characters and what’s going on or they’re going to be completely lost,” she said.

Mansfield said *Our Town* is considered “the classic American play.”

“There’s a saying that every night of the year in the United States there is a performance of *Our Town* going on somewhere and it’s pretty much true,” she said.

This is Mansfield’s first year as Bacon’s Drama Club advisor, and choosing a show with few props helped keep costs low.

“We had originally hoped to do a musical but when we realized there was not a lot of budget, I decided we needed to do a straight play and a well-known one so we could hopefully bring in some money and next year do maybe two shows, a musical and a straight play,” she said.

The budget for *Our Town* was just \$800. But putting on the show is possible on such a low budget because classes throughout the school pitched in to help.

“Fortunately a carpentry class is doing some of the sets for us. There’s a costume class at the school and they’ve done a bunch of the cos-

tumes for us. The graphic design teacher at the school is doing the programs for us,” she said. “So it’s really great to have all that kind of support.”

Senior Marisa Sullivan said she has visited the costume class once a week for the past few weeks and has been impressed by her fellow students’ work. “I go in there and I watch them and it’s insane,” she said.

The show is split into three acts: life, love and death, and covers about 13 years of the characters’ lives. The play is about two neighboring families whose son and daughter fall in love over the first two acts, Mansfield said, and in the third act the female lead, Emily, dies.

“That scene takes place in the cemetery the day of her funeral and...Emily sits down with the other dead people in the cemetery and decides that she wants to go back to the living world,” she said. “But it doesn’t work because she knows her future...she knows her family isn’t taking into account all the life that’s going on around them.”

Mansfield said Wilder’s whole point with the show is to enjoy every moment.

“When Emily goes back and looks at her life she sees it all. She sees how beautiful her mother was, just simple things like she talks about bacon frying on a pan and her favorite hair ribbons that she had when she was 12 years old,” she said. “It’s really a beautiful moment if it’s done well...so if you’ve done it right the audience is crying, but at the same time they’re saying what a beautiful sentiment that we all have to live in the moment and appreciate what we have.”

Senior Brian Baldini plays a narrator-like character in the performance who points out some of the simple things in life that the characters miss.

“He has knowledge of the future and the past in the play; it looks like he can go back and forth through time showing the audience the whole town in its entirety naturally,” he said. “My character kind of brings it to the point. He gets the meaning into it quickly and gets it out



Bacon Academy Drama Club students Marisa Sullivan, left, and Meaghan Hickey, who play mother and daughter in the upcoming performances of *Our Town*, rehearse a scene.

so the audience can understand what the play’s trying to say.”

One of the challenges the cast faces is the size of the auditorium, because Mansfield said a show like *Our Town* thrives in a smaller space.

“That’s one of my jobs as a director,” she said. “I really need to get them to play it out to the back row because it is such a large space for the show, but they’re doing a great job.”

Sullivan, who plays Emily’s mother, said it took some time to learn how to act on such a bare set.

“We do pretty much all of the pantomiming,” Sullivan said. “One of the first rehearsals we had we took 10 minutes with Rachel and said ‘okay, this is where the oven’s going to be, this is where the counter space is going to be.’ You

have to picture in your head. It’s confusing and it’s hard but after a while you get used to it...it’s actually really fun.”

Junior Trey Archimbault, who plays George, the male lead, said with few props it was difficult figuring out where everything is on stage.

“A couple of times I’ve walked through someone’s house without even thinking about it,” he said. “But it is an interesting setup. It makes it so you’re actually focused more on the characters than you are the set, so I like it better.”

The cast of *Our Town* will hold performances Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 6 at 2 p.m. in the Bacon Academy auditorium. General admission is \$10 at the door.

Devine to Make Run at State Rep Seat

by **Joshua Anusewicz**

After a two-year hiatus from the political scene, local businessman and longtime politician Bill Devine officially announced last week that he would be running as a Republican candidate for the state representative seat for 34th District.

This will be Devine’s second run at the state seat in recent years - he was defeated by current state Rep. Gail Hamm (D - East Hampton) in 2006 by less than 100 votes, despite handily defeating Hamm in their hometown. (Hamm announced earlier this year she won’t be seeking re-election this fall.)

Most recently, Devine served on the Town Council until 2010, when he resigned due to personal and health-related matters.

Devine’s entire political career, however, has spanned well over three decades, since he moved to East Hampton in 1978. At the time, Devine was working as a regional salesman for the Bulova Watch Company in the greater Hartford area. Wanting to “get off the road” and find a place to settle, he chose East Hampton for its community feel and “nice people.”

