

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 37, Number 9

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

June 8, 2012



Signs along Route 85 in Hebron implored residents to vote 'yes' at Tuesday's budget referendum. And the signs had their way – the proposed \$33.78 million spending plan passed 939-695, much to the relief of town officials, who had already weathered two budget defeats this year.

Third Time Hebron Budget Charm

by Geeta Schrayter

The votes are in, and the third time really is the charm – at least for the Hebron town budget. After failing at two referendums, the proposed 2012-13 budget passed 939-695 to cheers of excitement from those who stayed behind to learn the results Tuesday night.

The \$33.78 million budget – which was reduced over half a million dollars from the originally-proposed \$34.28 million spending plan shot down by voters May 8 – is a decrease of \$311,888, or .91 percent, from current year spending. The number includes \$13.72 million for Hebron's share of the RHAM Board of Education budget, \$11.89 million for the local Board of Education, \$8.19 million for town government and \$752,533 for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

The CIP budget was actually passed by voters May 22, and, in a tri-town vote, so was the RHAM budget. But the overall Hebron budget failed, thus necessitating the Tuesday referendum.

The local Board of Education budget is a .82 percent increase over the current year, or \$96,938, down from an originally proposed increase of 1.82 percent. However, Board of Finance Chairman Mike Hazel has stressed at previous meetings the number was essentially flat to last year, because the increase is offset by an additional \$96,000 in state funding.

The school budget includes \$10,024,686 for salaries and benefits; \$549,241 for items such as transportation and magnet school and spe-

cial education outplacement tuitions; \$462,454 for services like overtime, staff development and legal fees; \$453,771 for materials and supplies; and \$388,119 for items like utilities and contracted services.

The approved education budget also features an expansion of all-day kindergarten, a change which was first attempted in 2010 but eliminated after two failed referendums. Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz explained previously that the change requires no additional classroom space, supplies, support personnel or furniture, which wasn't the case during the prior attempt.

On Wednesday, Cruz said the budget would allow the schools "to move forward and continue to provide an excellent education." She added she was "very excited to be able to offer full-day kindergarten."

"I'm just relieved," she said of the budget's passing. "It's been a long process."

The government budget includes \$6,396,279 in expenditures – \$52,011 more than the current year – as well as a \$73,000 contribution to Open Space/Land acquisition, a \$417,647 contribution to the CIP budget, a \$61,053 contribution for capital projects that cost \$5-25,000 and a \$50,000 contribution to revaluation.

There are two new budget initiatives included totaling \$27,000: changing the fire marshal position to a full-time emergency management director, for an extra \$9,697; and hiring an economic development coordinator for 16 hours

See Third Time Page 2

East Hampton Community Reflects on Bevin Bells

by Joshua Anusewicz

Martin Luther King, Jr. could have been speaking about the town of East Hampton when he uttered the quote, "We are not makers of history; we are made by history." No matter where you look in the community, history surrounds you, particularly in the form of its industrial past. Reminders of the two most important – bell-manufacturing and ship-building – are front and center, comprising the town's official seal.

The town itself has grown out of those two industries, turning from a tiny hamlet by the lake into a developing suburb that attracts those searching for the quiet of nature and nearby cosmopolitan amenities. But through that development, one particular piece of that history – Bevin Bros. Manufacturing – has stood the test of time, providing a link to the past that remained so ingrained in the town that some residents might not have realized it was still there.

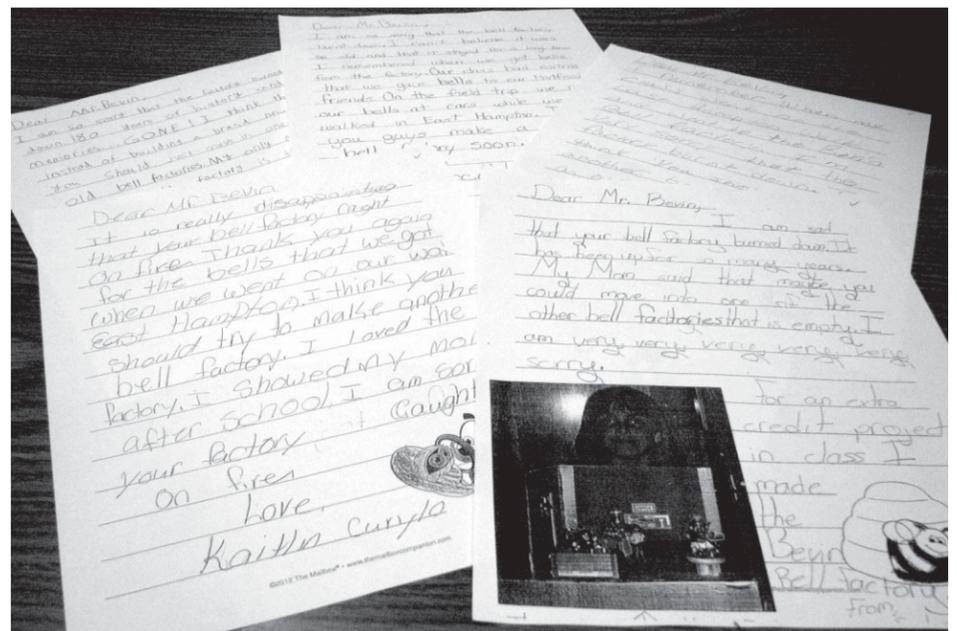
Over Memorial Day weekend, however, residents took notice. The fire that ripped through the historic factory stung the community to its core, affecting residents young and old equally. The thought of losing that valuable piece of history, the piece that virtually put East Hamp-

ton on the map, was too much for some to bear. Emotions flooded residents as they commented on television, in newspapers and on the Internet about what the factory meant to the community and how it affected so many lives.

It isn't lost on the youngsters of the town that this company was an important part of the community. Take a group of third-graders at Memorial School as an example: each year, the third grade class takes a walking tour of East Hampton, visiting historical spots like the Air Line Trail and the one-room schoolhouse, making a particularly special stop at the Bevin Bell factory. Though not able to go in, the students do get to tour the grounds, eventually being surprised by a factory worker with a small Bevin bell to keep. Each year, it's the highlight of the trip.

When Beth Haydu's third-grade class heard that the factory they enjoyed so much had burnt down, they didn't get upset – they became proactive. After volleying ideas back and forth, the children decided to write personal letters to owner Matthew Bevin, sharing their condolences, relating stories of their trip to the factory and offering ideas on how to rebuild, in ways that only precocious 8-year-olds could.

See Bevin Bells Page 2



Memorial School third-graders recently wrote letters to Bevin Bros. owner Matthew Bevin in response to the May 26 fire that destroyed the historic factory. The letters offered up condolences, thanks and even recommendations from the students, who visited the factory earlier in the school year.

Third Time cont. from Front Page

per week, at a cost of \$17,903.

The total amount that will need to be raised by taxes in 2012-13 is \$25,399,317, which is a decrease of \$409,298. In conjunction with the results of the October 2011 revaluation, which saw a grand list reduction of \$99,588,090, the mill rate is calculated to increase 11.15 percent to 33.64 from the current 30.26. The rate is .68 lower than what it would have been had the originally proposed budget passed at referendum.

Outside the polls Tuesday, the majority of residents who stopped to talk – but not all – were in favor of the budget.

“I think it’s the right thing to do for the town,” said Don Masters, adding he had considered the last two budgets “acceptable” as well.

Jennifer Sansoucy voted in favor at each of the referendums, adding she felt “passionately” about the education budget.

“I think that’s what brings new families to town. Those are the people who buy the bigger homes, support the local stores – I think it’s important,” she said. “It’s expensive, yes, but all the things that we need to move forward [are expensive]; technology is expensive and it’s where we’re headed and so, we’ll pay more in the long run if we don’t keep up on it now.”

Ellen Kirkpatrick said she was “absolutely in favor” of the budget and had the same feelings the first time around. But, she added, “I’m mad that they cut the town budget this time,” saying closing the library and the transfer station certain hours were detrimental cuts.

And those cuts that occurred after the budget failed on May 22 and the decision was made to take another \$100,000 from the spending plan – cuts that town officials have described as “painful” – resulted in some residents switching from ‘yes’ to ‘no.’

“The budget’s taken the wrong cuts,” said Phil Sutton, adding “Parks and Rec., the library, the town dump – these things should not have been cut.”

Sutton said he was for the budget last time. “I thought it was okay,” he said. “But now, they’ve just cut in the wrong areas.”

Another resident also switched sides, but from ‘no’ to ‘yes’ – and her reason was sheer frustration.

“I just said ‘to hell with it, I’m in favor of it, do whatever you want because I’m just disgusted,’” said the resident, who didn’t wish to be named. “I’ve just had it. It’s the third time we’re voting. I voted ‘no’ both times, I voted

Bevin Bells cont. from Front Page

“I am so sorry that the factory burned down,” said a student named Lauren in one letter. “180 years of history and memories...GONE!”

“I would hate to see the only bell factory not to exist anymore because I loved having the walk to your factory and getting the little bells,” wrote Hannah.

“I thought your factory was really great,” wrote Grant.

A student named Sarina even attempted to give Bevin ideas on where to rebuild, telling him, “You know there’s abandoned bell factories so maybe you can try to work in one of those.”

Each letter is compassionately signed “sincerely,” “love,” or “your friend,” showing that even at an early age, the students understand and have embraced the importance of the history of the town and realize the incredible loss of the historic factory.

Others in the community have lived through some of that history. If you take a trip down to the senior center, it doesn’t take long to find someone who remembers the factory or knows someone who worked there. Take resident Francine Watson, whose brother, Fredrick Royce Jr., met his wife Dawna while working there. She said she can still remember – unfortunately – the smell of oil emanating off of her brother when he returned home from a hard day at the factory.

Or Nancy Sowle, whose father, Cecil Sowle, worked at the factory for several years “about 100 years ago,” she said jokingly.

“It always surprised me that it was the biggest and oldest bell factory, right here in East Hampton,” she added. “We can be really proud of that.”

Even those who weren’t born and raised in town have a strong admiration for the business and its history. Flo Dunn, who was a neighbor of the factory on Bevin Boulevard for 30 years, said she had friends who worked there and received a bell from one of them, which she treasures dearly. She recalled that all of the Bevins that she met were “great guys” and was proud to live next door to such a “good business.”

‘yes’ today.”

She added that, if the budget failed this time around, the boards weren’t going to do what residents wanted. “All they’re going to do is take it out of the wrong areas,” she said.

After the results were announced Tuesday evening, town officials expressed their desire to hear residents’ thoughts – but a bit earlier than referendum day.

“I think what this [budget season] pointed out is that the process itself needs to change,” Hazel said. “We’ve had public meetings where no one has showed up and public hearings where no one shows up – [Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt] and I talked about this. We don’t want to be negotiating the budget through the ballot box.”

Hazel added, though, he was happy the budget passed and said, “Now we just move forward.”

Selectman Dan Larson agreed, saying he was “very pleased” the budget passed and the community could move on. He also said residents need to become involved earlier, imploring those with issues they want to raise to attend different meetings to let their feelings be known and “start early.”

