

RIVEREAST

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Life changed drastically last summer for the Aresco family – Todd and Mindy and their kids, from left, Todd, Christina and Anthony – when a fire caused by a candle destroyed their home and many of their belongings. Now, with the family unscathed and in a newly-built home, seen here, the Arescos are looking to educate others on fire safety and how to prevent fires.

Portland Family Preaching Fire Safety

by Joshua Anusewicz

“That will never happen to me.” How many times have you thought that before?

Todd and Mindy Aresco fully admit that’s exactly how they felt just over a year ago, before a tropical storm whipped through town and plunged Portland into darkness. Before they didn’t have enough flashlight batteries and instead used a candle for light. Before they fell asleep with the candle burning and were awoken by the sound of the smoke detector going off, the foot of their bed on fire.

“Nobody wants to believe it could happen to them,” said Todd from his new home, built on the same tract of land as the home his family lost. They like it, he admits, but it’s different, certainly much larger than any house he ever expected to live in. The floors and countertops are still immaculate and the walls are still pearly white, easily noticeable because of the fact that no pictures hang, mostly because they don’t exist.

The Aresco family lost almost everything they owned in that devastating fire last year, and now feel it’s their mission to make sure that nobody in their community – the community that picked them up at their lowest moment – would go through what they went through.

“We didn’t have a plan, because we never thought it would happen to us,” Mindy said. “Now that we’re back to normal, we want to give back.”

A year ago, it would have been hard for the Aresco family to imagine being back to normal. In the early morning hours of Aug. 30, 2011, shortly after Tropical Storm Irene, a candle in Todd and Mindy’s bedroom started a fire that set off the house’s smoke detectors. The candle was suspended from the ceiling, and Todd said he felt confident leaving it lit as they fell asleep, which they had done the night before without incident.

Seeing the foot of the bed on fire, Todd launched into action, carrying his wife out of the bedroom. “He went into survival mode and I just went right along with him,” Mindy recalls.

Looking to help, Mindy grabbed a fire extinguisher to try and suppress the blaze. One problem: the extinguisher had expired and was useless. The fire quickly spread.

Staring at the growing flames, Todd told his wife, “Grab a kid and let’s get out of here.” The two set off to grab their three children – Christina, now 11, Anthony, 3, and Todd, 2 – and scrambled out onto the front lawn. Todd rushed back into the home to get the family’s beloved pets, but it was too late: four dogs and two cats would perish in the fire. (One cat, a personable black cat named Jasper, survived.)

Fire departments from throughout the area dodged downed powerlines and trees to eventually get to the scene, where they found that

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Hebron School Board Begins Superintendent Search

by Geeta Schrayter

The Hebron Board of Education last week officially began the process of replacing long-time Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz, who announced last month she would leave the school system in December for a new superintendent job in Plymouth.

Board members and residents also sang Cruz’s praises at the Sept. 13 Board of Education meeting, letting her know just how sorry they are to see her go.

The school board formally accepted Cruz’s resignation at last week’s meeting – its first meeting since the superintendent announced her departure plans. In her letter of resignation – which she read at the meeting – Cruz wrote she was grateful for the opportunity to work with the school district, and serving the community was “a distinct honor.” She said the work between herself and the board, staff, administration and students resulted in Hebron’s schools becoming “one of the most successful and highest performing districts statewide.”

“By working together, a good school district evolved into a great one,” Cruz read at the meeting.

Later, board member William Moorcroft said Cruz and the administration had “done wonders” with the district, and called her lead-

ership “instrumental.”

“You’ll be sorely missed,” he said.

Board member Stephanie Raymond wished Cruz well, but admitted she’d tried to convince her to stay “until I was blue in the face.”

“It’s hard,” she said emotionally, as she thanked Cruz for her work.

Board of Education Chairwoman Kathy Shea was likewise appreciative. She said the district has made “tremendous strides” under Cruz’s direction, and was “very lucky” to have her.

During public comment, selectman Brian O’Connell thanked Cruz for what she’d done for the community, and said under her direction, “through some trying financial times,” the district has come out “top-notch.”

“Good luck with finding a replacement for those shoes,” he said to the board.

Parent Teacher Association Co-President Liz LaChappelle, who said “all anyone [in town] is talking about is Ellie,” and her departure, also expressed her gratitude and said as she fought back tears she was sorry her son was only in the first grade and wouldn’t have more time with Cruz.

Resident Carol Connolly was present as well with her 3-year-old son and a bouquet of flowers. Thanks to the superintendent’s hard work, she said, her son would be going to school

fulltime at 3, 4 and 5 years old due to the implementation of full-day kindergarten.

“It’s a testament to our children and our community,” she said. “He’s so excited because of your hard work. There’s no one who can fill your shoes.”

But, still, those shoes *will* need to be filled, and Shea explained the district can’t be without a superintendent for a single day.

“The board must move forward to find a replacement” whether in the form of an acting, interim or permanent superintendent in time for Cruz’s final day on Dec. 15, she said. If an acting superintendent is the route the board wants to take, a waiver needs to be received from the Department of Education. The acting superintendent can be appointed for 90-day periods and needs to be at least working toward their superintendent of schools’ certification (also known as their 093 certification).

If an interim superintendent is chosen, Shea explained they need to have their 093 certification. An interim is usually hired for approximately \$550-700 per day, she said, with the possibility for additional money to be negotiated for night and weekend meetings.

Shea added that efforts to search for a permanent replacement usually require the services of a firm that specializes in searching

for and hiring school superintendents. Lebanon spent \$14,000 through the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education to hire a superintendent in 2009-10, while Coventry used Cooperative Educational Services for a search in 2011-12 costing \$15,000, shared Shea.

The money for the search and salary for an interim or acting superintendent would come from the money set aside for Cruz’s contract once she leaves the school system.

Shea added if the board decided to be their own search committee instead of utilizing a firm, it would require a lot of time and “lots of meetings.” In addition, “we don’t have the expertise the firms do,” she said.

Although the board went into executive session at the Sept. 13 meeting to discuss a potential candidate for the acting or interim superintendent position, Shea said this week no decision was reached, and the board decided to schedule a special meeting for Tuesday, Sept. 25, at 7 p.m., to continue the discussion.