But Devine also had his eyes set on something else in East Hampton: the former general store, Muller’s and Clark’s, in the Village Center where Red Door Boutique currently sits. The store sold everything from clothing to hardware, but also had a small jewelry section that also included watch repair. This attracted Devine, who offered to purchase the building from the previous owners. Devine would go on to acquire several other properties in the Village Center, which he has since sold due to economic recessions.

Today, he owns Devine Jewelers, which – much like himself – has been a mainstay in the

community for years. It was that experience in small business, Devine said, that first launched him into politics three decades ago.

“Some members of leaders of the Democrats came into the store and asked me to run for the Board of Finance,” Devine said of how it all got started. He said yes, was elected and served on the board for six years.

After his service on the finance board, Devine was asked to run for the Board of Selectmen, where he was elected chairman by just two votes. It was during that election that he first showed his commitment to town government; Devine said he stood outside of the school, in the rain, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., greeting voters as they entered.

“Nobody had ever done that before,” he boasted. Devine would serve four years as selectman, then would go on to serve on East Hampton’s first Town Council, as chairman.

Shortly after his stint on the council, Devine would get his first taste of state politics after being named state liquor commissioner for four years, where he worked closely on legislation with then-governor Lowell Weicker and former governor and East Hampton resident William O’Neill. He then returned to East Hampton politics, leaving the Democrats to become the chairman of the Republican Town Committee, and eventually returning to the council.

Devine, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, is also a member of the VFW Post 5095, American Legion, and Rotary Club.

Working in all of these capacities has taught Devine the importance of compromise, something he said will be imperative for the state to push out of the hard economic times.

“We need balance in the legislature,” he said. Devine said the economic climate of the state

is such that Connecticut residents are regularly going out of state, to Massachusetts in particular, to purchase gas and alcohol and go shopping, because taxes in this state are too high. Being a small business owner, he said he feels he has firsthand experience of the difficult economic climate and how it can be fixed.

“The deals the [state] unions have made with the state are killing us,” Devine said, adding that it’s not fair that taxes on residents are being increased to pay for raises for state workers.

“I want to explain to some of these legislators how a small business works,” he added. “Most of these people have gone to college, then on to law school, and decide to run for representative. They don’t understand the economics of the job.”

“The whole tax structure is just wrong,” he continued. “The state is billions of dollars in the hole because of extortion and bribery. You can’t just keep raising taxes on people. You see most people in East Hampton are on a fixed income and how much taxes affect them. Something has to change.”

Another point Devine raised was term limits for legislators, with a maximum of six years, feeling that “no one should be a career legislator.” He also feels that the state needs to lower the tax on gas, that the government should not “be involved in people’s lifestyles,” and that the state should “get rid of unfunded mandates.”

Having been a continued presence throughout the town for year, Devine said he has received a “great” response from residents he knows since he announced he would run for state office. He said he plans to hold multiple events over the coming months to get a chance



Former Town Council member Bill Devine will be seeking the vacant state representative seat for the 34th District this November.

to speak with residents of East Hampton, East Haddam and Westchester, but no dates have been set as of yet.

On the campaign trail, Devine will be battling against just two other candidates for now: Republican Melissa Ziobron, the economic development coordinator for East Haddam, and Democrat Christopher Goff, a former member of the East Hampton Town Council.

Council Slashes Additional \$125,000 from EH School Budget

by Joshua Anusewicz

At its regular meeting on Tuesday night, the Town Council made an additional \$125,000 in cuts to the Board of Education's spending proposal before approving the overall town budget by a 5-2 vote (Ted Hintz, Jr. and George Pfaffenbach were opposed).

The cut, proposed by Town Council Chairwoman Sue Weintraub on Tuesday, brings the total of cuts to the education budget to \$300,000, after the Board of Finance cut \$175,000 from the education budget during deliberations this month.

According to Finance Director Jeff Jylkka, the total increase in proposed education budget from the current fiscal year is now \$726,338, a 2.77 percent increase.

The overall budget that will be sent to a town meeting next week now sits at \$38.69 million, a \$930,439, or 2.46 percent, spending increase from the current fiscal year.

The expected mill rate, Jylkka said, is now 26.28, an increase of 0.6 mills, or 2.34 percent, from the current fiscal year.

Weintraub, who thanked the Board of Education and the school staff for all of their work on the budget, said there was no way "to correlate that more money translates to a better education," and that continually increasing the education budget would not be sustainable.