“Try to do it on a proactive rather than a reactive timeframe,” he said. “In other words, don’t hold the budget hostage.”

Board of Education Chairwoman Kathy Shea called the budget’s passing “a great relief” and said the board could now move forward “with the business of the district,” while school board member Tina-Marie Blinn said “it’s about time.”

“I’m just excited and happy – happy for the school,” she said.

Interim Town Manager Andy Tierney also said board members are looking to take stock of residents’ thoughts, but added that, with the budget now passed, the town can focus their energies elsewhere. There was an exit poll question on each referendum ballot this time around, asking for residents’ thoughts on the budget, and Tierney stressed those results will be reviewed.

“We’ve heard the sentiment of the voters and we’re not ignoring that, but we still have a town to run and we’ve got to move forward” he said, adding, “We’ve got a lot of work to do.”

Watt also said there is a backlog of work now “that we’ve got to kind of catch up on,” but, he added, “I’m very thankful that so many people came out to vote again.”

Rose Hastings, who moved to East Hampton in 1951, said she has heard “nothing but good things” about the Bevin family and their business since she arrived in Belltown. “It’s heartbreaking,” Hastings said of the loss of the factory.

The heartbreak from the loss has led the community to reach out in any way they can to the business, offering up their services and donations to rebuild Bevin Bros. into something the town can continue to be proud of. And because residents have shown so much support and pride in the small bell manufacturer, Bevin and elected officials from the town and state level have shown equal support, offering every resource possible to make sure that the bells remain in Belltown. The grassroots website keepthebellsinbelltown.com has had a steady stream of visitors, offering donations, sharing condolences and relating stories that Bevin said have brought tears to his eyes.

As Bevin remarked at a meeting on Tuesday, it’s amazing to think what kind of impact bells have had on the community; “there’s not much to them, honestly,” he stated, ringing a tiny sleigh bell. But it’s the history behind the bells that’s important, most residents have said. It’s the pride of a true American business, making products not only in your country and state, but in your hometown. It’s the generations of families that have come before and have worked for Bevin Bros. or one of the multitudes of bell companies that have graced East Hampton over the decades.

Bevin said that, before the fire, improvements to the factory had been made, including over 200 brand new windows. The cleanup of the grounds had made the factory look better than it had in 100 years, he said – so much so that the rhododendron bushes in front of the main office had bloomed bigger than they ever had, perhaps happy that the factory looked and felt like it had when Bevin Bros. was in its prime.

And if the community has its way, it might just get there again, because a lot of people think just like third-grader Grant – the Bevin Bell factory was really great.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Eight thousand nineteen.

That’s how many games the Mets had played since their inception in 1962 entering last Friday, and they had never thrown a no-hitter. And, really, there was no reason to expect game number 8,020 would be any different. Yes, staff ace Johan Santana was going to be on the mound, but the Mets were also going to be facing the top-hitting team in the National League, the St. Louis Cardinals (who, by the way, also happen to be the defending world champions).

Plus, the game was going to mark the return of Carlos Beltran, one of the best players to ever wear a Mets uniform, to Citi Field. Beltran was traded to the Giants midway through last season, and he currently plays for the Cardinals, for whom he’s having a fantastic year. Part of what makes the Mets the Mets is you just *knew* Beltran was going to hit a two-run homer at some point during the game; you could only hope it didn’t come in a crucial spot.

So a no-no was the farthest thing from my mind as I tuned in SNY last Friday night and settled down to watch the game. And, as the innings started to rack up, I still didn’t think about it. The Mets were piling on the runs, and it looked like they’d be in a good position to win, and that’s what I cared about. They needed that win. Only in the sixth inning did I notice the goose-eggs in the Cardinals line score and thought to myself “hey now....”

As a Mets fan, those two words were really all you wanted to think. And you didn’t really want to think even that. Because, like I said, it had never happened. The Mets had come close over the years – *painfully* close – with Tom Seaver taking a no-hitter bid into the ninth inning on three separate occasions. I watched live, at Shea Stadium, as John Maine took one into the eighth in 2007, listened on the radio as Tom Glavine also took one into the eighth in 2004. But still, heading into last Friday, nothing.

And in the seventh, it looked very much like the game would turn into another of those “close, but no cigar” affairs. The Cards’ Yadier Molina (who broke Mets fans’ hearts when he hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning of the 2006 NLCS to help send the Cardinals into the World Series) hit a shot that leftfielder Mike Baxter – a Queens native and a childhood Mets fan – made a spectacular catch of, before slamming into the outfield wall and, ultimately, leaving the game with a shoulder injury. The no-hitter preserved, Santana went back to work, and mowed down the rest of the Cardinals’ batters in the seventh. And the eighth.

Santana got two quick outs in the ninth, but then threw three straight balls to the third batter of the inning, David Freese (the MVP of last year’s World Series). I was starting to worry he was weakening a little. (Had he walked Freese, it wouldn’t have been a huge deal, as Santana had already walked five that game, but it would’ve brought up Molina – and like I said, Molina’s crushed us Mets fans before; I had no desire to see him do it again.) But his next pitch was a strike, the next one was fouled off, and – just like that – he was

one strike away.

Santana took a deep breath, as did all of the 27,000 in attendance at Citi Field, as did myself and the countless others watching on TV. He leaned back, uncorked a sinking changeup, Freese swung and missed, and it was over. After 50 years, it happened. The Mets now had a no-hitter to call their very own, leaving the San Diego Padres as the only franchise in baseball without one.

Like I said at the start of this piece, I watched the game on SNY. But, being the Mets geek that I am, I went online later that night and listened to the call of the last out by the team’s radio announcer, Howie Rose, a lifelong Mets fan of the highest order. And he was, as I predicted, positively ecstatic. “Put it in the books!” he yelled, his trademark line after a Mets victory – and then he added, “The history books!”

Indeed, I am so glad history got written the way it did last Friday. There are some who, after a half-century of near misses, truly believed they’d never see a Mets no-hitter. I wasn’t as pessimistic, but I thought that, when it came, it would be from an unlikely source, a fourth- or fifth-starter type, journeyman player. After all, it had never happened to guys like Seaver or Koosman, or Gooden or Cone. Maybe it just wasn’t meant to happen with one of the team’s star pitchers.

But, it turns out, it was. I was in attendance the next to last game of the season in 2008 when Santana, on three days’ rest, pitched a brilliant complete game victory, keeping the Mets alive in the playoff race for one more day. Alas, the Mets lost the next day’s game, getting eliminated from the postseason, but that Santana outing cemented his star status in the eyes of Mets fans everywhere.

Another reason why it was particularly nice to see Santana get it? After undergoing a delicate shoulder operation in late 2010, he missed all of last season. It’s been a long road back for the former Cy Young Award winner, and this no-hitter must’ve been a sweet, sweet reward for the man (who, before last Friday, had never allowed fewer than three hits in a game).

And so, there it is. The Mets have a no-hitter under their belts. No more counting the number of one-hitters the franchise has (35 as of Tuesday). No more need for the website nonohitters.com (although the site still does exist, and is actually a handy resource for the near-misses the Mets have experienced over the years).

Now, I know there are probably plenty of Red Sox and Yankees fans reading this wondering why in the world I spent more than 1,000 words writing about a freaking no-hitter. (See? I do word counts on more than just letters to the editor.) But you guys have no-hitters in your history; this is my very first one. I wasn’t alive in 1969; was too young to appreciate 1986 (plus, I wasn’t really into baseball back then anyway). For me, this is almost like seeing my team win the World Series. I watched the postgame shows well into the night Friday, unable to wipe the smile from my face.

It has happened. And how sweet it is.

* * *

See you next week.

Colchester Motorcycle Crash Sends Salem Man to Hospital

by Katelyn Kelleher

A motorcyclist was transported by Lifestar for injuries suffered after a crash involving his motorcycle and a car Thursday, May 31.

Brent Walker, 26, of 10 Old Colchester Rd., Salem, was taken by helicopter to Hartford Hospital after the motorcycle he was driving crashed with a vehicle at the intersection of Norwich Avenue and Halls Hill Road, State Police said.

Police said Walker was not wearing a helmet and suffered an unclassified head injury, a broken right arm and abrasions to his left knee.

Last Thursday police said a spokesperson

for Hartford Hospital listed Walker in stable condition with “non-life-threatening” injuries.

As of Wednesday a spokesperson said the hospital had no record of Walker.

The driver of the car, Eileen Gould, 36, of 72 Colburne Dr., and two passengers were taken by a private vehicle to Marlborough Medical Center “for precautionary measures only,” police said.

Gould suffered a possible hand injury from airbag deployment, a 1-year-old passenger suffered an abrasion to their right eye and a 5-year-old passenger reported knee pain, police said.

Fenway is Hebron's New Top Dog

by Geeta Schrayter

All dogs in Hebron, next time you're enjoying a leisurely stroll around town, be sure to "bow-wow" down if you run into Fenway, the winner of this year's Top Dog competition.

The poodle-terrier mix has lived in town for the past two years, after being rescued from the Newington Humane Society at nine months old as a surprise for Stephen and Hope Lapierre's children, Madison and Monique.

At that time, Fenway got more than just a new home; he also got a new name. Fenway wasn't Fenway in those days, but "Busy," a name his new family hadn't been fond of.

"We're huge Red Sox fans," explained Hope Lapierre. So, while the family was getting acquainted with the puppy named "Busy," they began to call out different names. First they said "Boston," but Busy didn't respond. Then they called out "Fenway!" and the dog looked over.

"So we said 'that's it!'" And Fenway was born.

Renaming aside, the day Fenway was brought home was a favorite for Hope. She and Stephen had been looking for a puppy to surprise their daughters with since they were old enough to care for one, and the girls had been doing well in school. After looking around online, Fenway was discovered. It was the last day of school, and Hope explained that, as a teacher, she couldn't get off work. So Stephen went to the Humane Society during his lunch break to see the dog, then called Hope at the school.

"They page you [when you get a call]," explained Hope, who said this was something that rarely occurred, and the first thing that ran through her mind was concern something had happened. But instead it was her husband, who informed her if they wanted to bring the dog home, both she and the girls had to come and meet him, because the Humane Society won't let a family adopt a dog until they've all interacted.

Thanks to what Hope called "a blessing,"

the assistant principal happened to be nearby at the time of the call and managed to work out coverage so she could leave.

Then, they picked up the girls from a pool party and told them they were going shopping for the bathroom they were renovating.

"They were so upset we pulled them out of their pool parties to go bathroom shopping," Hope said. But once they arrived at the Humane Society and realized where they were, "one was crying, like hysterically happy crying, and the other was jumping up and down," she recalled.

"I was like 'alright, calm down because if we go in and seem like this crazy family, they're not going to give us the dog,'" she laughed.

But everything went along smoothly. The dog took to the girls instantly, and soon after, he traveled to his new town with a new family and a new name.

Now, Fenway lives the good life. He "goes with the flow," Hope said, enjoys going on walks and can travel on long car rides. She described the pooch as "lovable" and easy to get along with, and, most of all, he likes to cuddle.