“Right now everything is up in the air,” she said. “The plan is to continue the conversation that we were having [at the meeting]. I may have a better idea in the next week or so, but we’ve got to put all the options on the table.”

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Portland Family cont. from Front Page

the nearby hydrant wasn't producing enough water to put out the fire due to the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) cutting back on water pressure. By the time the fire was completely put out, the house was a total loss.

"[The firefighters] couldn't believe we were alive," Todd said of how quickly the fire consumed the house. The family was sent to the hospital for smoke inhalation and some singed hair, but all five of them made it out unscathed.

As the long road back to recovering what they had lost began, the community kicked into action. While going through the cumbersome process of assessing the damage with an insurance agent, the Arescos were taken in by their neighbors, the Gotta family, who owned a vacant home that they allowed the family to live in at a low cost. Donations soon flooded in from family, friends, local businesses, and complete strangers.

"Our kids had everything they needed in just a few days time," said Todd, touched by the generosity. Todd also pointed out the sad irony of another local family, the Meadors, who provided them with numerous baby-related items just days after the fire – and is now dealing with the loss of their own home on Breezy Corners Road due to a fire last month.

Last year's Family Fun Day, put on by the town's parks and recreation department, was also dedicated to the Arescos. This year's Family Fun Day, however, included the Arescos, who taught local families and children about the importance of fire safety and prevention. Mindy said with the "cause near and dear" to their family, they feel it's important to give back.

"Our goal right now is to get the word out there," she said.

At the Family Fun Day last Saturday, the Arescos gave out fire hats and coloring books donated by The Hartford, while Fire Chief Bob Shea and Fire Marshal Ray Sajdak gave children tours of the fire engines. The Middletown Fire Department also brought its fire simulation trailer, which showed kids what to do if a fire was happening.

Mindy, now a member of the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA), said that just speaking with the children at the event showed how important it was for families to be educated on fire safety.

"Some of the kids had no idea what to do [in the case of a fire]," she said. "It broke my heart."

Todd added that many people showed concern for him and his family, asking how they were doing in the aftermath of the fire. He admitted it's hard to talk about, but didn't mind being recognized. "I don't care if we're recognized because of the fire, as long as it raises the awareness for others of what could happen," he said.

And the Arescos aren't just talking the talk, they're walking the walk. On top of Mindy joining the NFPA, she plans to join the Women's Auxiliary in hopes of organizing fundraisers and getting donations in support of the town's volunteer fire department. Todd also plans to join the fire department, a place where he already knows many of the brave men who tried to save his house that night.

"There's much more the community can do to help our firefighters because they're the ones that help us," Mindy said.

"Any little bit can help," Todd added. "You don't need to run into a burning building to help."

With all that the fire department and the community did for them, it's unnecessary to ask why the Arescos would work this hard to spread awareness of fire safety. When they look at the bare walls in their home or the empty yard where their pets once played, it's hard for them to forget what they've been through and what was done for them.

But it has also shown them the importance of having a fire plan, taking a minute to check if the fireplace is out or if the iron is unplugged, and keeping an up-to-date fire extinguisher. Todd said he certainly sees "life a lot differently now," but for the better.

"We've come back and we've rebuilt," he said. "We're lucky."

School Board cont. from Front Page

While Shea wouldn't comment as to who the potential candidate was that the board discussed last week, she added the board needed to "act quickly" to find an acting or interim superintendent, "then focus on what to do about a permanent superintendent.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I got a letter this week blasting Rep. Chris Murphy for, among other things, being a career politician, and it got me to thinking. For the past few state and national elections – it doesn't seem to happen quite so much on the local level – incumbents have routinely been blasted for being "career politicians." Every election season, the rancor seems to get worse, to the point where it's basically a four-letter word to call a candidate a "career politician."

It's interesting, when you think about it. Most people would want to see a "career doctor," I'd imagine, or would want their children to be taught by a "career teacher." And don't you feel better taking your car to a "career mechanic"? Experience is generally looked upon favorably by others. But why is having somebody in office who's decided to devote his or her life to politics necessarily a bad thing? When did it come to be that the more experienced a politician is, the less desirable he or she is?

Oh, sure, I know the popular answer. The "career politicians" have been entrenched in the political system longer, have been corrupted by the Washington evil, and just need to go. But not everyone's corrupt just because they may have served in Washington for "x" number of years.

Nevertheless, "career politician" is now shorthand for saying somebody in office has to go. Republicans are particularly fans of employing the phrase (nevermind the fact that GOP vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan has been described as one by none other than his own brother), in attempt to convince people to throw the bums out.

But they're not all bums. For some, being a "career politician" simply means they're experienced, and won't require a learning curve following Inauguration Day. So next time a candidate blasts an opponent for being a "career politician," do some digging, look at that person's record. They may have devoted their life to politics, but they also may have done a lot of good along the way.

"Experienced" doesn't have to equal "bad." Don't let negative campaign ads convince you otherwise. Consider all the factors, and then vote.

* * *

Speaking of politics, I got an email at the paper this week blasting the *Rivereast* for its "juvenile political forum" and "obvious affiliation with Christianity." In the email – which was not a letter to the editor, which is why you won't see it here – the writer goes on to say they "will not be able to endure another conservative rant sent to you by some ignoramus who has nothing better to do with his or her time than to write hateful rhetoric about anyone who is non-white, non-Christian, or slightly supportive of women." The writer added that "publishing poorly-articulated letters about 'abortion clinics' and overtly racist rants cannot be considered

'news' – a point that I agree with, actually; that's why they appear in the letters to the editor section.

But as for the rest of it: do I agree with the "conservative rants"? Regular readers of this column won't be shocked to learn that, the vast majority of the time, I do not. But I can't simply refuse to publish letters I disagree with. Nor do I think the political letters are particularly juvenile. Does occasional name-calling take place? Sure. But none of it has been very offensive – "Distortion Joe" doesn't seem to mind – and I tend to find it interesting and, for the most part, in good fun. As an editor, you like signs that your paper is being read, and the regularity at which the letter-writers go back-and-forth with each other indicates it is being read. And like I said, the letter-writers seem to enjoy their rather spirited exchanges.