"I'm concerned we have to make the hard decisions now," Weintraub said. "I feel confident that [the school board] can make this

work."

Councilor Kyle Dostaler supported the additional cuts, stating that "a lot of people are still having difficulties" and that the cut would "help the budget pass."

Hintz agreed with cuts as well, adding that all of the town's departments had to contribute to lowering the budget.

"Hopefully it will not hurt, and [the school board] will do the best they can with the money allotted by the town," he added.

Pfaffenbach said he felt the council should put the proposed budget to the residents first at referendum to see if the town supported the increase. "If it doesn't pass, we'll come back and look at it again," he said.

In response, Weintraub said she had spoken with roughly 15 residents and all had said they would vote down the budget if more cuts weren't made.

Another budget item that was discussed was the proposed town engineer position, which the Board of Finance changed from a full-time position to a half-year spot that would be decided on by a newly-hired town manager. Hintz wondered if the position was necessary because the town had hired Public Works Director Keith Hayden for his engineering experience, and asked why previous director Robert Drewry did not propose an engineer although he didn't have an engineering background.

Town Council Vice Chairman Glenn

Suprono, who declared himself "very conservative," also questioned whether the town should delay the position for one year.

"Can we get along another year without a town engineer?" he asked.

Weintraub and Dostaler both supported the position, however, making the point that the town, on average, has spent more over the past seven years on contracted engineering services than it would to pay for a full-time engineer. Weintraub also mentioned the upcoming road project, which will overhaul many of the town's roads over the next few years, as a reason to keep engineering services within the town.

After the lengthy discussion, the council ultimately approved the cuts and leaving the town engineer position in the budget, which will now move to a town meeting on Monday, April 30, at 7 p.m. at the town hall. This meeting will be to set the referendum, which is currently scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at East Hampton High School.

Tuesday's meeting also marked the final Town Council meeting for Interim Town Manager John Weichsel, whose one-year contract will expire next week. Weichsel's last official day in office will be Wednesday, May 2.

Weichsel was hired last year to replace Drewry, who filled in after the resignation of former Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe.

Weichsel took the position after he retired as Southington's town manager, a position he held for 44 years.

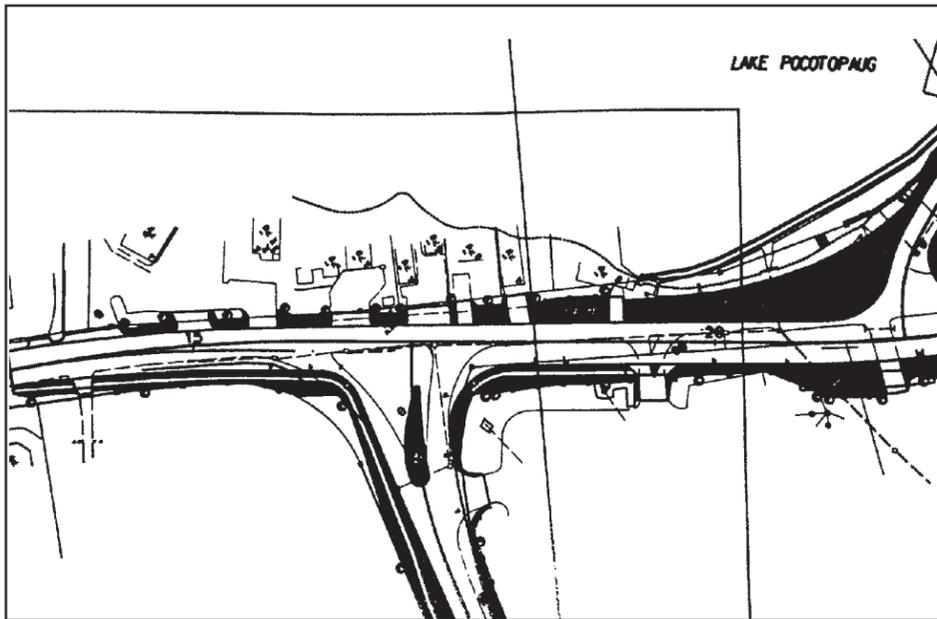
On Tuesday, Weichsel took the opportunity to be "self-serving" - as he put it sarcastically - by listing all of the things he was able to accomplish over his year in East Hampton. This list included the upcoming roads project, improvements to the culvert on Pine Brook Road, processing grievances within the police department and regionalizing the town's animal control officer with East Haddam.

He also thanked the council, who he said "stuck with me" during an extended medical leave last year, something he said other councils might not do.