"He's such a good cuddler," said Madison, 13, who added she was "really excited and really happy" Fenway had won.

"He's such a lap dog," she said. "Whenever we sit down he'll sit with us and he doesn't jump or bark or anything and he's just a good listener."

Her sister Monique, 10, said she was "really excited" Fenway has been declared Top Dog in Hebron, because "he's just a really good dog."

"I'm really happy that everybody liked him," she added.

The Top Dog Competition is put on annually by the Hebron town clerk's office as a way to remind people it's time to renew their dog's license. The winner of the coveted number one dog tag gets a free license for the upcoming fiscal year.

People sent in a photo of their pooch, along with pertinent contact information (such as name, address and phone number), to the town clerk's office. For the last two weeks of May, residents were able to vote for their favorite at the Russell Mercier Senior Center. The winner was announced May 31 at a special senior center luncheon.

In addition to offering a chance for a free dog tag – not to mention fun bragging rights – the contest also brings people to the senior center that might not otherwise venture in.

Town Clerk Carla Pomproicz said in the past, there have been over 50 participants in the competition, but this year there were "just about 20 dogs."

"But we've had a record number of people come in to the senior center to vote this year," with about 75-80 votes, she said.

The second place dog is Hairy, who also happened to be the Top Dog in 2010, owned by Janice Smart. Coming in third place is Cody, owned by the Michaud family.

As far as the new top dog, Pomproicz said "Fenway is very popular."

She added, "All the dogs are beautiful in their own way," but Fenway had "a lot of character" and she could see why people voted for him.

Madison and Monique said they like to take Fenway for walks, play with him and make sure he has fun. Monique added she liked sleeping with him as well, and to that regard, Madison shared that sometimes, Fenway would jump on the bed in their parent's room, pull back the blankets and lay beside the pillow.

"Sometimes he pulls the blankets back up!" she added.

The girls shared that a favorite moment of theirs was during a trip to South Carolina. Their father was saying "no, no, no" to Fenway to get him to stop whining.

"And he barked at him and it sounded like 'no' like he was talking back to him!" laughed Madison.



Fenway, the Lapierre family's two-month-old poodle-terrier mix, is the new Hebron top dog. The lovable pooch is shown here with Hope and Stephen Lapierre's daughters, Madison, top, and Monique.

Lapierre added sometimes it seems like Fenway really does understand – "he can sense if you're not feeling well or are upset," she said, "he'll come and curl up with you."

"He's just a really good dog and we're really happy we elected him and people went to vote," said Monique.

For the Lapierre family, it's apparent Fenway has always been the top dog. But now that he has the golden, number one license tag to show local canines and residents alike, he's the town's premier pooch as well.

Lions' Fireworks Won't Light up the Night in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

Backyard barbecues, bonfires, swimming, music, friends and family: on the days surrounding the Fourth of July, there are plenty of ways to celebrate America's birthday. But this year, filling the Hebron sky with bursts of colors won't be one of them, as the Hebron Lions Club has decided not to hold its customary fireworks display.

The decision comes after the club went through their budget process and looked at the cost of the display – the fireworks alone come in at \$12,000 – versus the amount of money brought in through sponsors, parking and a percentage of food sales at the event to help offset the cost.

"We've had some bad luck with weather during the past couple of fireworks that we've done," Hebron Lions Vice President John Johnson Jr. said Wednesday. "We felt this year, taking a year off just to kind of reevaluate for next year, would be best."

Johnson said the club doesn't have financial support apart from that of different sponsors, "so it's been difficult to come up with the \$12,000 to make it a profitable event or at least break even."

Through charging \$10 per car to park at the event, which usually brings in around 1,000-1,200 vehicles and takes place on the Hebron Fairgrounds, Johnson said enough money can sometimes – like last year – be earned to pay for the fireworks.

But between the economy, the club's budget and work that had to be done to the fairgrounds after significant rainfall and flooding last year, Johnson said holding the event this year was "a challenge."

"If the weather cooperated, we'd pretty much break even, but if we had some rain issues, it was a challenge," Johnson continued. "The time we [held the fireworks] before last year, we had real bad rain and basically lost, I think it was

four or five thousand dollars."

In a Hebron Lions press release, club president Adam Miclette said his group would like to be able to present fireworks for the town every year. But, the release stated, "when we lose money on any event, as we have more often than not on the fireworks in recent years, it reduces the funds we have available for charitable donations."

Recently, the Hebron Lions donated over \$100,000 to various organizations and charities at its annual Night of Giving, including donations to the Hebron community such as \$10,000 to AHM Youth Services, \$6,000 for Hebron Interfaith Youth Services, \$5,000 to the Senior Center and \$1,500 for the Douglas library.

Although Johnson said the club is "past the point of no return" this year, since the deadline for submitting the required event paperwork to the state has passed, going forward, a major sponsor would help significantly.

"A major sponsor would be a real good thing," he said. "We've always relied on donations between \$100 and \$500 and it's very hard to get up to the [\$12,000] amount. If we got a major sponsor willing to put up \$1-2,000 that would make it easier to make the decision to go forward with [the event]."

Johnson added that while it's "uncertain" that the event will be held next year, he expects it could happen.

"I'd love to bring the event back," he said. "I think it's a great event for the family."

But this year, individuals will have to seek out fireworks elsewhere to celebrate America's 236th birthday, or at the very least, content themselves with sparklers.

Anyone interested in helping the club put on the event down the road can contact Miclette at adam.miclette@hebronharvestfair.org or call 860-228-0892.

\$38.35 Million Budget Passes on Second Try in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

It took a second referendum and 28 less voters, but the budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year was passed on Tuesday by a good margin, 994-812.

"We're all quite pleased," said Board of Finance Chairman Matthew Walton, speaking of all the boards involved with the budget process. "Now we can all start enjoying our summer."

The approved budget sits at \$38.35 million, a \$581,471, or 1.54 percent, increase from the current fiscal year. Of that total, \$26.71 million has been tabbed for the Board of Education budget, a \$498,838, or 1.90 percent, increase from current year spending.

The calculated mill rate now stands at 25.97, an increase of .29 mills, up 1.13 percent from the current mill rate.

For residents, this may have seemed a bit like déjà vu, as it also took two referendums to pass the 2011-12 budget last year. The spending plan was shot down on its first trip before the voters last May, albeit by a tight 585-581 tally. (It passed at a second referendum the following month by a 1,129-788 vote.)

The first budget defeat this year was decidedly more pronounced. At the original budget referendum on May 8, the proposed \$38.69 spending package was resoundingly defeated by a 1,051-777 vote. That budget proposed in May stood at \$38.69 million, a \$930,439, or 2.46 percent, increase from the current fiscal

year. Since that vote was rejected, an additional \$227,500 was cut from the Board of Education, \$70,000 was reduced from town operations, and \$27,500 was dropped from the capital budget. At a Town Council meeting last month, a transfer to the water fund was reduced from \$47,500 to \$23,532, bringing the budget down to its current figure.

Many voters who rejected the budget in the first referendum cited a proposed town engineer position and a substantial increase in the Board of Education budget as their reasons for voting against the increase. Over the past month, the Board of Finance and the Town Council removed the engineer position and reduced the school budget further, among other reductions, to bring down the increase.

Despite removing the controversial budget items and bringing down the budget increase further, there were still concerns that voters would once again reject an increase in the budget. Walton said economic issues outside of the town's control were of particular worry heading into the budget vote.

"The whole board was concerned with what's going on with the economy and the unemployment rate," he said. "At the same time, we're looking out for the good of East Hampton, so it's a double-edged sword."

"We're now all in agreement and we can move forward," Walton added.

Woman Found Dead in Marlborough Backyard

by Katelyn Kelleher

A woman was found dead in the backyard of a South Main Street home Tuesday.

Police have classified the incident as an "untimely death" and are withholding the woman's name until her family is notified.

Several state police, including a State Police Major Crime vehicle, responded to the in-

cident at the 101 South Main St. home Tuesday. Police left the scene with the body around 7 p.m.

Police said they are looking at possible causes of death and would not give any information on when the body was found or by whom.

Colchester Dog Park Gets New Benches

by Katelyn Kelleher

The Colchester Dog Park has gleaming new benches and picnic tables, thanks to a Boy Scout taking on the project to earn his Eagle Scout rank.

Boy Scout Nick Backus wanted his Eagle Scout project to give back to the dog park, and noticed the park could use some seating.

"So I did some fundraising, bought the kits for the picnic tables and park benches and then just this [past] weekend we stained them and they look really nice," he said.

Backus, some of his fellow scouts and appreciative Dog Park Committee member Janice Felciano went out Sunday to the "unveiling" of the new and improved dog park.

Three metal benches and three picnic tables went in, providing a place for owners to sit when their dogs are running around. A plaque on the tables recognizes Backus and his troop for their work.

Dog Park Committee member Bill Gunther said the benches will be a great help for the park. "I've known Nick a long time. He's a really good guy," he said. "He wanted to do something for the dog park so he visited [the committee], went up there and saw that they didn't have any benches to sit down on and he thought he'd like to give back to the town."

Gunther said Backus has set a good example and is well respected by the younger Boy Scouts in his troop.

Felciano said when the dog park first got approval in 2009, resident Mary Gagnon made a \$20,000 donation as well as five wood benches, in honor of her son, Scott, a dog lover who passed away in February of that year.

When the park opened in 2010, the benches

were well-utilized, but didn't last. "[The benches] only lasted like two years," Felciano said, adding the wear and tear of dogs and the environment took their toll on the seating.

The benches built by Backus and his team are metal and hopefully should last much longer, Felciano said.

She added the tables and benches will make it easier for people to bring water to the park for themselves and their dogs because they won't have to put it on the ground.

"It's nice to be able to sit down at a table," Felciano said, adding that the park was once the site of a landfill so water cannot be drilled at the site.

While assembling the tables and benches took just a day, the planning and approval process took much longer. Between getting approval by the Dog Park Committee, his Boy Scout troop and the Board of Selectmen, then raising the money, Backus said it was a year and a half of work before the benches and tables went in.

Backus held a bottle drive from November through February and a car wash May 6 at Advance Auto Parts to raise the necessary funds. "Most of the guys from the troop came and supported me and helped me out [at the car wash]," he said.

Now, Backus can sit and admire his hard work when he takes his own dogs to the park.

Though scattered showers left the dog park nearly empty on the day the scouts assembled the tables and benches, except for a few people with their dogs, such has not been the case since the park opened two summers ago, Felciano said.

"The dog park has been constantly filled with



For his Eagle Scout project, Boy Scout Nick Backus brought picnic tables and benches to the Colchester Dog Park. Pictured, from left: Janice Felciano, Ethan Backus, John Marburger, Paul Esteve, Bob Jakowenko, Daniel Backus, Nick Jakowenko, Brian Marburger, Nick Backus.

dogs," she said. "There's tons of people at the dog park. Everybody raves about it."

Felciano said she and the other Dog Park Committee members hope Backus' generous work might inspire others – possibly other scouts – to continue to improve the park. She said the committee is looking to add agility equipment for the dogs and a shed with shov-

els and rakes so owners can fill in the holes their dogs dig.