And as for that "obvious affiliation with Christianity" part, let me just clarify what I imagine most of you know: that's simply not true. I may be a Christian, but the newspaper itself is neither pro- nor anti-Christian. I've got a very good idea what drew this email-writer's ire, and that's a letter I published last week by an area resident who happens to be very much anti-abortion, has indicated as such in the past, and indicated it again last week. But her letter met the guidelines for publication and, as such, earned a right to be published. I'm sure some agreed with it, and others didn't.

Simply put, if I mixed the letters I disagreed with, I wouldn't be much of an editor. I think allowing the letters to the editor section to have a wide range of viewpoints – Republican and Democrat, pro-life and pro-choice, Coke and Pepsi – keeps it interesting. And frankly I think a lot of people agree.

* * *

Lastly, while it's political season, it's also the start of football season. And this year, that takes on extra meaning in East Hampton. The East Hampton Hawks Youth Football and Cheerleading Association is starting its inaugural season, and the folks there couldn't be happier. The four Hawks squads had their home openers last Sunday, Sept. 16, and, according to Frank D'Anna, president of the Hawks, "turnout was tremendous."

Some of you may recall a *Rivereast* story reporter Joshua Anusewicz wrote in February about the program starting up. East Hampton High and Vinal Tech had just joined forces the year before to start a co-op football team, and D'Anna and others were anxious to give other Belltown kids – specifically those age 7-14 – a local chance at the pigskin. So the Hawks were born.

And there's still time for kids to join the association, either to play some football or to do some cheerleading. Those interested should call D'Anna at 860-712-2888.

* * *

See you next week.

Kalinowski Sentenced to Three Years in Prison

by Joshua Anusewicz

Former Portland First Selectman Edward Kalinowski was sentenced Monday to three years in prison for attempting to solicit sex from a minor in 2011, a representative from Florida's Seventh Circuit Court confirmed this week.

According to Klare Ly, public information officer for the Seventh Circuit Court, Judge Margaret Hudson levied the sentence after Kalinowski pled no contest on May 23 to charges of using a computer to seduce or solicit a child, using a two-way communication device to facilitate a felony, and traveling to meet or lure a child for sex.

On top of the three-year prison sentence, Kalinowski also received 10 years of probation and will be designated as a sexual offender of the rest of his life, Ly stated. Kalinowski will also be required to go through a psychosexual evaluation and follow any recommended treatment upon his release from prison, she continued.

While in prison, Ly stated, Kalinowski will not be allowed to have Internet access or possess pornography, and will also be prohibited from having contact with any minors.

Kalinowski was brought to prison to begin his sentence on Tuesday, Ly stated.

Kalinowski, 60, now a resident of Ocala, Fla., was arrested Sept. 2, 2011, as part of a seven-day sting operation called "Operation Cyber Sting" that ultimately netted the Volusia County (Fla.) Sheriff's Office 15 individuals. According to the sheriff's office,

Kalinowski traveled to a home in Daytona Beach, Fla. to have sex with someone he believed to be a teenage boy that he met online.

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

A police report sent from Ly to the *Rivereast* shows excerpts of Kalinowski speaking – both over the computer and by phone – with an undercover detective, whom Kalinowski believed to be a 13-year-old male. The nature of the conversations is extremely graphic, describing numerous sexual acts Kalinowski hoped to engage in with the young male.

On Sept. 2, Kalinowski drove almost two hours to a Daytona Beach residence where he believed the 13-year-old male lived; he was promptly arrested at the scene.

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



Edward Kalinowski

RHAM Superintendent Receives Raise, Contract Extension

by Geeta Schrayter

The RHAM Board of Education voted unanimously at its meeting Monday to extend Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski's contract, and also give him a raise.

The decision came after the board met in executive session to discuss the matter.

The one-year contract extension – a move school board chairman Mike Turner called “standard practice” – brings Siminski to June 2015. The superintendent also received a 1.88 percent salary increase, moving from \$154,100 to \$157,000 per year.

However, the renewed contract calls for Siminski's health insurance premium to increase from 20 percent to 25 percent over the next three years, and his compensation for unused vacation days was reduced from seven days to five.

“We're limiting how many days he can carry over” to the next year, explained Turner, but he added the contract changes were really “nothing big.”

“He's been doing a good job for us,” Turner said. “People appreciate that.”

Turner added that Siminski has worked hard over the year to keep the district moving forward “with changing education requirements and managing finances.”

Also, Turner said, under Siminski's direction, the district had a budget surplus at the end of the 2011-12 year “due to favorable circumstances with special education tuitions and managing other expenses.”

That budget surplus was discussed earlier in the meeting. Due to credits in teacher's salaries, health insurance and special education tu-

itions, there is a \$366,885.71 surplus. Some of the larger credits include \$76,289.58 in curriculum writing; \$51,044 in magnet school tuitions; \$44,988.24 from curriculum supplies; \$30,568.05 in Board of Education services; and \$25,236.05 in lease/purchases.

The board voted unanimously to return the \$366,885.71 surplus back to the towns in Region Eight.

* * *

Educational reform and its impact on RHAM were also discussed at the Sept. 14 meeting. In a presentation, Siminski explained various shifts that would occur as a result of the reform.

Under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, the target score for students on standardized tests has been “proficient.” But with Connecticut's new reform, on average, the target is now for students to be “at goal” – and for districts to be halfway to that target by 2018.

In addition, starting with the current school year, the progress of students moving between all levels will now be counted, whereas up until now only progress made from “basic” scores to “proficient” have been captured.

Whenever a student moves from one level to another, Siminski explained, the school will receive a School Performance Index (SPI) credit, as opposed to only receiving a credit when students moved to the “proficient” level. The SPI is an index between 0 and 100 used to show school performance and progress as well as “big picture” trends and provide the ability to examine subgroups, scores by subject and grade level. The eight-year goal is for a school to obtain an SPI of 88 or higher.

“We want to look at all kids and the progress they're making,” said Siminski.

According to a six-year average of high school Connecticut Academic Performance Test scores, 24 percent of RHAM students score “proficient” in math, while 4.8 percent score at the “basic” level and 2 percent score below basic. The 35.7 percent who already score at “goal” and the 27.9 percent who already score at the “advanced” level satisfy the state goal, but efforts will need to be made to increase scores for the students in the remaining three categories.

Siminski said the students who score at the “proficient” level are those the school will need to work with the most.