"It was heartwarming," he added, "and I will always remember that."

The council, which met in executive session following the regular meeting to discuss the new town manager candidates, said Jeff Jylkka will fill in as interim town manager until a new individual is able to come in. Jylkka said Wednesday that he estimates he will fill that role for about a month, but that it "all depends on who they hire and when they are ready to start."

The next regular meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.



The proposed project to reconstruct the dangerous intersection of routes 66 and 196 would include shrinking the large traffic island, seen on the right, to a smaller median, seen in the diagram on the left, to provide better sight lines for drivers. The construction would also incorporate a traffic light with turning arrows, new turning lanes, and straightening out the nearby intersection of Route 66 and Old Marlborough Road. According the state Department of Transportation, the project is currently in the "semi-final design phase."

Route 66, 196 Intersection Project in East Hampton Back in Play

by Joshua Anusewicz

For the past decade, a proposed project to improve the junction of routes 66 and 196 has mostly collected dust. Recently, however, the project to reconstruct the dangerous intersection has been resurrected, with work set to begin at the end of next year.

Tim Gaffey, a project manager with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT), said last week that the project has been on hold for "a combination of reasons," but mostly due to the challenge of securing both federal and state funding. Gaffey also said that changes in town government have delayed the project, as well.

Gaffey first brought the project to the town in 2008, and was included in a recent "community needs" packet at the recommendation of the Midstate Regional Planning Agency.

As both of the roads are state-owned, the project will be entirely funded by the state for an expected cost of \$2.5 million. The DOT was not able to secure any federal funding for the project, Gaffey said.

Those who regularly travel through the intersection, particularly at times of heavy traffic, know how dangerous it can be. Vehicles traveling down Route 196 from the Village Center are sent into a large traffic island with two lanes on either side. Whether they are turning left or right onto Route 66, drivers are forced to crane their necks to see oncoming traffic in both directions.

Vehicles traveling on Route 66 westbound (toward East Hampton) are able to bear right onto Route 196, while those traveling eastbound (toward Marlborough) must wait for traffic to subside before they are able to turn left onto

Route 196, where they are then forced to yield for those turning right onto the road. Waiting for traffic to subside often causes backups on Route 66, or forces drivers to go around the waiting vehicle.

Drivers traveling off of the adjacent Old Marlborough Road are also in a dangerous position, as the road meets Route 66 at an angle that makes it challenging to see oncoming traffic from the westbound lane.

According to Gaffey, the project would address several "conflict points." The most major change would be the addition of a traffic light at the intersection, complete with turning arrows and separate turn lanes. The traffic island on Route 196 would also be made considerably smaller, with a concrete median instead of a large grass island, he said, making the inter-

section more perpendicular.

Gaffey said other changes would include Old Marlborough Road being reconstructed into a 90-degree angle, making the shoulders on all roads wider for easier turns, "flattening the curve" of Route 66, and pulling the road away from the lake and installing catch basins to reduce runoff into Lake Pocotopaug.

The project is currently in what Gaffey called "the semi-final design phase." As the plan is currently designed, the project would encroach on three separate properties in the area, Gaffey said, and the state plans to pay the property owners for the land or any damages. It will take about a year to "get the acquisitions in order," Gaffey said, and he expects that shovels will be in the ground by the end of 2013, with construction beginning in earnest in 2014.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Viola V. Rutty

Viola V. (Valli) Rutty, 85, of East Hampton, widow of the late Robert L. Rutty, passed away Sunday, April 22, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Jan. 17, 1927, in East Hampton, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Viola (Fowler) Valli. She was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and a lifelong communicant of St. Patrick Church.

Viola is survived by her three daughters, Nancy R. Dennehy and her husband Robert of Colchester, Joane R. Colburn of East Hampton, Louise L. Joyce and her husband David of Hilliard, OH; six grandchildren, Amber Goulet, Shannon Goulet, Scott Dennehy, Ryan Dennehy, Kathryn Joyce, Kristen Joyce; and three great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her son-in-law, Robert Colburn, eight brothers and one sister.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Wednesday, April 25.

The funeral procession began at the Spencer Funeral Home Thursday, April 26, followed by the funeral liturgy that morning in St. Patrick Church.

Burial will be in the family plot in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 1 Union St. No. 301, Robbinsville, NJ 08691-4183.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Amston

Ellen Joyce Gardner Larson

Ellen Larson of Amston ended her long and difficult struggle with scleroderma and pulmonary arterial hypertension at home and in her sleep in the early morning hours on Thursday, April 12. Ellen was born Aug. 17, 1941, the daughter of Frederick and Mae Sloan Gardner. She attended Cohanzie School in Waterford and was a 1959 graduate of New London High School.