Felciano said the committee is also looking for more members so they can continue to work on the park.

"The problem is nobody wants to be on the committee, so we're trying, four of us, to go to the meetings," she said. "Everyone's so busy."

Colchester \$50.36 Million Budget Heads to Tuesday Referendum

by Katelyn Kelleher

Residents voted without comments to forward the budget at the Thursday, May 31, town meeting the second time around to a referendum next week.

In a short meeting moderated by John Malsbenden, approximately 50 residents and town officials voted to send the proposed \$50.36 million 2012-13 fiscal year budget, a \$136,451, or 0.27 percent, decrease from the current year, on to a June 12 referendum.

The new proposed budget includes \$682,946 in reductions from the \$51.06 million budget, where both the town and education budgets were defeated by a nearly 2-1 ratio at the May 8 referendum.

The proposed town operations budget stands at \$12.81 million, including debt service and capital. The number is a \$332,936 reduction from the \$13.15 million town budget proposed for the May 8 referendum and is a 4.20 percent decrease from current year spending.

The budget calls for a mill rate of 29.05, an increase of 3.2, or 12.38 percent, from the current year's rate of 25.85. The sharp mill rate increase is due largely to revaluation, town officials have said.

Capital items were reduced by \$202,000 from the previous proposed budget and include eliminating \$100,000 for the town garage parking lot, \$50,000 for a records management sys-

tem at the town clerk's office, \$120,000 for a sedan for code enforcement and \$40,000 for a senior passenger van, which will be partially funded by grants matched by the town from a vehicle reserve.

The town operations budget, excluding capital and debt service, was reduced by \$130,390 and included eliminating \$50,000 for road improvements, which was reduced to the current fiscal year spending level, \$27,736 from human resources for professional services and a contract settlement, a \$10,000 contribution to Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3), \$9,508 by reducing hours at Cragin Memorial Library and \$27,951 by the elimination of a position in the Planning and Zoning Department.

Changes in the town operations budget also included a \$5,000 increase in unemployment due to personnel changes. Officer stipends for Colchester-Hayward Fire Department were reduced by \$3,550.

The proposed Board of Education budget was reduced by \$350,000 from the budget defeated at the last referendum. The new proposed budget is \$37.54 million, opposed to the previous \$37.89 million. The new number is a 1.97 percent increase over the 2011-12 budget, whereas the previous proposed budget was a 2.84 percent increase.

At this point, the Board of Education has determined what \$273,699 of the \$350,000 in total education reductions will be.

Through the elimination of one custodial position, 0.5 central office curriculum office professional positions and the central office transportation coordinator, administrative and support services were reduced by \$79,498. Contractual concessions accounted for \$6,500 in savings and bus contracts are still in negotiation.

Reductions in professional development, field trips and increasing Pay-to-Play from \$150 to \$180 per sport with a \$540 cap per family accounted for \$99,979 in savings in participant fees, fundraising and internal resources.

The supplies budget was reduced by \$63,702. Another \$24,020 in reductions came from changes in the budget known since April in scheduling and teacher assignments.

At last week's meeting, only one question came out of the crowd and was about the three bonding proposals from the last budget proposal. Malsbenden said the three bonding items were off the table for the new referendum.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said this week the cuts made in this new proposed budget have given many residents exactly what they asked for, which is not to increase spending.

"This budget does just that," he said. "The combined town and school budget is actually a

decrease in spending."

Schuster added this budget is the first for the town in 20 years that has had a decrease in spending.

"I think that's very significant for people looking to stay the same or decrease," he said. "I think this should satisfy them."

Additionally, Schuster said he wants voters to have the right information when they go in to vote as some have been misinformed.

"The only thing I can tell people is contact me or contact the school [with any questions]," he said.

Some residents are unclear as to how the budget will affect their taxes, Schuster said, adding 65 percent of residential properties will see a tax decrease.

"Anyone can go on the town website and see exactly what the tax change is," he said.

Schuster explained in a revaluation, the tax burden is shifted among various businesses to make sure everything is equal, so the shift in property tax is not directly correlated with a tax increase or decrease. "Also, there has been Grand List growth... [and] the overall spending is basically flat so that's the reason why most people are taking a tax decrease," he said.

The next budget referendum will be held Tuesday, June 12, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

Silver Takes Home the Gold in Colchester Top Dog Contest

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

A dog named Silver won the gold – the number one dog tag, that is – in Colchester’s 2012 Top Dog Contest.

The seven-month-old Siberian husky beat out the field of 56 dogs competing for the title with 19 of the 111 votes cast. The close runner-up, a hound named Sophie, received 18 votes. Residents could vote for their favorite of the dogs during the last two weeks in May by viewing their photos on the town website. Silver was awarded the top dog title after the votes were counted Wednesday, May 30.

For her prize, Silver received her first dog license free-of-charge, compliments of Town Clerk Nancy Bray.

Silver’s owner, Nancy Summerfield, was thrilled that Silver earned the top dog title and was shocked upon finding out how close the vote was. “She’s just the most lovable dog you ever saw and she’s so soft,” she said. “We love her so much and thought we’d enter her in the contest.”

Silver, like many huskies, has the gift of gab. “She talks to us, too,” Summerfield said. “When she wants to go out she’ll sit at the door and just keep going on and on and on until someone takes her out.”

Summerfield wasn’t necessarily looking for a husky when she was searching for a puppy several months ago, but she had an instant connection with Silver.

“When I saw her on a webpage I just fell in love with her,” she said. “She was born on my birthday.”

Aside from her striking blue eyes, Silver was named for the color of her coat. “When we got her she was gray...so we named her Silver [reg-

istered with the American Kennel Club as Quicksilver 15],” Summerfield said. “Then we noticed that she had turned very light brown, then the next thing you know she was white and now she has some gray again.”

Silver was just five weeks old when she was brought home. Unbeknownst to Summerfield, the breeder sold her too early. “The vet said FYI it was illegal to sell a dog before she was a certain age,” she said. “She was a little dog; she wasn’t fat and plump like most puppies.”

Regardless, Silver is happy and healthy in her home and is no longer a little dog. Currently at 50 pounds, she’s still growing. “They’re big, lanky dogs made for running and pulling,” Summerfield said.

Since Silver is still a puppy, she is lucky to have Summerfield’s two grandsons live with her to expend some of that energy. “One is with her all day long,” she said. “She has a lot of energy so he takes her out running and they have a good time together.”

The Top Dog Contest was initially started 21 years ago to spread awareness for people to have their dogs vaccinated against rabies, Assistant Town Clerk Cheryl Garofola said.

Up until three years ago, Bray said, the contest was judged by Colchester seniors and winners were picked by categories such as most obedient, oldest, best hunter, etc. “It’s a fun contest,” she said. “We had real pictures that people would drop off and people from the senior center would lay them all out.”

The overall top dog and assistant top dog were registered for free until the voting system was switched to an online system. Now only the top dog gets their licensing for free. Bray said the number of voters has increased over



Colchester’s 2012 top dog is Silver, a seven-month-old Siberian husky. Residents voted for Silver over 55 other dogs to earn the title and free dog licensing.

the past three years.

Bray said dogs over six months of age must have a license and must be renewed each June, to ensure all rabies vaccinations are current. A rabies certificate and validation of spaying or neutering is required at the initial licensing and for license renewal, a current rabies certificate should be on file with the town clerk’s office.

Licensing fees are \$8 for spayed or neutered

dogs and \$19 for those who are not. By state law, penalty charges of \$1 per month are added if licenses are not renewed by June 30.

There will be a rabies vaccination Sunday, June 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Colchester-Hayward Firehouse, 52 Old Hartford Rd. The cost of the vaccination is \$20, cash only.

Portland Declines Solar Offer for Schools

by **Joshua Anusewicz**

After a barrage of questions and comments from board members and residents and a lengthy executive session, the Board of Selectmen unanimously rejected an offer to build solar equipment at Portland High School/Middle School and Valley View School at a meeting on Wednesday night.

The meeting served as a joint collaboration, with members of the Board of Education, Planning & Zoning Commission and Clean Energy Task Force present, as well as other relevant town employees. The idea for the meeting was sparked by the school board, which, according to board chair Christopher Phelps, sought a proposal of what the project would look like and how it would benefit the town.

The project was presented on Wednesday by Dan Rogers, a project development engineer from SunEdison, a global company that develops, builds and maintains innovative energy solutions. The company is a subsidiary of MEMC, a publicly-traded company that was one of the first producers of semi-conductors.

According to Rogers, the proposed design would include two separate areas of solar energy. The first would feature multiple rows of carports, located at the high school/middle school complex in the parking lot abutting the tennis courts. The carports would act as canopies over the cars, roughly 13 1/2 feet high, with solar panels located on top. The second area would be a “ground mount” located behind Valley View School, with a group of solar panels six feet high and roughly a foot off of the

ground. Rogers said that at that size, the solar panels would provide roughly 450 kilowatts of energy.

Rogers reminded those in attendance that nothing was set in stone, though, and that the size and location of the solar panels could be modified. “We want to build where you guys want us to build,” he said.

Once the solar panels were constructed, Rogers said they would be under the ownership of SunEdison, who maintain and repair the structures. SunEdison would enter into a contract with Portland, then into a contract with CL&P, creating revenue by producing the energy and obtaining credits from CL&P for using alternative energy. The panels themselves, Rogers said, would take roughly a month to construct and would have a lifespan of 20-30 years.

And while no solid number could be announced, SunEdison said the utility costs for the schools would be cut almost in half, costing the town roughly \$29,000 for the first year.

But while the idea of using alternative energy and saving money doing it seemed appealing, questions were raised that turned many in attendance off of the idea. Board members first asked about the sustainability of the company itself, as they said MEMC has recently seen stock prices drop considerably and executives resign amid financial turmoil. Neighbors of the schools also raised concerns of additional construction in the area and large solar structures

dotting the landscape of an otherwise residential neighborhood. Others also questioned whether melting snow from the structures would cause a flow of water into the parking lot that would freeze and create a safety hazard for students and faculty.

The matter that eventually caused many to balk at the plan, however, was the lack of time to make a decision. To put the wheels in motion for the project, the Board of Selectmen would have had to make a decision on entering into an agreement by Tuesday, June 12, giving them only a few days to review the proposal. Approving the plan would have put the project on track to be completed by the end of next summer, with construction taking place during the schools’ summer vacation.

The majority of the board felt it would be irresponsible to enter an agreement – which would last for 20 years – right away. “I’m reluctant to enter into this contract so quickly,” said selectman Mark Finkelstein.

Members of the Planning & Zoning Commission agreed, stating that it would be too soon to approve the process of the project, and adding that energy costs could rise over the duration of the contract and savings may not always be realized. “It seems great if you could lock the cost of energy, but I don’t know if you can count on that for 20 years,” said commission member Michael Woronoff. “There are a lot of variables.”

The selectmen then entered into executive

session, where they ultimately decided to reject the proposal for now, but keep the idea on the backburner. “It’s a worthwhile project, and it seems like it’s worth pursuing, but we can’t do it this year,” said Finkelstein. “There were several important questions raised, some questions we didn’t even think of. We need to work towards learning more and hopefully be in a better position next year.”