In addition to standardized test scores, graduation rates will also be used to determine school performance. After 2018, the state target is for schools to have a four-year graduation rate of 94 percent and an extended graduation rate (students who stay at the school more than four years) of 96 percent. At RHAM, the graduation rate for the four-year cohort in 2010-11 was 84.6 percent, while the extended graduation rate was 92.5 percent.

Dependent on how many of the state targets a particular school meets, they will then be classified as an excelling, progressing, transition, review or turnaround school.

An “excelling” school is one that meets all state targets, while a “progressing” school is meeting the annual targets and a “transition” school is not. Conversely, a “review” or “transition” school needs the most support, interventions and possibly redesign.

“Our goal obviously is to get to ‘excelling,’ and we will get there,” said Siminski.

Teacher evaluations, which Siminski stated “will greatly influence what we do and how we do it,” were discussed as well. Siminski explained the goal is to implement the evaluations this year to “give everyone a heads up” on the new system so they'll be able “to understand and benefit from it.”

Under the new evaluation, teachers in their first and second year will need to take part in a number of goal conferences, formal pre-observation conferences, formal and informal observations, formal post-observation conferences and an observation summary. Tenured teachers will require one less pre-observation conference and two fewer observations than non-tenured teachers, but one more informal observation.

Administrators (principals and assistant principals) will also be required to take part in goal conferences, observations, a mid-year review, a self-reflection and a summative evaluation and end of year conference. Each aspect is approximated to take no less than 30 minutes, stressing the length of time the new evaluations will require.

In addition to the above, during the current 2012-13 school year, the implementation of the Safe School Climate Plan and Student Success Plan will take place, and the curriculum will continue to be updated to address the Common Core State Standards.

The changes and new initiatives highlight why the state Department of Education is calling 2012 “the year for education reform in Connecticut.”

Portland Blight Ordinance Running Smoothly So Far

by Joshua Anusewicz

The Board of Selectmen was given a welcome update Wednesday night, learning that the town's new blight ordinance was off and running and already improving some of the town's most blighted properties.

Building official Lincoln White was on hand to update the selectmen, who voted this summer to enact the blight ordinance and its corresponding citation hearing ordinance. The blight ordinance is a reworking of similar ones from Bristol and Windsor Locks, adjusted to target the specific needs of a town Portland's size. A subcommittee of First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and selectmen Fred Knous and Ryan Curley drafted the document, which earned unanimous support from the board after weeks of tinkering with the language.

White said that some of the town's most prominent blighted properties have already been targeted by the ordinance and have mostly adhered to the town's regulations. As many who drive in the town's downtown area have noticed, the abandoned gas station property next to Portland Restaurant, an eyesore to many residents

for years, has been cleaned up and repainted as the owners decide the fate of the property, White said.

Another abandoned structure, Forlini's, located directly across the street, has also been dealt with by the blight ordinance. Just recently, the owners of the building demolished the structure, a welcomed sight for the selectmen.

“It was a nice surprise,” said Curley. He added to White, “I think you're doing an awesome job and it's nice to see the progress.”

White also mentioned to the council that he recently walked the Elmcrest site with the property owners, referring to the land as “a total mess.” White said he plans to sit down soon with the property owners to discuss the future of the land, which the down has hoped to develop into commercial and residential property.

Bransfield said she has kept in close contact with potential developers of the property, who told her that, while some smaller businesses have been lined up, they need to secure an anchor tenant before they can begin construction on the plaza. Bransfield added that the devel-

oper is working with the town's economic development coordinator Mary Dickerson to attract more businesses to the shopping center.

As for residential properties that have been considered blight, White said he has spoken with several property owners throughout town about possible violations, adding that the property owners are either working toward fixing the problem or have already done so.

“Everyone has been cooperative so far,” he said.

* * *

Continuing on the matter of keeping properties clean, a resident stepped up during the public comment section of the meeting to urge the selectmen to do something about yellow bags that are thrown on the lawn of many residences throughout town.

The resident, Mary Pare, presented the selectmen with a box of yellow bags she had collected, which are used to deliver circulars from *The Hartford Courant* to residents around town. Pare said they are simply thrown on residents' lawns and should be considered littering, as they

often get wet along the sidewalks and roads and are hard to remove.

“This is annoying,” Pare said. “If I threw something out my car on Main Street, I'd be fined for littering. This just turns into garbage.”

Bransfield said she had received several complaints about the bags recently and had talked to the police department about the possible enforcement of throwing the bags on private property. She added that other towns may have ordinances in place that prohibit such items from being thrown on residents' property, which the selectmen could possibly look into.

In the meantime, the selectmen voted to allow Bransfield to contact the publisher of *The Hartford Courant* to see if the newspaper would place the bags on the residents' doorsteps or hang them from the mailboxes.

* * *

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Public Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

Hebron School Board OKs Raises for Non-Certified Staff

by Geeta Schrayter

At its meeting last Thursday, Sept. 13, the Board of Education approved a new contract and pay increases for non-certified staff and non-union employees.

Board of Education Chair Kathy Shea said the negotiation process was “lengthy,” with “lots and lots of conversation” around the contract, which was ratified by the non-certified union Aug. 22.

“There was a successful result of the mediation,” she said.

Under the three-year contract, non-certified staff, which includes the district's secretaries, custodians and paraprofessionals, will receive a 2.25 percent salary increase in the current year, a 2.25 percent increase for 2013-14 and a 2.5 percent increase for 2014-15; Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said Thursday. Cruz added the non-certified staff was coming off of a three-year contract with a 9 percent increase

over the three years.

On Thursday, Finance Director William Mazzara explained what those increases translate into salary-wise varies depending upon the length of employment.

“We have different pay levels based on years of service,” he said.

When added up, the salaries under the new contract actually amount to \$8,367 less than the amount budgeted for the 2012-13 year, explained Mazzara.

“I thought that was a very fair agreement all around,” said Cruz. “The board really demonstrated how much they valued these folks and wanted to give them a fair wage increase.”

Cruz added “some progress” was made regarding insurance as well. In year one, co-pays will increase from \$15 to \$20, followed by a further increase to \$25 in 2013-14. The cost of emergency room visits increase from \$50 to \$75 over the next three years as well.