Ellen was predeceased by her parents and her sister Barbara Doerfler of Waterford and Barbara's husband Carl. She also outlived her faithful companions, a terrier, Max, and four beagles, Ginger, Maggie, Bud and Molly.

Ellen is survived by her husband Douglas of Amston, her son Erik and granddaughter Ana of Cabot, VT. She leaves two nephews, Frederick Doerfler and his wife Lisa Manwaring of Norwich and Gary Doerfler and his wife Kelley of Waterford; grandniece Elizabeth Perkins of North Stonington; and grandnephew Sloan Doerfler of Waterford; also a brother-in-law, Edwin Larson of Darnestown, MD, and his wife Marjorie.

She also leaves very dear friends, Liliane Allegretti of Niantic, Susan McKinnon of Deer Isle, ME, Anne Engdahl of Lebanon, Kathleen and James Dillner of Amston and brother-in-law David Larson of Oakdale, who all were sources of great comfort during her long illness. Her companions, exceedingly vocal and constantly underfoot beagles Miles and Mojo, also survive her.

Ellen had a special affection for her longtime physician, Dr. Robert E. Levin, of East Lyme, who always made her smile.

Ellen retired from the staff at Lebanon Sports Centre in Lebanon in 2001. Earlier, she had been employed at Sears in New London and in the volunteer office at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London. She served as a Cub Scout den mother and as a teacher's helper at Hebron Elementary School in the 1980s. Ellen enjoyed the care of wildlife, gardening and cooking throughout her life.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Ellen's memory may be made to Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin St., Manchester, CT 06040, or to Protector of Animals, P.O. Box 24, South Glastonbury, CT 06073.

A Service of Christian Burial was conducted Friday, April 20, at Concordia Lutheran Church in Manchester with interment at Jordan Cemetery in New London later that day.

Hebron

Ralph Richard Roberts

Ralph Richard Roberts of Hebron was born July 9, 1927, in Lakewood, OH, and passed away Tuesday, April 3, in Manchester. A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 12, at 4 p.m., at Gilead Congregational Church in Hebron.

Ralph grew up in Ohio and served in the Marine Corps, receiving an honorable discharge in September 1946. In April 1950, he married Christine Catherine Enger, and together they raised three sons.

Ralph worked for most of his career in management for Travelers Insurance, first in Ohio, then in Hartford. After his retirement in the mid-1980s, he enjoyed many activities with the Travelers Men's Club, serving as its president for a time.

He and Christine traveled frequently, staying in Elderhostels and visiting children and grandchildren. Ralph also delighted in supporting Christine's passion for horseback riding, caring for the horses on their property in Hebron and accompanying Christine to local horse shows.

Both Ralph and Christine enjoyed entertaining friends, with many of these occasions planned around sporting events. One of their favorites was their annual Kentucky Derby party. Always quick with a smile, Ralph was appreciated for his good nature by his many friends.

Ralph is survived by his sons Peter (Shirley) of Dallas, TX; Ralph (Leticia) of Phoenix, AZ; and David (Ellen) of Apex, NC; and six grandchildren – Shelby, Christopher, Ralph, Richard, Arlene and Peter.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Christine, in September 2011.

The family gives special thanks and acknowledgment to the wonderful staff at Manchester Manor and Elder Care Consulting for their caring attention and kindness to Ralph.

To leave an online condolence, visit glastonburyfuneral.com.

Colchester

Donald G. Donsbough

Donald "Beau" G. Donsbough, 84, of Colchester, passed away Friday, April 20, at home. He was the son of the late Frederick and Agnes (Hahn) Donsbough.

Born March 15, 1928, in Great Barrington, MA, he lived in Portland for many years and most recently has lived in Colchester for the past 15 years.

He attended Ashley Fall Elementary School in Great Barrington, MA, and the Berkshire School in Sheffield, MA. He worked for Northeast Utilities for many years until his retirement. He was a town constable for the Town of Portland and a special deputy sheriff for the State of Connecticut, Middlesex County. He coached baseball for the New York Bakery Team of the Ahearn-Whelan Baseball League and coached for the Portland Youth Football League.