Prior to the joint meeting, a public hearing was held to discuss the proposed citation hearing ordinance, which would be coupled with the recently-approved town blight ordinance. With little input from the few residents in attendance, the selectmen unanimously approved the ordinance, 7-0.

The citation hearing ordinance will work as an appeals process for those who have received a citation for a blighted property. Residents will have the opportunity to appeal the ruling in front of a citation official or a three-person panel of officials. This individual cannot be a police officer or an employee of the town.

Now that both ordinances have been approved, the two will be posted in a local newspaper next week and will go into effect 31 days after being posted.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Public Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

Bevin Speaks With Council, EH Residents for First Time

by Joshua Anusewicz

In the two weeks since the devastating fire that destroyed the Bevin Bell factory, Matt Bevin, the owner of Bevin Bros. Manufacturing, has thoroughly assessed the damage to his business and spoken to seemingly everyone under the sun about the future of his company and if he plans to rebuild.

But, until this week, Bevin hadn't had the opportunity to speak with some of those most closely affected by the fire: East Hampton residents.

Given the chance to speak in front of residents and the Town Council at a special meeting Tuesday night, Bevin gave an impassioned speech about his company and how the town could – and, he feels, should – help in the rebuilding process.

“East Hampton can become a beacon of the American dream,” Bevin said to the crowd of roughly 50 people, which included his wife and five children, as well as Bevin Bros. employees. “The next 180 years starts right now.”

It would be hard to imagine East Hampton without Bevin Bros., the last remaining exclusive bell manufacturer in the United States. Bells have been the cornerstone of the town for over 200 years and it's hard to go anywhere without being reminded that East Hampton is “Belltown, USA.” Bells dot street signs, birthed the names of local businesses, and gave East Hampton High School athletics its mascot – the Bellingrings.

Since the fire, support has poured in from throughout the community, from newcomers and lifers alike, all with the same theme: “let's rebuild in East Hampton.” And Bevin, the sixth-generation owner of the company, plans to do just that, announcing Tuesday that a new facility has been chosen, with preliminary work being done currently to make the building suitable for bell-making. (Bevin did not say where the facility will be in East Hampton, as the acquisition is not official yet.)

But Bevin said the reason for rebuilding is

not about making a profitable company, but rather maintaining a family tradition and its historic value to the town.

“This is so much bigger than two little companies,” Bevin said, referring to Bevin Bros. and P.S.I., another manufacturing company that was housed in the factory. “This means a lot to me. It's part of the fabric of this town, and when it's gone, it will never come back.”

Bevin then challenged the Town Council and the residents to band together and unite behind something that the whole town can be proud of.

“Too often, the thing that disturbs me is that we rally behind something when they're already gone,” he said. “This is a town that has a chance for a do-over. This is a town that's been its own worst enemy over the past few years.”

Bevin continued, “Let this be chance to reunite this town. We have a chance to come out of the other end of the tunnel.”

As Bevin spoke, he fought back tears, much more valiantly than many of the residents in attendance, who heartily applauded his ideas. But he was unable to hold it anymore when speaking of his employees. Bevin said that, in this country, “people have the chance to climb the ladder,” with many starting in places like Bevin Bros. He related a story about two of his employees, husband and wife, who were refugees that fled to the United States from Eastern Europe. Knowing no English, the two found jobs at Bevin Bros. to support their three elementary school-aged children. They've been there for 14 years.

But it's their children that have been able to climb the ladder, Bevin said. The oldest child of the couple is now teaching fifth grade English to children that were her age when she arrived in this country. “That's the American dream,” Bevin said with tears in his eyes. “Greater dreams are being built on the backbone of companies like this.”

Bevin's words gained the support of the four

council members in attendance – Chairwoman Sue Weintraub, Kyle Dostaler, Barbara Moore and George Pfaffenbach – who thanked him and the emergency responders from the police and fire departments for their efforts. Weintraub said the sense of community spirit over the last two weeks had been “overwhelming, so reflective of our community” and that it showed “people [in East Hampton] truly care about each other.”

Weintraub also praised Bevin for his “desire, spirit, and energy” that she said was much-needed in the community.

Pfaffenbach particularly praised the members of the fire department in attendance, who all work as volunteers.

“My hat's off to the emergency responders; just a super effort,” he said.

Bevin added to the praise, thanking the firefighters for “putting it all out there for the benefit of others.”

Residents also chimed in from time to time, praising Bevin. “Our town needs a lot more people like you,” said one resident, and another resident told him, “Your grandfather would be proud.”

Resident Bill Dinunzio called Bevin and his family “the cornerstone of the town” and added that he would be happy to help the company financially. “For me, if it meant a small tax increase, I'd sign on the dotted line today,” Dinunzio said.

Bevin thanked residents and the council for the praise and their support in his business, but recognized that there is still a long way to go. He stated that the dyes, which are used to mold the bells, have been mostly recovered, but that rebuilding the manufacturing process from the ground-up will be a daunting task.

“I'd be lying if I told you we will put all of the pieces back together, because I don't even know what the pieces are,” he said. “But I'm not a quitter.”

“I'm excited, as excited as I can be,” he

added.

The town has been excited to chip in, as well. A grassroots campaign at keepthebellsinbelltown.com is already up and running, while Sen. Richard Blumenthal has promised to form “Team Belltown” in an attempt to use all local, state, and federal resources possible to rebuild the company. (Due to the age of the building and the equipment, much of the facility was uninsured, Bevin said.) This weekend's Strawberry Fest will also feature a booth about Bevin Bros., which will give patrons a chance to learn about ways to support the company and raise funds.

But perhaps the most touching idea came from Sue Berescik of the East Hampton Public Library. Berescik said that since the fire, she has lit a small LED candle and placed it in her window, in remembrance of the historic factory. Her idea for the candle, she said, is to create a small transparent logo for the candle that would commemorate the factory that could be sold at locations throughout town to raise funds for the company.

“If we could have these for Old Home Days, imagine what the streetscape would look like in tribute to Bevin Bell,” she said. Berescik said that the wheels are already in motion for the project and she expects to have candles for sale in the library within the month.

And as ideas for tributes and fundraisers are hatched, Bevin said he has just enjoyed listening to people speak of the company that has been in his family for almost two centuries. He said that the stories have meant as much to him as anything over the past two weeks, many of which have moved him to tears. And it's those stories that drive him to keep the small business going – and that the town has a chance to be behind it.

“I hope 180 years from now, people are talking about this meeting,” Bevin said. “The day that the town didn't give up.”

East Hampton Woman Heading Up Glastonbury Relay

by Chris Seymour

The annual Glastonbury Relay for Life is this weekend, and the event this year is being headed up by East Hampton resident Kelly Ahearn.

The relay will begin today, June 8, at 3 p.m. and end at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 9, at the Riverfront Community Center, 300 Welles St., Glastonbury.

One of Ahearn's focal points as chairperson for the American Cancer Society signature event is to stress that, despite the name, you don't need to be a cross-country superstar to participate.

“One of the hardest things about getting people to relay is that most think it's a race, and it's not,” Ahearn said. “Yes, we have a track – but people walk in honor or in memory of their loved ones.”

Ahearn said the event really should be promoted “more like a fair so the misconception of it being a race can be wiped out.”

“Thankfully,” she added, “the ACS has been increasing their marketing with commercials this year.”

At the relay, teams of people camp out at a local high school, park or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track, according to the American Cancer Society. Each team has a representative on the track at all times during the event, and because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight, up to 24 hours in length.

While the relay starts this afternoon, people are still invited to head over to Glastonbury and sign up to volunteer. Ahearn said people can

sign up at the registration tent, and volunteer for the Luminaria tent or help with such tasks as kids' activities and Saturday morning clean-up.

“This is a great way for high schoolers to get volunteering hours for graduation,” she said.

Most of the fundraising is performed by teams during the months leading up to the Relay for Life event. As of Wednesday, the Glastonbury Relay for Life has 226 participants and 40 teams signed up. Also as of Wednesday, over \$40,000 has been raised for ACS. The goal for this year's relay is to raise \$70,000 when all is said and done – last year's relay raised \$61,314 – and Ahearn said Wednesday, “We are at a good point right now so we have a really good shot at reaching our goal.”

Ahearn said she hopes the event can draw 500 people – and those that attend can do more than just walk.

“Our teams and vendors will be having various raffles and contests throughout the day to raise money for cancer research,” she noted. “One hot item is always the Yankees/Red Sox ticket raffle. We'll have live bands, food, kids crafts and activities, a survivor and luminaria ceremony and much more!”

A 2005 graduate of East Hampton High School, Ahearn said she has been on the Glastonbury Relay for Life committee for two years. Altogether, she has been involved with the relay for four years.

Ahearn, who is event coordinator and graphic designer at BioSafe Systems in East Hartford, recalled that, in her second year with the relay

in 2010, “I did some graphic work for the committee and that's how I got sucked in.”

Ahearn initially got involved with the Glastonbury Relay to support a friend and remember her own grandmother, who passed away from cancer.

“In 2009, my childhood friend's mother, Nancy Tammaro, passed away from cancer,” she said. “My friend [and Nancy's daughter] Christina quickly rallied and formed a Relay for Life team in honor of her mom. I immediately joined her team to support her and because I had lost a grandmother to cancer [now 12 years ago] as well.”

Since Ahearn became involved in the relay, she noted that four parents of kids she went to high school with at East Hampton High School have passed away from cancer.

“I relay to support my peers and their families and the various other people who have lost someone they love too early,” she said. “Losing a parent in your 20s is unacceptable. This is why we need to come together and fight back against cancer.”

Admission to the relay is free, but a \$10 donation gets those attending a Glastonbury Relay T-shirt. Online registration for the event is now closed, but those looking to participate can sign up today at the event. Those wishing to donate can still do so at the Relay for Life website, relayforlife.org.

Chris Seymour is a reporter with the Riverfront's sister newspaper, *The Glastonbury Citizen*. A version of this story initially appeared in the *Citizen*.



East Hampton resident Kelly Ahearn, left, is chairing the Glastonbury Relay for Life, which will be held this weekend, June 8 and 9, at the Riverfront Community Center. Also pictured is Ahearn's friend, Christina Tammaro, also of East Hampton.

Marlborough Resident Returns to Bodybuilding

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

After a 15-year hiatus from the sport, a busy Marlborough mom took up bodybuilding to prove she could compete with the pros.

Armen Kevorkian took home two second-place titles in the International Natural Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation (INBF) Northeast Classic, held in Marlborough, MA Saturday. She entered in two divisions, the women's master's and women's open.

The women's master's, Kevorkian explained, is for women of all sizes age 46 or older. The open women's lightweight competition is for women of all ages weighing 104 pounds or less. In Saturday's competition, 10 women competed in the master's and seven in the open. In total, about 170 bodybuilders competed, some professionals.