Premiums for full-time employees increase to 17.5 percent in the current year, then 18 percent in 2013-14 and 19 percent the following year. Part-time employees currently pay 23 percent and Cruz said the feeling was “that was a fairly generous contribution,” so it will remain steady until 2014-15, when it will increase to 24 percent.

“I think it's a great outcome,” Board of Education member Will Moorcroft said at the meeting. “I know it's a lot of hard work and I thank you for your efforts.”

The motion to ratify the non-certified contract negotiations passed unanimously.

Afterwards, salaries for non-union employees which includes school nurses, foremen and

technology specialists, were established as well. Cruz explained at the meeting she usually waits until the non-certified contract has been ratified because she tries to mirror the non-union employees' salaries with the non-certified contract increases.

“So what we usually do is ask the board permission to award a salary commensurate to what the non-union folks receive,” she said.

The motion to award a salary increase of 2.25 percent to non-union employees passed unanimously.

There are about 66 non-certified staff and non-union employees in the Hebron school district, Cruz said.

Candidates Talk Issues as Campaign Trail Heats Up

by Joshua Anusewicz

Late summer has been filled with campaign signs and door knocking for both Christopher Goff and Melissa Ziobron, candidates for state representative for the 34th District, as they prepare for the upcoming Nov. 6 election. But unless you've had the opportunity to speak with them directly or visit their websites, you may not know where each candidate stands on important state issues.

However, the *Rivereast* had the chance to sit down with both Goff and Ziobron in recent weeks and see what they have planned if they are elected.

Goff, a Democrat, and Ziobron, the Republican candidate, will square off for the soon-to-be-vacant representative seat, currently filled by East Hampton Democrat Gail Hamm. The 34th District, which was recently restructured, includes East Hampton, East Haddam and the Westchester section of Colchester.

Goff, an East Hampton native, is best known for serving four terms on the Town Council and three years on the Board of Education. He elected not to run for council again in 2011, instead focusing his efforts on the state seat, for which he ran unopposed and received unanimous support from all three towns' Democratic committees.

Ziobron, who grew up in East Hampton but resides in East Haddam, is East Haddam's former economic development coordinator and also served for six years on the town's Board of Education. She narrowly defeated former East Hampton town councilor Bill Devine for the Republican nomination by a 6-5 vote; Devine declined a primary.

The two candidates say they are familiar with each other, having both grown up in East Hampton. They both have school-aged children, as well – Ziobron with two, Goff with three. But where they stand on political issues provides the voting public with two very different candidates for the position.

When asked about the state's budget, Ziobron zeroed in on the state's deficit, a number she doesn't need to look up: \$434 million. But when talking about how the budget could be fixed, she said it would take more thought.

"We need to look at the whole budget, line by line," she said. "I want to understand what each item means and what it does before saying what needs to be cut." Ziobron said she was most interested in looking at the "personal services" line items for the governor and secretary of state, as well as watching the state bond commission, which she said often allows "pork barrel spending" and "pet projects" for politicians. She also looked at the recent trips by Gov. Dannel Malloy to China as an example of wasteful spending that has little benefit to the state.

Goff said what the state needs to do in an effort to balance the budget is "clean up unnec-

essary programs" and provide more oversight to various social programs. One program that Goff said needs oversight is the state's welfare program, where he feels that too often people are abusing the system and need to be reigned in.

"I believe that people who receive welfare should be drug tested," Goff said. "We need to support the program, but who does it benefit if these people are spending it on unnecessary things like drugs?"

Goff also said he would look into the regionalization of services to reduce costs, an idea he championed locally with the regionalized animal control officer. (East Hampton and East Haddam teamed up last year for a shared dog pound and animal control officer.) He said the district should look into regionalizing other services, such as the transfer station and public works department, to save costs for several towns.

Each candidate also focused on the importance of job creation, as well. As a former economic development coordinator, Ziobron said she has the experience to draw in new small businesses, helping write the town tax incentive for businesses in East Haddam. Her focus, however, is on helping existing businesses before trying to found new ones.

"We need to focus on the companies we already have here," she said. "It's a lot easier than luring businesses to the area."

Ziobron added that the state legislature needs to oversee incentive programs for businesses, such as Gov. Malloy's "First Five" program, to see "what the return is" on that investment.

"We have these companies like Jackson Labs, who doesn't create anything – no jobs – and are getting cuts," she said. "What are we doing to help these local companies like a Bevin Bell? Where's the state for them?"

Goff said that to create jobs, the support of small businesses will be crucial. He referenced the state's "set aside" program, which gives small local businesses a fighting chance to bid for state contracts against local companies that usually get the choice projects, as a program that needs more support.

"We're not just creating more jobs, but more long-term jobs," he said. "Plus, we're ensuring that Connecticut companies are getting the jobs."

Goff also hinted at the best way to create jobs at a local level: a town water system. He said that by creating a water system, which would shadow the existing sewer system, East Hampton would be able to attract businesses



Christopher Goff

around Lake Pocotopaug and into the Village Center, an area the town hopes to develop into a destination for visitors. With the water system, East Hampton could turn into a *Field of Dreams*, so to speak.

"If you build it, they will come," Goff said.

As both candidates have children within their respective town's school systems, education is a topic close to both of their hearts. Ziobron said she supported some of Gov. Malloy's recent education reform bill, agreeing that teachers should be held more accountable for the success of their students. She added, however, that the legislature should look into the need for multiple administrators in small school districts and how much money they are making.

Ziobron also said she was concerned about the sudden shift of support to magnet schools and the rise in unfunded mandates for local school districts, both of which put smaller school districts like those in the 34th District at a distinct disadvantage. She also showed concern for the funding cut to vocational schools, which she said put students on the path to formidable careers.

Goff agreed with Ziobron's sentiments that teachers should be held more accountable, not just for students' standardized test scores but for their overall performance, including in extracurricular activities. Goff said that although education budgets are difficult to formulate for local school boards, he is firmly against cutting extracurricular activities, as well as sports, music and arts programs.

"If I didn't have those extra activities, I probably wouldn't have gone to college," Goff admitted in supporting those programs. He also said that he would like to see local preschool programs expanded, giving more young children the opportunity to attend school at an earlier age.

On the campaign trail, each candidate has picked up on other issues that are important to the voting public. Ziobron said she has had support from voters in both political parties, a fact she said is due to her tendency to be "flexible" and have "an independent voice."