He leaves his ex-wife, Jane (Andrews) Donsbough of Colchester; sons, Michael G. Donsbough of Meriden, Kevin M. Donsbough of Marlborough and David P. Donsbough of Glastonbury; daughters, Karen D. Etheridge and Lauren J. Johnson, both of Portland, and Wendy E. Donsbough of Berlin; step-children, Roger L. Crouch, Carol C. Masselli, Gary R. Crouch; and several step-grandchildren, 15 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a brother, Frederick Donsbough Jr.; a sister, Loretta Smith; and a stepson, John C. Seagrave.

Funeral services will be private and at the convenience of the family. Memorial donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, has care of arrangements. To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Colchester

James J. Gallagher

James J. Gallagher, 75, husband of Shirley (Britton) Gallagher of Colchester, passed away Saturday, April 21, at home.

Visitation will be held from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 28, at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed at noon by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Andrew's Catholic Church on Norwich Avenue, Colchester. Military honors will follow.

Colchester

David Lomatoski

David Lomatoski, 54, of Colchester, passed away Saturday, April 21, at home.

Funeral services are private; there are no calling hours.

Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester are in care of arrangements.

East Hampton

Maria Simonow

Maria Simonow, 88, of Meriden and East Hampton, died Wednesday, April 18, at Chestelm Rest Home in Moodus, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's.

Born March 24, 1924, in the Ukraine, a victim of war-torn Europe, she was raised by her grandparents. Her small Ukraine village was occupied by Soviet and German militaries, which forced Maria at the age of 14 to flee alone to Germany, where she was subjected to German ideology. Maria worked at area camps and farms when she met her husband Peter. Soon after welcoming their son Stanley, the couple decided to come to America, arriving on Christmas Eve at Ellis Island.

The family began their life in the United States on a farm in Southington, and later ventured to Meriden, where they had their second son, Andrew. Upon retiring from Pratt & Whitney, Maria became a U.S. citizen. A true role model, she was devoted to her church and family. Maria enjoyed gardening and especially loved spending time with her family and friends.

Mrs. Simonow is survived by her sons, Andrew Simonow and his wife Nancy of East Hampton, Stanley Simonow and his wife Connie of Ocala, FL, and two grandchildren, Sara Simonow and Andrew Simonow, both of East Hampton.

Family and friends paid their respects Monday, April 23, at The First Baptist Church, 460 Broad St., Meriden. Her funeral service was held that morning at the church. Burial followed in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Stempien Funeral Home, 450 Broad St., Meriden. To send an online expression of sympathy, visit stempienfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Rose Marie Formhals

Rose Marie (Trottier) Formhals, 70, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Bruce I. Formhals, died Sunday, April 22, at Middlesex Hospital Hospice. Born May 27, 1941, in North Adams, MA, she was the daughter of the late Francis Claude and Anna Marie (Hansen) Trottier.

Rose was a member of the Civil Air Patrol while in high school in Massachusetts, and had worked as a nurses' aid. Rose was a talented and award winning artist and was named a Master of Doll Making by the Doll Artisans Guild, and had owned Rose's Doll House in Foxborough, MA.

A loving and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, Rose is survived by her husband, Bruce; her son, Bruce I. Formhals Jr. and his wife Paula of South Carolina; two daughters, Catherine Upham and her husband Albert of South Carolina, Kelley Matzek-Cook and her husband James Cook of East Hampton; two brothers, Francis Trottier and his wife Lucia of California, Thomas Trottier and his wife Theresa of Westfield, MA; 11 grandchildren, Sonya, Sara, Alexander, Jessica, Albert, Joshua, Stephanie, Kaitlyn, Hannah, Emma; five great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her three sisters, Edith Quinton, Anna Mann and Nancy Greenlaw.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Thursday, April 26. A funeral liturgy will be celebrated today, April 27, at 11 a.m., in St. Elizabeth Church in North Adams, MA. Burial will follow in Southview Cemetery in North Adams.

Memorial donation may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 300 Research Parkway, Suite 310 Meriden, CT 06450.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



East Hampton

Ann Loretta Plummer

Ann Loretta (Nichols) Plummer, 81, of East Hampton, beloved wife of the late Leland S. Plummer Jr., passed away peacefully Monday, April 23, at Chestelm Health and Rehab in Moodus, with her sons by her side.

Born Jan. 13, 1931, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Stanley and Aline (Galpin) Nichols. She had been a lifelong resident of East Hampton and was a member of the women's auxiliary of the East Hampton Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5095. She enjoyed spending time in Maine with her husband, gardening, flowers, and poolside gatherings with family and friends. She was a devoted housewife and mother to her husband and children.