Kevorkian, an aerobics instructor, was a natural bodybuilder. She decided to train for her first competition 15 years ago and came in first in the women's open division. "My [now] ex-husband and I were watching *Fitness America* on TV and he said 'Oh, you can do this,'" she said. "I took a gymnastic course and [the instructor] said to me 'You have the perfect body for bodybuilding,' and when I did that I ended up taking first."

However, the next 15 years brought three kids and no time for Kevorkian to compete, until a few months ago when she started training for the INBF Northeast Classic.

Saturday's competition was a close call in both of her divisions and a tough decision for the nine judges. In a competition, the women usually do about 10 mandatory poses, she ex-

plained, and the judges will ask for more if they're undecided. "If it's a close call, the judges will have us do our poses once, maybe twice," she said. "In both of the groups they had us pose again four or five times. ... They were trying to compare who deserves first and who deserves second."

Kevorkian said the judges asked her and two other women to move to the middle of the group. "If they put you in the middle, you know that you're in the top," she said. "I knew it was a really good sign; I thought I had taken the women's open."

A win in the division would have qualified Kevorkian, competing as an amateur, for the overall competition, where the top two are awarded professional cards, allowing them to compete for money. "I really thought I was going to come in first," she said. "But eight or nine of the women walked away without a trophy, so I should be really happy."

Putting in the work to achieve the results she wanted was more difficult for her this time around, though. "It was definitely more difficult losing weight," she said. In addition, being a single mom of three sons and a member of a band called the Glamour Girls made fitting in the workouts difficult.

"Having all those responsibilities plus an hour of cardio and a half hour posing and closer to the competition two hours of cardio, posing and weights in the gym an hour and half a day, it was hard to squeeze it all in," she said.

Kevorkian was able to get back in competition shape with just two and a half months of training. "I've been continually doing training,

so it's not like I completely stopped, but I trained for a level of competing, posing and stuff, that I hadn't done in all those years," she said.

For help, she trained with John Yobst of Lean Physique in South Windsor. "I used him primarily for diet and posing because there are a lot of techniques to learn on how to pose properly," she said. "Each pose, you hold it for 15 or 20 seconds, and your whole body just shakes."

The competition itself is no less rigorous. "Two days before you have extra [carbohydrates], then Friday you're back to eating normal, then Saturday is very minimal water."

Kevorkian said competitors drink very little water on the day of the competition to be as lean as possible. "You want your muscles to show," she said, adding that between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m., she drank only 10 ounces of water. "You end up losing a couple pounds on this alone."

Then competitors need to step on the scale and take a polygraph test to show they haven't used any steroids.

The work is worth it for Kevorkian, who said as soon as she got into bodybuilding, she loved it. "It was all up to me to sculpt my body the way I wanted to."

Kevorkian said the most important part about bodybuilding is that she strives to be to be a role model to her 22-, 18- and 15-year-old sons. "I want my children to know that no matter how old you are, nothing can stop you if you want it bad enough," she said. "I hope I inspire my children to be the best they can be and to always go the distance."

Kevorkian plans to make another attempt at



Bodybuilder Armen Kevorkian strikes a pose in a competition Saturday where she placed in two divisions. Kevorkian hopes to achieve professional standing in a competition this fall.

earning her pro status at a competition in November called the INBF Monster Mash in Marlborough, MA. "I am determined to take first place in November," she said.

Public Water Coming to Marlborough Town Center?

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The Board of Selectmen voted Tuesday to look into a state grant that would bring public water to the center of town.

First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski said the application for a 2013 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant must be completed Aug. 1.

Town Planner Peter Hughes said applying for the grant to bring public water to the center of town is "very doable."

"That I think would make a tremendous economic impact to the center's development and I think that we could have a real chance of getting the grant," he said.

Hughes said applying for the grant to expand the sewers would not be feasible in the timeframe. "For the sewer to go down to [Marlborough Medical Center] or across the highway would require the town to contribute several hundreds of thousands of dollars. That's not going to happen between now and Aug. 1," he said. The state needs "some kind of commitment."

Connecticut Water agreed to do the design and contribute \$50,000 to the construction, Hughes said. He said the town would have to contribute \$25,000-50,000 by Aug. 1.

Additional money would come from a "private-public partnership," Hughes said. "We ask property owners in the center to contribute

\$25,000-50,000; the cost of what they would spend on drilling a well to develop their property."

Selectman Dick Shea asked what the incentive is for property owners to contribute. Hughes said those property owners who contributed would be connected to the pipes during construction, and, although property owners could pay Connecticut Water \$1,500 to connect after construction, those property owners who contributed would be guaranteed to be connected.

"If we only have so much money the pipe can only go so far, but if you put in money, you'll be connected," he said.

Hughes said having \$150,000-200,000 in private money toward the project puts the town in a good position for receiving the grant and the project might be more economical than additional wells. "It's about \$125/foot when you run a pipe; about \$30,000 a well. We could have \$350,000-400,000 in well water lines," he said.

A secure water source is the other benefit to having public water. "It avoids the [salt] pollution situation, provides consistent water and clean water," Hughes said.

The selectmen agreed that it would be worthwhile to "explore a public water system" and voted to do so.

Also at the meeting, the selectmen made several changes to the "Land Use Fees Schedule," then voted to put the schedule into effect July 1.

The map amendment fee was brought down from \$300 to \$200. Hughes said the fee covers the cost of 3-4 hours of engineering work at around \$80/hour. Special permit home occupation fees were reduced from \$125 to \$80.

Selectman Michael Gut questioned the addition of an after-the-fact fee of \$150, for when after work is completed. Gut said no other town, with the exception of Bolton, has the fee. Gaudinski said the fee will encourage people to obtain the permit first, "so things don't have to be undone or uncovered."

They voted to keep non-regulated, as of right and amendment fees at \$15, \$15 and \$50, respectively, to cover the costs of publishing legal notices.

Shea said the town should put information out for residents for when they need a permit and Gaudinski agreed and said she will work on it.

The selectmen also voted to accept the proposed posting of signs for public hearings in certain land use matters ordinance, which requires a sign be posted on a piece of property when there would be a variance, special exception, zone change or permit.

Due to the new state statute permitting liquor sales on Sunday, the selectmen repealed a "long-time ordinance on the books" allowing only restaurants to serve alcohol on Sundays. Marlborough will now follow the state statute, allowing the sale of liquor between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The resignation of Animal Control Officer Don Favry was accepted, effective May 25. Favry, who resigned from his position in Colchester last month during an investigation on allegations of misconduct, also served as the animal control officer for Marlborough. Animal control services will continue to be provided to Marlborough by Assistant Animal Control Officer Bill Paul until Colchester fills the position.

The selectmen also accepted a \$60 shed permit fee waiver request from Marlborough Arts Center. The shed was funded by a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The arts center will also be installing outdoor lighting, though they did not request a waiver for the \$15 fee.

"For a nonprofit not covered by other sources of income, [waiving the fee] seems like a reasonable thing to do," Shea said.

Gaudinski said she looks at it as economic development.

Andover Selectmen Talk Trees, Bridges, Pavement

by **Geeta Schrayter**

At the Andover Board of Selectmen's meeting on June 6, board members talked trees, bridges and pavement preservation.

First Selectman Bob Burbank informed those present that Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) "has promised more tree trimming."

"We're putting together a number of trees and stuff like that [for CL&P to work on] so we should see more crews," he said.

Burbank explained CL&P anticipated additional crews would be in the area in late August "to alleviate some of those problems."

Additionally, Burbank explained the state Department of Transportation (DOT) had informed him a pavement preservation program will be taking place on Route 6, expected to begin this month.

"So there will be some traffic slow down," he said.

The project involves the resurfacing of two sections of Route 6. Crack sealing and minor surface patching will be performed as needed, the DOT said in a letter. The section to be worked on starts at Bolton Notch and extends through Coventry to 230 feet east of Bunker Hill Road in Andover.

During construction, there will be alternating one-way traffic during non-peak times, the DOT said.

Burbank also updated the board on the status of the bridge over the Hop River on Times Farm Road. He said a project had been in the works to repair the bridge before he had become selectmen, but due to the fact the town was looking into bankruptcy at the time, the project was put on hold.

The bridge was inspected in April by DOT, and was given a "poor" rating – the same rating it's had since 2001.

In a follow-up letter, the DOT advised the town to "engage the services of a professional engineering firm immediately," to start planning repairs to the bridge before it degrades anymore, "jeopardizing the safety" of the traveling public.

Next week, Burbank said he'd be meeting with DOT and an individual from CME Associates, Inc. the company that was originally contracted, to revisit the issue, "get some info, and find out where we stand with the whole thing."

Also at the meeting, the results of a preliminary energy report conducted by CCM Energy was presented. CCM Energy, "a leading provider of energy and environmental solutions," conducted an energy report on the town buildings including Town Hall, Andover Elementary School, the senior center, fire department and town garage. The purpose was to determine whether or not the town could work with CCM Energy for Energy Performance Contracting.

Energy Performance Contracting is "a financing technique that uses energy savings from the building owner's existing operating budget to repay the cost of energy efficient equipment" and other energy improvements made by the company, it's explained in the report.

The company would replace older equipment such as boilers in town with newer versions and update town buildings to increase energy efficiency, then earn back their money from some of the energy savings the town would see.

However, after reviewing energy bills and each of the above buildings, the company determined "a performance contracting solution would not be feasible."

As a result, the town's Energy Committee

will be looking into alternatives to improve energy efficiency and save money around town.

Rick Linden, a member of the committee, was present at the meeting and said the results of the report meant "that's the end of story as far as CCM is concerned," because the company concluded "there's not enough stuff here for Andover to warrant a performance contract."

However, Linden continued to mention another possibility may be to enter into a regional Energy Performance Contract by "pooling small towns" like Andover together, who don't have enough money in town to warrant a solo contract.

It was suggested that the Energy Committee come before the board at a future meeting to recommend the possibility be examined further.

"Our goal is to keep our costs as low as possible, and certainly if we can save money on energy or any other item that's a plus for taxpayers," said Burbank.

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held Wednesday, July 11, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at the Town Office Building.

Meet Andover's New Top Dog

by Geeta Schrayter

Forget being "the cat's meow." In Andover, the glory goes to that other four-legged friend, the dog, and whoever wins the annual Top Dog Contest.

The contest was held for the first time last year. It is sponsored by the Town Clerk's office as a way to remind residents the time has come for them to renew their dog licenses and, additionally, raise money for a local charity. Any dogs in town could be entered in the contest, and residents headed to the town clerk's office to vote for their favorite pooch throughout May. Votes cost \$1 each, with the money going to a chosen charity. Last year, the proceeds went to Andover Social Services; this year, they went to the Andover Food Pantry.

On Tuesday, Assistant Town Clerk Mikki Busch said even though the town didn't receive as many entries as it did last year – there were five candidates, as opposed to eight in 2011 – \$173 was raised from the contest.

Busch explained flyers had been sent home and to the school to encourage local children to enter their furry friends, but only one kid entered: nine-year-old Aiden Gibeault.

And it just so happened it was Aiden's chocolate lab Jack, 7, who took home the title.

Jack, who's described as very friendly, is known for smiling at everyone.