"I'm not so partisan that I don't see issues from both sides of the aisle," Ziobron said.

Ziobron touted as an example of her candi-

dacy the importance she puts on the environment, a topic some might not necessarily think of as a priority for a Republican. Ziobron called the 34th District "possibly the state's most unique district," with numerous state parks and forests, rivers, lakes, and farms, all of which she said promote recreation for residents and are a tourism draw for out-of-towners.

"There are so many interesting spots that we have to enjoy and need to preserve," Ziobron said of the district.

Goff has also heard concerns from residents of the district, including concerns about his candidacy itself. Goff is a former state employee with the state Department of Child and Family Services, as well as working with patients that have mental health issues. In 2008, Goff was seriously injured in an incident with a patient, an injury that left him with a permanent back impairment and forced him to retire.

The issue that arose was whether or not Goff could run if he was receiving a pension from the state and, if elected, a salary as state representative. Goff said that he has consulted the state election commission and legal counsel, where he was given the approval to run for the seat.

Other than that concern, Goff said the response he has received from residents has been "positive and supportive."

Both candidates hope to continue to garner support and positive feedback from voters as the campaigns continue over the next month. For those who haven't had the opportunity to speak with each candidate or want to learn more, additional information is available online; to learn more about Ziobron, visit melissaziobron.com or search "Melissa Ziobron" on Facebook; to learn more about Goff, visit goff34th.com or search "Chris Goff for 34th" on Facebook.



Melissa Ziobron

Colchester Police News

9/12: Anthony Michael Verian, 19, of 58 Mill Rd., and a 15-year-old juvenile were charged with cruelty to animals, third-degree burglary and fourth-degree larceny. The 15-year-old was also charged with trespassing, State Police said.

9/13: Gilberto Negron, 36, of 453 Church St., New Britain, was charged with improper parking, operating a vehicle with a suspended license/registration and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs/alcohol, State Police said.

9/15: John E. Blucher, 47, of 22 West Rd., East Haddam, was charged with violation of probation, State Police said.

9/16: Camille Plourde, 57, of 18 Hale Rd., East Hampton, was arrested for traveling unreasonably fast and DUI, State Police said.

9/16: Robert J. Koerber, 32, of 77 Highland Dr., Waterbury, was charged with speeding, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license/registration and misuse of a plate, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

8/31: Neiko Magri, 19, of 12 Stagecoach Run, was involved in a car vs. lamppost motor vehicle accident at the Stop and Shop parking lot, East Hampton Police said. He was arrested for DUI, evading responsibility and possession of alcohol by a minor, police said.

9/7: Alex Dylan Banning, 19, of 4 Smith St., and Nicholas Joseph Hall, 19, of 22 North Main St., both arrested for third-degree burglary and third-degree larceny, police said.

9/8: Melanie Stachowitz, 33, of 3A Starr Pl., was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

Portland Police News

9/2: David Willard, 51, of 10 Elizabeth Rd., was charged with insufficient insurance and unsafe backing, Portland Police said.

9/11: Charlie Johnson, 24, of 5 Maple Ave., was charged with criminal mischief, breach of peace and attempt of criminal mischief, police said.

Marlborough Police News

9/14: Pamela N. Bidwell, 40, of 261 Skinner Ln., Hebron, was arrested for DUI, State Police said.

LifeStar Responds to Crash in Marlborough

LifeStar was called to the scene of a crash between a truck and a car last Wednesday, Sept. 12, on Route 2, State Police said.

According to police, Anthony Williams, 62, of 722 2nd St., Williamsport, Pa., was traveling west on Route 2 when he lost control of his vehicle while making a lane change by exit 12. The vehicle spun out of control off the right shoulder and struck a rock ledge.

After coming off the ledge, the vehicle then spun into the right lane of the highway where it was struck by a vehicle driven by Didanul

Christy, 38, of 92 Terrace Blvd, New London.

Christy was transported to St. Francis Hospital via LifeStar with minor injuries, police said.

Christy's passenger, Heather Christy, 39, also of 92 Terrace Blvd., New London, was transported to Hartford Hospital via ambulance due to a swollen eye. Williams was also transported to Hartford Hospital via ambulance, due to reports of knee pain.

Marlborough Motorcycle Crash Sends Two to Hospital

Two individuals were transported to Hartford Hospital for non-incapacitating injuries after the motorcycle they were riding struck a vehicle followed by the guardrail on the right shoulder of Route 66, State Police said.

Manuel A. Pereira, 50, of 22 Old Coventry Rd., Andover, was driving a Honda FLHRC motorcycle with Luisa Pereira, 48, of the same address, when they failed to stop as they approached a Ford Expedition waiting to turn left onto Johnson Road on the westbound side

of Route 66.

According to police, after taking evasive action, the motorcycle struck the left front quarter panel of the Expedition before striking the guardrail on the right shoulder of Route 66 east.

The operator of the Expedition, James Lavery, 37, of 96 Cheney Rd., Marlborough, and his passenger, Camille Lavery, 67, of 4 Thistle Down, Cromwell, were uninjured in the crash.

Obituaries

Colchester

Michelle Moore

Michelle Moore, 41, of Indian Trail, North Carolina, passed away Monday, Aug. 6.

Michelle grew up in Colchester, and moved to North Carolina. Her parents are in South Carolina.

A memorial service to celebrate her life was held Friday, Aug. 10, at Heritage Funeral Home, Indian Trail Chapel, with a reception following.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 12 years, Richard Moore; children, Jesse and Samantha; parents, Bill and Kathy Watson; sister, Colleen Watson; brother, Bill Watson; mother and father-in-law, Anne and Gerald Moore and other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Susan G. Komen Foundation, komencharlotte.org/.

Arrangements are in care of Heritage Funeral Home, Indian Trail Chapel. An online guest book is available at heritagefuneral.net.

Colchester

Lorraine C. Vojick

Lorraine C. Vojick, 84, of Colchester and formerly of Lebanon, Wethersfield and Florida, passed away at the Harrington Court GHC Center in Colchester Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 12, with her family by her side. Born Sept. 18, 1927, in Hudson, N.H., she was a daughter of the late Oscar and Flora (Leclerc) Malette.