She is survived by her three sons, Gregory Plummer of East Hampton, Timothy Plummer of East Hampton, Gerald Plummer of East Hampton; her brother, Charlie Nichols of East Hampton; her two devoted granddaughters, Brittany and Elizabeth Plummer; and many friends and extended family.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 28, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with Rev. Shelley Timber officiating. Burial will follow in Lakeview Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home Saturday morning from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service at 11.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Assoc. 2080 Silas Deane Highway Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Frances T. Beaulieu

Frances T. Beaulieu, formerly of East Hampton, parted from this life suddenly Sunday, April 15. She was the daughter of the late John and Lucy (Rossi) Terzo.

She leaves behind her five children, Richard Huey and wife Sarah, Louise Huey Greenleaf and husband Don, Boyce Huey and wife Laura, Michael Huey and wife Audry, William Beaulieu and wife Tammy. She also leaves her brother, Joseph Terzo, and a very special aunt, Sue Rossi. She also leaves 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in her honor Sunday, April 29, at 3 p.m., at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Saint Vincent De Paul's Soup Kitchen of Middletown, 617 Main St., Middletown.

Family and friends may leave a condolence message by visiting spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Edith M. Krech

Edith M. Krech, 85, of Greystone Retirement Home in Portland, former resident of Luther Manor, Middletown, passed away suddenly Wednesday evening, April 18, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born Aug. 11, 1926, in Old Saybrook, the daughter of the late Charles and Emma (Appelle) Mack.

Edith attended the Portland school system, excelling in English and home economics; skills lavished on her family and friends throughout her life.

Edith is survived by her son, Steven Krech of Middletown; daughter Shelley Lamontagne and husband Richard of East Hampton; a grandson, Scott Carlson of Worcester, MA; and two step-grandsons, Shane and Justin Lamontagne, along with their families. She also leaves behind her sister, Frances Mack of Middletown and brother-in-law, Mario Galanto of Las Vegas, NV.

Edith was predeceased by her sisters, Ethel Griswold and Helen Galanto.

One of the other joys in her life was the family dog, Ricochet, whose weekly visits lit up Edith's face.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, April 28, at 10 a.m., at the Luther Ridge Chapel, 624 Congdon St. West, Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Edith's memory to the John Georgiades Cancer Fund, c/o Savings Institute Bank, 115 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248.

Amston

Joan Marie Dickinson

Joan Marie Dickinson (Lauder), formerly of Amston, passed peacefully in her home in Key Largo, FL surrounded by her loving family Sunday, April 22, at the age of 89. She was born in Meriden to the late Percy and Hazel Lauder.

She graduated from Meriden High School in 1940 and went to work at the Miller Co. until her marriage in 1944 to Robert G. Dickinson (predeceased 1989). With 20 years as a Navy wife and 45 years of marriage with five children, they raised their family in Amston. After many travels they retired in Key Largo, FL, in 1985.

She was also predeceased by her son, Bobby Dickinson; and siblings Virginia Brainerd and Henry Lauder.

She is survived by her four daughters, Suzanne Dickinson, Barbara Dickinson, Annette (Charles) Moran, and Karen (Robert) Simone; seven grandchildren, Anthony, Christopher, Dawn, Angela, Spencer, Emily, and Valerie; one great-grandchild, Anthony Jr.; three siblings, Ellsworth Lauder, William Lauder, and Nancy Skiados; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Visitation was held Wednesday, April 25, at Allen-Beyer Funeral Home, 101640 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo, FL. A funeral Mass was held Thursday, April 26, at San Pedro Catholic Church, 89500 Overseas Hwy., Tavernier, FL.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to San Pedro Parish, P.O. Box 456, Tavernier, FL 33070 and/or Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, 16800 NW 2nd Ave., Ste. 400, N. Miami Beach, FL 33169.

Marlborough

Joan Stoughton Fay

Joan Stoughton Fay, 82, wife of the late Herbert Smith Fay, of Newbury, VT and more recently a resident of Marlborough, passed away peacefully Saturday, April 21, surrounded by family members. She was born in Lancaster, NH, in 1929, and daughter of the late Carroll and Kathleen Stoughton.

Joan leaves behind daughter Colleen and Brian Ives; son William Fay and Dessa Bokides; daughter Carol and Frank Messer; her grandchildren, Lauren and Robbie Ives, David, Mitchell, Greg and Charlie Fay, Jennifer, John, Kimberly and Tommy Messer. Joan also leaves behind her sister Betty and Chuck Dobson; brother John and Sally Stoughton; sister Lucy Schoff and sister Mary and Don Newey.