He was present at Wednesday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen to receive a special bandana and certificate to go along with his

brand new number one dog tag. And he really was smiling, too, with his mouth open wide and curved up at the ends, just like a genuine grin.

As Aiden stood beside his dog, he said he was "really happy" Jack had won, and mentioned playing catch and wrestling together as some of the things they liked to do. Additionally, Aiden said his favorite thing was having Jack by his side at night.

"He sleeps with me at night in my bed," he said.

On Tuesday, Aiden's mom Lisa said Jack gets along with other cats and dogs, loves to take walks around the Andover lake and go swimming out to the island.

"We take him out swimming and he pulls my son on the float," she shared, adding Jack likes to attend Aiden's baseball games, too, and is even irresistible to some of Aiden's friends who usually aren't fond of dogs.

"They've come over to visit a few times and Jack is so friendly and so relaxed and easygoing that the other children have come to like him," said Lisa.

From the above descriptions, it might seem Jack is just like any other dog living the good life. But two years ago, the family noticed Jack's eyes were slightly cloudy. After being brought to the vet, it was discovered he had a genetic degenerative disease that affects the eyes. His pupils are fully dilated at all times, significantly hindering his vision.

However, apart from the cloudy color in his

eyes, Jack seems to get around just fine and, clearly, doesn't let the condition bother him all that much.

"We think he can see shadows," said Lisa, "but he does great with his nose. He can even fetch!"

Lisa explained if her son picks up a stick and throws it in the yard, Jack listens to where it falls, then heads over and is able to pick up the stick he can smell Aiden on.

"It's amazing how his other senses have developed," she said, adding Jack gets around the house and the yard just fine, and once he learns where things are located, he seems to remember it's there, and get around accordingly.

Jack, who loves to ride in the car and is consequently brought along everywhere, is also a fan of fast food drive-thrus. After driving through the Dunkin Donuts drive-thru one time, Lisa shared that the woman at the window asked if Jack wanted a Munchkin. He was given one, and never forgot that small, sugary treat.

"Now, even if it's the bank drive-thru, it seems like he jumps over and gets all excited," said Lisa.

And at present, Jack has even more reason for exuberance, as the Top Dog in town for the next licensing year, from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013. And who knows, the next time he ends up at a drive-thru, sporting his gleaming new tag and bright red bandana, perhaps his new found status will earn him another Munchkin or two.



All eyes at Wednesday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen were on Jack, the chocolate lab owned by Aiden Gibeault, as he was presented with a bandana and certificate for winning the 2012 Top Dog Contest.

East Hampton Police News

5/25: Darco Quentez Patton, Sr., 35, of 7A Barton Hill Road, was arrested for disorderly conduct and third-degree burglary, East Hampton Police said.

5/25: Harry Scott Jr., 27, of 259 Injun Hollow Road, Haddam Neck, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and failure to wear a seatbelt.

5/26: Dawn Aileen Benjamin, 48, of 18 Dale Drive, was involved in a motor vehicle crash on Route 66 in the area of Lake Drive involving a utility pole, police said. Benjamin was arrested for DUI, operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, failure to drive right, possession of a controlled substance and illegal storage, police said.

5/28: Melanie Stachowicz, 33, of 3A Starr Place, East Hampton was issued a summons for operating an uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

5/30: Pamela Dubois, 60, of 41 Miller Road, Bristol, was issued a written warning for failure to obey a stop sign, police said.

Colchester Police News

5/29: After an accident, Mel McCann, 69, of 61 Grier Rd., Rockville, was charged with DUI and failure to drive a reasonable distance apart, State Police said.

5/30: Jonathan Jonah, 40, of 61 Loomis Rd., turned himself in on an outstanding warrant for violation of probation, State Police said.

5/30: Dean Molinari, 25, of 24 Broadway St., Apt. 2, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

6/1: Blake Barros, 23, of 6 Birch Cir., Apt. 6, was charged with second-degree assault, third-degree strangulation and disorderly conduct, State Police said. Barros was released from custody on \$100,000 bond and his court date is set for 10 a.m. July 2 at Norwich Superior

Hebron Police News

6/4: Two were injured in a collision on Main Street in Hebron. State Police said Patricia Atkinson, 54, of 128 Appletree Ln., Portland, was traveling west on Route 66 when Maegan Mcphee, 37, of 12 S. Stonybrook Dr., Marlborough, made a left turn and both vehicles struck each other. Atkinson was transported by ambulance to Marlborough Medical Center for minor neck pain and a 4-year-old passenger in Mcphee's vehicle was transported by ambulance to Connecticut Children's Medical Center for bruising from the seatbelt, police said. Mcphee was found at fault and issued an infraction for failure to yield when making a left turn, police said.

Court.

6/1: Jairo Davila, 21, was charged with DUI, stop sign violation and operation without carrying a license, State Police said.

6/2: Michael Veseskis, 22, of 162 Falls Rd., Moodus, was charged with breach of peace, second-degree stalking and first-degree reckless endangerment, State Police said.

6/3: Christopher Bogue, 20, of 79 Elm St., was charged with possession of less than one-half of an ounce of marijuana, second-degree criminal trover, evading responsibility, DUI, operating a motor vehicle in violation of license classification and stop sign violation, State Police said.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Doris Masse

Doris (Lapointe) Masse, 91, of Marlborough, widow of the late Robert H. Masse, died Tuesday, May 29, at Marlborough Health Care Center. Born April 7, 1921, in New Bedford, MA, she was the daughter of the late Francois X. and Alida (Dupont) Lapointe.

She had resided in Windsor Locks for 37 years before moving to Colchester in 1987. In 2005, she resided at the Herbert T. Clark House in Glastonbury before moving to the Marlborough Health Care Center in July 2011.

She is survived by her five children: Paulette Adams and her husband Terry of Marlborough, Robert Masse and his wife Jane of Mesa, AZ, Michele Gliha and her husband Paul of East Hampton, Charles Masse and his wife Valerie of Manchester and Gisele Laine and her husband Bruce of Eagle, WI; three sisters, Jeanne Olivier of Acushnet, MA, Annette Lesiak of Acushnet, MA, Lillian McKay of New Bedford, MA; nine grandchildren, Liza, Renee, Deanna, Brian, Ben, Chris, Danielle, Andrew, Akira; four great-grandchildren, Nicholas, Caroline, Charlie and Gigi.

She was predeceased by three brothers, George, Armand and Lucien Lapointe, and two sisters, Lauretta and Beatrice Lapointe.

Doris had a quiet strength that carried her through her sparkling 91 years. For those of you that knew her well, she was a fighter. Her strength gave her the ability to deal with any situations that life presented her. To her family she was a jewel. To her care givers, she was a bright spot in their day. Her greatest joy was to be among her children, grandchildren, and siblings.

The family is grateful to the Herbert T. Clark House and their staff for mom's six wonderful years of independent living. They would also like to extend their thanks and gratitude for the attentive and loving care she received at the Marlborough Health Care Center.

The funeral procession left Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday, June 4, followed by the funeral liturgy at noon in St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough. Burial was in the family plot in Notre Dame Cemetery in Fall River, MA, Tuesday, June 5. Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home Sunday evening, June 3, as well as Monday, June 4, before the funeral procession.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Center, 10 Brookline Place West, 6th Floor, Brookline, MA 02445 or to the Marlborough Health Care Center, 85 Stage Harbor Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Katharine Jacobson

Katharine Costello Jacobson, "Kay," 67, of East Hampton, died peacefully Saturday, June 2, at Middlesex Hospital, with her family by her side. Her beloved husband, Frederick Jacobson, cared for her in her final days. Born May 2, 1945, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Lawrence and Pauline (Maury) Costello.

Kay was raised in Ivoryton and Chester before moving to East Hampton 43 years ago. She was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton. Katharine was employed for 17 years and retired from Northeast Utilities Connecticut Atomic Power Plant, and was later employed with Middlesex Hospital Home Care Department for seven years. She enjoyed caring for hospice patients and support for their families.

Besides her husband, she leaves her daughter, Traci Jacobson Willette and her husband Gerald of Portland; a brother, William Costello of Cromwell; a sister-in-law, Ruth Hollings of Newington; her aunt, Evelyn Bangs of Deep River; and her two adoring grandchildren, Justin and Vanessa Willette.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, June 6, in Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton. Burial followed in Lakeview Cemetery. Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Tuesday, June 5.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church P.O. Box 31, East Hampton, CT 06424, or to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-91 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Jeanne D. Howard

Jeanne D. (Garneau) Howard, 81, of East Hampton, died Wednesday, May 30, at Middlesex Hospital. Born April 11, 1931, in Ham Nord, Canada, she was the daughter of the late Albert and Alice (Brulotte) Garneau.

On July 10, 1951, she was married to the love of her life, Frank J. Howard, in Toronto, Canada, and they were happily married for 56 years. In 1959, they immigrated to the United States, and she proudly became a naturalized citizen in 1967. Together, they raised four active boys. Jeanne was a communicant and volunteer at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in East Hampton. Jeanne held several jobs in her life including a waitress, a cook and a translator. She will be remembered as a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother, and a very proud great-grandmother.

She was a wonderful cook and nothing made her happier than feeding good, homemade food to those she loved. She enjoyed teaching her family her secret recipes, how to knit and how to play card games. Knitting and crocheting were talents of hers and all generations of her family and extended family have beautiful Afghans, sweaters, and slippers from her, and she made and donated hundreds of baby hats for newborns at Middlesex Hospital.

Jeanne loved to plant, grow and care for her flowers and vegetables especially tomatoes. Jeanne and Frank loved to travel especially to Vermont with their "Beaver" friends. She was a lucky gambler and loved to travel to Foxwoods, play bingo, slots, and cards and do crossword puzzles. She enjoyed even the smallest silly moments with her grandchildren and great grandchildren and loved watching them grow.

She is survived by her four sons: Richard and his wife Rita of Monmouth, ME; Ronald and his wife Annette of East Hampton; Robert and his wife Cyndi of Southington; and John of East Haddam; six grandchildren, Jenora Schultz and husband Shawn, Christina Hillier and husband Jonathan, Matthew Howard and partner Samantha Williams, Catherine, John and Sarina Howard; and three great-grandchildren, Samuel, Noah and Jonah Schultz two brothers Bernard Garneau and Michel Garneau of Canada; a sister-in-law, Rolande, of East Hampton; and her niece, Linda Wood, and several other nieces and nephews.

Jeanne was predeceased by her parents; her siblings, Therese, Alban, Felix and Lorenzo Garneau; and her loving husband Frank, who passed away in 2008.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 9, at 10:30 a.m., in Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with Rev. Walter Nagle officiating. Friends may call at Spencer Funeral Home Saturday morning from 9 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of choice. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Hebron

Brian P. Belmont

Brian P. Belmont, 53, of Stamford, formerly of Hebron, passed away Sunday, June 3, at Stamford Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. Brian was born Nov. 26, 1958, to the late Albert L. and Theresa F. O'Hagan Belmont. Brian was employed by City Carting as the recycling plant manager and was an avid Yankee fan.