Lorraine will be sadly missed by her loving family and those who knew her. She leaves a son, Wayne of Lebanon; a daughter, Karen Orvis of Plainville; a brother, Norman Malette of Campton, N.H.; a sister, Yvonne Nolan of Iowa; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her former husband, Theodore; a son, Richard; three brothers, Alfred, Edward and Oscar Malette and two sisters, Janet Burbe and Lillian Valencourt.

A memorial liturgy was celebrated Monday, Sept. 17, directly at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 67 West Town St., Lebanon. There were no calling hours and burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the American Heart Assn., 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Michael J. Smith

Michael J. Smith, 54, beloved husband of Loriann (Kernozeck), of Colchester, passed away at his home surrounded by his loving family Saturday, Sept. 15. Born May 30, 1958, in Boston, Mass., he was a son of the late Gerald and Eileen (Lynch) Smith.

Michael, nicknamed by friends as “Magilla Guerrilla,” spent much of his young years at a teen center known as “The Cellar Dwellers”, which was founded by his father and which kept countless kids entertained and off the streets of Boston. He also spent many summer days at the “Neighborhood House Day Camp,” where he began and nurtured his love of nature.

Michael was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served as a cook for eight years. His military experience led way to a chef’s career, working in the kitchens of several area restaurants including Olde Tymes and the Mohegan Sun.

In 1980, he wed his beloved wife Loriann, whom he held in his heart as his diamond. Over their years together he told her, she took him from a diamond in the rough to a polished gem.

Known fondly by many as “Smutley” or “Smitty,” he found great joy in nature, family and friends. Some of his favorite memories were made while camping with family at Lazy River in New Hampshire. He also loved growing his raspberry patch, photographing nature and playing cribbage with friends. Most importantly, he adored his children and grandchildren whom he called his “crowning jewels” that made him complete and wealthy beyond all riches.

He will be missed but always remembered by the family and friends he leaves. In addition to his wife, Loriann, of 32 years, survivors include three children, Melanie Smith of New London, Jessie Smith of Union, S.C. and a special cousin, Kelli Berbue of Bow, N.H., whom he cared for and referred to as a daughter; two brothers, Gerald Smith of Quincy, Mass., and Paul Smith of Crestview, Fla.; a sister, Joanne Dolan of Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass.; five grandchildren, James Smith, Maliya Dean, Leo Williams IV, Alex and Andrew Berbue and numerous extended family and friends.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date, to be announced.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements. For online condolences and remembrances, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Richard Thomas Roberts

Richard Thomas Roberts, 58, of Colchester, beloved husband of Denise (Harmon) Roberts, died unexpectedly on Sunday, Sept. 16, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was the son of Elizabeth (MacArthur) Roberts of Groton and the late Sidney Roberts.

Richard graduated Xavier High School Class of 1972, was a police officer for Troop K in Colchester, a constable in East Haddam and was employed as a mechanical engineer for Salsco Inc.

Along with his wife and mother, he is survived by his daughter, Kristen Esteves and her husband, Steven of Portland; his sister, Nancy Burdick and her husband, Ron of Ivoryton; two grandchildren, Syndey Elizabeth Esteves and Daniel Esteves and several sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law and nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Sept. 20, at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Friends called Thursday evening at the funeral home and in lieu of flowers may make donations in Richard’s memory to Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, 103 Vision Way, Bloomfield, CT 06002.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Colchester

Rita Virginia Mason

Rita Virginia Mason, 90, of Colchester, widow of the late Joseph Mason, passed away Saturday, Sept. 15, peacefully at home, with her loving family at her side. Born Oct. 31, 1921 in Richmond, Vt., she was a daughter of the late John and Cecile (Seymour) Smith.

Mrs. Mason had worked in the Insurance industry for many years before her retirement and volunteered as a nurses’ aide during World War II.

She is survived by three daughters, Linda Zacher and husband, Richard of Marlborough, Rita McPhee-Fusco and husband, Philip of New Castle, N.H., and Patricia Mason and partner Edna Solzak of Springfield, Mass.; four grandchildren, Elizabeth and Richard Zacher Jr. and Kelly and Jennifer McPhee; six great-grandchildren, Eliot Holloway, Evan Newton McPhee, Savannah and Bethany Zacher, Nicayla Boyle and Cassidy Irwin; a brother, John Smith of Georgia; and many extended family members and friends from Bennington, Vt., and the Gan Aden Too Community of Colchester.

In addition to her beloved husband of 53 years, she was predeceased by her five siblings and granddaughter Heidi Zacher.

Graveside services will be observed Saturday, Oct. 6, at 11 a.m., at the Bennington Park Lawn Cemetery, Bennington, Vt.

Donations in her memory may be made to Hospice SE CT, 227 Dunham St., Norwich 06360.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Marlborough

Frances Braman

Frances (King Sawyer) Braman of Lebanon passed away Thursday, Sept. 13, at Marlborough Health Care Center. She was born Oct. 20, 1917, in New Haven, the daughter of John and Kittie (Jones) King.

She grew up in Unionville and graduated from Farmington High School in 1935. She married Harry Holmes in 1936 and had five children, Harry, Joanne, David, Dick and Tim.

In 1948, she married Frederick Sawyer, whose son Larry she raised as her own. She and Frederick had two more children, Fred and Peter. They lived in Charter Oak Terrace, a housing project in Hartford, where Frances was very active with YWCA and YMCA clubs, influencing the lives of countless young people. She volunteered for many years at Mary Hooker School before going to work in the library of Hartford Public High School.

Following her retirement, in 1985 she married Robert Braman, who brought his own eight children to the family: Barbara, Douglas, Lois, Richard, David, Janice, Lisa, and Missie. Frances leaves a brother, Arthur King of Yarmouthport, Mass., and wife Jo; daughter Joanne Hutchinson of Lakeland, Fla., and husband Michael; son Frederick Sawyer of Glastonbury and wife Philomena; son Peter Sawyer of North Falmouth, Mass., and wife Donna; son Lawrence Sawyer of East Hartford and wife Beverly; as well as all the Braman children and a large assortment of nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren whose number was so large only Frances could keep them straight.

Memorial donations may be made to the Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund (906 Towers Circle NE, Atlanta, GA 30329). A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Unitarian Universalist Society: East, 151 West Vernon St., Manchester.

To share a memory, visit mulryanfh.com.