Joan's passion was family and education. She enjoyed spending time with her family at the Stoughton Camp and taking her grandchildren on day trips to Lost River, Mount Washington, Santa's Village, Children's museums. She loved playing cards and board games, going for walks, visiting New York City, cross country skiing, and was an avid fan of the Celtics and UConn Huskies. In education, she was dedicated to her students and always striving to find the best way to inspire. She taught in the Bedford, NY, Public School System for 15 years and the Vermont Public School System for 10 years.

Her family received friends Tuesday, April 24, at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Wednesday, April 25, at St. Mark's Evangelist Church, 467 S. Quaker Ln., West Hartford, CT. Burial service was Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at the Newbury Center Townhouse Cemetery, Scotch Hollow Rd., Newbury, VT.

In lieu of flowers, people can send a donation in memory of Joan Fay to the Alzheimer's Association, Connecticut Chapter, 2075 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067. To share a memory please visit www.mulryanfh.com.

East Hampton Police News

3/14: One 15-year-old juvenile and two 14-year-old juveniles, all of East Hampton, were each issued summons for third-degree assault, East Hampton Police said.

4/2: Robert P. Zipoli, 27, of 169 East High St., was issued a summons for misuse of plates, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and improper display of a marker plate, police said.

4/6: Kelly Naughton, 27, of 3 Bishop Hill Rd., was arrested for shoplifting, police said.

4/7: Gregory S. Harrison, 50, of 38 Picture Ln., Naugatuck, was arrested for DUI and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

4/11: Bryan T. Fox, 26, of 45 White Birch

Rd., was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

4/12: John Russell Forbes IV, 25, of no certain address, was arrested for fifth-degree larceny, police said.

4/13: Joseph Ross Nedobity, 29, of 62 Haddam Neck Rd., was arrested for possession of narcotics, possession of drug paraphernalia and illegal storage of narcotics, police said.

4/15: John Reynolds, 56, of 177 Hog Hill Rd., was issued a summons for passing in a no passing zone, operating an unregistered and uninsured motorcycle, and operating a motorcycle without proper endorsement, police said.

Colchester Police News

4/17: Zachary Hast, 21, of 227 Dr. Foote Dr., was charged with possession of narcotics, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of weapons in a vehicle after police found heroin and a revolver in his vehicle, State Police said.

4/17: Nicholas Inkel, 21, of 32 Hammond Ct., was charged with possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

4/17: Joshua Metivier, 25, of 216 Prospect Hill Rd., was charged with failure to respond to an infraction, State Police said.

4/19: Alysia Langworthy, 25, of 43 Chestnut Dr., was charged with third-degree assault

on an EMT and interfering with an officer after she struck an EMT while intoxicated, State Police said.

4/20: Matthew Daniels, 28, of 10 Carolina Dr., Apt. 21, Oakdale, was arrested on active warrant for DUI and making an improper turn charges from a Jan. 1 crash, State Police said.

4/22: Jessica Minney, 29, of 1 Skylark Rd., was charged with reckless driving, operating a motor vehicle without insurance, operating a motor vehicle under suspension, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, misuse of license plates and disobeying the signal of an officer, Colchester Police said.

Colchester Police News

4/21: David Gazdzicki, 24, of 773 Middletown Rd., was arrested on an active warrant for third-degree larceny, third-degree conspiracy to commit larceny, criminal trespassing and second-degree failure to appear in court charges relating to copper wire theft from an electric business in Colchester, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

4/19: Jeffrey Burg, 25, of 103 Jerry Daniels Rd., turned himself in to Troop K on active arrest warrant for second-degree failure to appear in court, State Police said.

4/20: Police are investigating a burglary and larceny after two motorcycles were taken from a residence on Isleib Road and later recovered in the area of Jones Hollow Road and West Road, State Police said. Anyone with information is asked to call Officer Randy Ransom at Troop K at 860-537-7500.

4/23: Nicole Dzikiewicz, 35, was issued an arrest warrant for second-degree failure to appear in court, State Police said.

Dog Injured in Hit-and-Run in Hebron

A dog was injured after getting struck by an unknown vehicle last Wednesday, state police said.

The incident occurred at around 8:20 p.m. April 18, police said, on Route 85 near North Pond Road. The driver of the vehicle then fled the scene, police said. The dog was brought to Bolton Veterinary Hospital for emergency treatment.

The incident is currently under investigation by Hebron Resident State Trooper Daniel Greenwood. Anyone with more information should call Troop K at 860-537-7500.