Mr. Belmont is survived by his beloved son, Anthony Belmont of Hebron, his devoted sister, Bonnie Ferro and her husband Mickey, a dedicated brother, Albert Belmont and his wife Karen, all of Stamford. Also surviving are his four nieces, Bonnie, Lynnae, Michelle, and Theresa, and two nephews A.J. and Mike. His aunts, Mary Corrigan of Greenwich and Judy O'Hagan of North Carolina, along with several great nieces and nephews, a host of cousins and very close friends survive him. He is also survived by his former wife, Margaret (Meg) Belmont.

A funeral procession left the Nicholas F. Cagnetta Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Myrtle Ave., Stamford, on June 7, and processing to St. Maurice RC Church, 358 Glenbrook Road, Stamford, for a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment immediately followed at St. John RC Cemetery, 25 Camp Ave., Darien. Friends and family called at the funeral home Wednesday, June 6.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Brian's memory to the Masonicare Home Health and Hospice, 74 Cheshire Road, P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492.

For online condolences, visit Cognetta.com

Portland

John W. Otterbein Jr.

John W. Otterbein Jr., 60, of Portland, passed away peacefully Sunday, June 3, with family and friends constantly at his side over his final days as he battled cancer. A lifelong New York Yankees fan, he took the fight to extra innings.

Born in Middletown June 25, 1951, John was the son of John and Diane (Santangelo) Otterbein. Known as both Jay and John, he was a graduate of Portland High School and worked for the State of Connecticut's Department of Transportation. Most recently, he was employed by NAPA Auto Parts, rising at 5:30 a.m. each day to work, despite the cancer.

He leaves his parents, John and Diane of Portland; his brother, Jeff and wife, Becky, of Manchester; their children, Stacy and her husband, Jason Firth of Vernon and Michael Otterbein and his fiancée, Courtney Saitta of Manchester; devoted aunts, uncles, cousins, their spouses and children, all of whom were companions to the end. He also leaves two of the greatest friends a guy could ever have, Bruce LaChance and Jim Noe.

A devoted son, loving uncle, great brother and true friend, he had a big heart and a special bond with his niece and nephew that stretched and grew in different directions over the years and will last forever.

Funeral services will be held today, June 8, with a Mass at 11 a.m., at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Relatives and friends may call today from 9:30-10:30 a.m., at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

The family would like to thank the staffs of Hartford Hospital Cancer Center, Middlesex Health Care Center and the Hospice Unit of Middlesex Hospital in Middletown for their compassion and care.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Portland

Jeanne Roman Memorial Service

Memorial and burial services for Jeanne Barker Roman will be held Saturday, June 9, at 2:30 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St.

Roman, who was born in Portland Oct. 8, 1924, passed away at Brakebill Nursing Home in Knoxville, TN, on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011.

East Hampton

Lena Bozzi

Lena Bozzi, 96, wife of the late John Bozzi, passed away Sunday, June 3, at Wadsworth Glen Health Care Center in Middletown. She was born April 6, 1916, in East Hampton, daughter of the Late John and Rose (Ferreri) Grassi. She was a member of St. Sebastian Church, and St. Theresa's Guild of Middletown. She was an avid bowler into her 80s and was an avid Yankee fan.

She is survived by two sons, Alexander and his wife Debra Bozzi of Middletown and John Bozzi Jr. and his wife Gisele of East Hampton; two grandchildren, Carla Palmer and Alexander Bozzi Jr.; her great-grandchildren, Jacob and Alexandria Palmer, Brendon, Brent, Bradley and Faith Ross.

She is predeceased by two brothers, Raymond Grassi and John Grassi, and two sisters, Rita Gotta Coon and Mary Sciotti.

Funeral services were held Thursday, June 7, from the D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., Middletown, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Sebastian Church. Burial was in the family plot in St. Sebastian Cemetery, Middlefield. Relatives and friends called at the funeral home Thursday morning, before the services.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Renovation Fund of St. Sebastian Church.

East Hampton

Linda Eckola

Linda (Bourez) Eckola, 59, of East Hampton, wife of David Eckola, died Saturday, June 2, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born in Hartford, the daughter of the late Theodore Bourez Jr. and Dorothy (Tirrell) McKenna. Linda was currently employed with the Eures dining services at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. Linda was a member of the FOE 681 and Moose Lodge 1547.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her children, Paul "PJ" Birner of El Cerrita, CA, Paula August and her husband Jeff of Methuen, MA; Buffie Birner and her husband Bryan Murray of Arlington, MA, Heather Corcoran of Wilimington, MA, and Christopher Eckola of East Hampton; her brother, David Bourez and his wife Michelle of Chester; her sister, Carla Rogers and her husband, David of Kingsport, TN; her grandchildren, Ryan, Alexandra, and Braden August, Aedan Rowan and Rivera Birner-Murray, Ian and Sydney Corcoran, Aviana and Dante Eckola; also several aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was predeceased by a brother, Steven Bourez.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 6, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Burial will be at the convenience of her family. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home Wednesday prior to the services.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Weiss Hospice Unit, c/o Dept. of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Portland

Thomas Lapinski

Thomas Lapinski, 82, died Wednesday, May 30, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Rose Marie (Smoloski) Lapinski, his loving wife of 58 years. Born and raised in New Britain on March 7, 1930, he was the son of the late Alexander and Pauline (Balazy) Lapinski.

Tom proudly served in the U. S. Army during the Korean War. He was a resident of Portland for the past 40 years and a parishioner of the Church of St. Mary. Tom was employed as a manager for Guidas' Ice Cream Dairy Bar in New Britain where he retired from after many years of service. He was a gentle man who loved spending time with his grandchildren.

Tom is survived by his son, Alexander Lapinski and his wife Lynne of Portland; his brother, Edward Lapinski and his wife Kathleen of Meriden; and his beloved grandchildren whom he cherished, Mia Lapinski and Quinn Lapinski, both of Portland.

He was predeceased by a brother, Nicholas Lapinski.

Family and friends attended his Mass of Christian Burial, with military honors, Monday, June 4, at the Church of St. Mary, Portland. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

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

Hebron

Eleanor Harrison

Eleanor (Bartlett) Harrison, 92, beloved wife of the late Leonard R. Harrison, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 5. She was born in Glastonbury to the late Wallace and Clara (Olson) Bartlett on Nov. 11, 1919.

She married Len in 1939; together they raised their children in Hebron, where she resided for the next 63 years. With a competitive spirit, she loved a good card game and trips to the casino. She was a talented quilter who left her family with treasured keepsakes.

She is survived by her children, Patricia Bourassa of East Hartford, Richard Harrison and his wife Joan of Manchester and Punta Gorda, FL, Linda Bauer and her husband Francis of Eastford; her 10 grandchildren; her 12 great-grandchildren; and her best friend, Ruthie.

She was predeceased by her children, Leonard Jr. and Sharon Cormier.

Friends and family are welcome to gather for funeral services at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 9, at Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury. Burial will follow in Green Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 26 Broadway, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10004.

To leave an online condolence, visit glastonburyfuneral.com.

Colchester

George R. Muirhead

George R. Muirhead of Colchester, accomplished in the world of academia, died peacefully Friday, May 4. He was born in Waterloo, IA, in 1925, the son of Margaret Dodd and James Muirhead.

George showed early promise in his studies, winning the Tama County spelling contest four times in a row, which was a record. He graduated from high school in Traer at the young age of 17 and graduated from Coe College only three years later in 1945, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. He went on to the University of Iowa where he received his Master's degree in 1947. Before receiving his doctorate there in 1951, he had the opportunity to study overseas in Paris, focusing on the Franco-Prussian War of 1871.

George was a lifelong educator at Central Connecticut State University, beginning as a lecturer in history and geography, and ending as the vice president of the university. He started there when it was still known as the Teachers' College of Connecticut. At the young age of 26, on his first day as a professor, he proudly stood in the doorway greeting his students, when the head of the department told George to get to class, mistaking him for a student.

As the college continued to grow into Central Connecticut State College, he became the head of the history department. In the '70s, George moved on to the administration building. He held a variety of positions ranging from the assistant to the vice president of academic affairs to dean of the school of business, but throughout his later years at Central he continued to teach in the honors program. He was instrumental in supporting the development of the separate Department of Design (graphic/information), which boosted enrollment at the university.

Education was his life, but international education was his passion. In 2000, the Center for International Education was named The George R. Muirhead Center for International Education. This center now has a network of more than 20 universities around the world. The connections that George personally developed were in England, Scotland, Russia, Italy, and Cyprus. He received a federal grant to bring equipment and teachers to Poland for business education. Under his stewardship, numerous international grants were awarded to CCSU to work in Hungary and the Ukraine.

It wasn't until after his retirement that George was asked to return as vice president of the university. He was from a time when the university was a tight community of professors and administrators who enjoyed meeting over wings and beer to discuss "everything" on Fridays at Elmer's. His group's ritual ended when George left the university. George was asked to author a book on Central Connecticut State University for the "Images in America" series. In addition to this, George had several of his children's books published: *The Cat and the Poets*, *The Cat and the Anarchists*, *The Cat and the Athletes* and *The Cat and the Fish*.

George and his wife Ann met at the New Britain Repertory Theater. Ann directed numerous plays that he was in, but they also had the chance to act alongside each other. In the '70s and '80s they developed an improvisational group called "Instant Theater" with their friends Sylvia and Bill Kirby. Both George and Ann had an affinity for traveling. Numerous trips overseas to many parts of Europe kept them entertained, but George's fondness of England led them to live there on a teaching exchange in 1973 before purchasing a second home in Yorkshire. Between working on international study programs and vacationing, George would continue to spend a total of three months a year at his home, "Broad Lea" in East Morton near Keighly, and enjoying his time at the local pub, the Busfield Arms. A favorite local trip was the yearly visit to the Ocean House in Watch Hill, RI, to celebrate their anniversary, and regular visits in the fall to their time-share in Newport.

George was a member of the Unitarian fellowship in New Britain from the 1960s until his passing. This group had strong ties with CCSU as well; many of the members and speakers were from the university.

George leaves three children and their spouses: Margaret Beed and her husband Gene; grandchildren Courtney Beed, Mallory Beed, Alexander Theodore Beed of San Francisco, CA; Mary Elizabeth Mothersele and her husband Charlie and her son, Andrew Neylon, of Indianapolis, IN; Sara Drynan Muirhead and her partner David Wasniewski of Colchester; and grandson Krishna Paul Muirhead of Portland, OR. He also leaves one stepson and two stepdaughters, Arthur B. Powers Jr. and his wife Glynis of New Hartford; Juliann P. Collazo and her husband Raphael (Papo) of Berlin; Martha Grace Shore of Berlin; and he leaves three beloved step-grandchildren, James John Collazo, Stephanie Shore Fisher and Katherine Ann Powers.

George was predeceased by his wife, Ann M. Muirhead; his son, Paul Robertson Muirhead; and his son-in-law, Stephen G. Shore.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, June 24, at Alumni Hall in the Student Center at CCSU at 1-3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Muirhead Fund, CCSU Foundation, P.O. Box 612, New Britain, CT 06050. The fund enables students to study in the U.K.