Portland

John E. Coolong

John E Coolong (Poppy) of Conowingo, Md., formerly of Portland, husband of Helen Dennison Coolong, died Monday, Sept. 17, surrounded by his family at Calvert Manor in Rising Sun, Md. Born Oct. 2, 1924, in Hamden, Maine, he was the son of the late Paul E. and Charlotte Pelkey Coolong.

After his mother’s death he was raised by his aunt and uncle, Ruth and Jerry Coolong, in Gardner, Maine, with whom he loved dearly and was grateful for their love and caring for him and his sister Mildred. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He retired from Portland Convalescent Centre only to return to work at the Trinity Church as their caretaker for many years before moving to Maryland.

He was a man of a few words unless he wanted to be heard or to tell one of his great stories that kept us all laughing. If you knew him you would know instantly that he was a great lover of animals as there wasn’t many strays that didn’t end up in our home. He was a great husband, father and grandfather. We will miss you Poppy and you will forever be in all our hearts.

Besides his wife, John is survived by his loving children, Michael of Enfield, Ricky and his wife Debra of Maryland where he made his home, Linda Coolong Hilton and her husband David of Portland and Jeanna Coolong of Portland; his daughter-in-law Lynn Coolong of East Hampton; eight grandchildren, Christopher Coolong and his wife Katie, Kelly Hall and her husband Shawn, James Johnson and his wife Beth, Dawn Prucha, Sabrina Coolong, Nicole Coolong, John Paul Coolong and Brittany Berg; 12 great-grandchildren, Krislynn, Karleigh, Hayleigh, Shawn Jr., Hayden, Harleigh, Kendra, James Jr., Kyle, Jolene, Hunter, Dominic; and many nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents and aunt and uncle, he was predeceased by his son, Dwight Coolong, and grandson, Ricky Coolong Jr.; his brothers, Lester, Roland, Raymond, and sisters Mildred and Marguerite, and his mother-in-law, Anna Dennison.

Memorial donations in our dad’s memory may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111, attn.: Gay, phone 860-666-3337.

Graveside services will be held Saturday, Oct. 13, at Center Cemetery in Portland; times to be announced closer to the service date.

Andover

William A. McDonald Jr.

William A. “Chip” McDonald Jr., 60, resident of Andover, passed away Sunday, Sept. 16, at the home of his brother Jim in Vernon, surrounded by the love of his family.

Born in Manchester July 4, 1952, son of the late William A. Sr. and Jeanette (Heller) McDonald, he was raised in Bolton and graduated from Bolton High School in 1972. While at Bolton High Chip played varsity soccer.

He worked at P&WA for many years as a millwright. After leaving P&WA, he graduated from The Baron Institute of Technology with a diploma in Tractor Trailer Training. Chip then took numerous trips across the USA in big rigs. Being the “firecracker” that he was, his life was always an adventure. He made friends wherever he went and was a loyal friend to many. Chip loved the outdoors, his family and all creatures great and small, especially his dogs, Lucy and Dozer and his cat Smokin Joe.

He is survived by his loving family: brothers John McDonald and wife Deb, Jim McDonald and wife Renee and his youngest brother Tom; his sisters Kathleen McDonald and husband Paul, Maureen Hanschmann and husband Pete, Marybeth Moe and husband Michael. He was dearly loved by and was a favorite uncle to his nephews Allan, Timothy and Daniel and nieces Susan, Pamela and Nikki.

His family will receive friends for a period of visitation Saturday, Sept. 22, from 2-4 p.m., at the Newkirk and Whitney Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Ave., East Hartford, CT 06108. A memorial service will be held during that time at 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in William’s memory to the canine rescue; Braveheart Rescue, 70 Clear Pond Rd, Lakeville, MA, 02347.

For more information or to leave an online condolence, visit newkirkandwhitney.com.

Hebron

Mary G. Morgan

Mary G. Morgan, 81, of Hebron, died Tuesday, Sept. 4, in Old Lyme. She was born June 14, 1931, in New York, N.Y., the daughter of William and Geraldine McCarten.

She was the widow of “the love of her life,” John J. Morgan, who died this past February.

Mary attended Elizabeth Seton High School in Yonkers, N.Y., and graduated from the College of St. Elizabeth’s in Morristown, N.J., in 1953, with a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics/fashion merchandising. After graduation, she worked as an assistant buyer at B. Altman’s in New York City until she married in 1954.

Mary spent her early married years raising her five spirited children while living in California, New York and Michigan. Mary and John lived in Old Lyme for 31 years prior to relocating to Hebron in 2009. Mary enjoyed her many years working at the Old Lyme Learning Center as the lead teacher of the infants and toddlers room.

She was an avid reader, loved animals, children and a good laugh. Her sense of humor and spunky demeanor will be missed by those who had the privilege to know her.

Mary is survived by her children, Geraldine, James, Jennifer, Christopher and William Morgan; her grandchildren, Justin, Ryan, Katherine, Madeline, Charlie, Colin, Audrey and Lauren; three great-grandchildren, Shane, Ryan and Kiley; and her daughters-in-law, Laurie Morgan and Patricia Morgan.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, Sept. 15, in Christ the King Church, McCurdy Road, Old Lyme. Burial followed in Duck River Cemetery, Old Lyme.

Visit fulontherouxoldlyme.com for tributes, directions and more service information.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Old Lyme Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library in Old Lyme. An endowment is being set up to purchase materials on early childhood development and to arrange a yearly lecture for the Old Lyme community on early childhood education in Mary’s honor.

East Hampton

Paul Gavin Iasiello

Paul Gavin Iasiello, 56, of Pueblo, Colo., formerly of East Hampton, died Monday, Aug. 27, 2012 in Pueblo, Colo. Born July 17, 1956, he was the son of Grace Wells of East Hampton and the late Henry Iasiello Jr.

Besides his mother, he is survived by his brother, Henry Iasiello III of Wellets, Calif.; sisters Elizabeth Iasiello Roden and Nathan Roden of Middlefield and Barbara Iasiello Brothers of Middlefield; niece Vikki Brothers of East Hampton; and several other nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brother, Frederick (Rick) Iasiello, and his sister, Susan Iasiello.

A memorial Mass was held Wednesday, Sept. 19, in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton with burial to follow in St. Patrick Cemetery.

The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements.