

RIVEREAST

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Creating a Love Chain...In an effort to help comfort the families of Newtown, William J. Johnston Middle School students created a Love Chain, filled with paper links of positive messages to deliver to the Sandy Hook Family. Coordinated by media specialist Michele Lane and three students, Reilly Dyer, Ryan Smith and Garrett Dumore, the 75-plus foot chain includes messages that the students hope will help the families and community of Newtown in healing and let them know that everyone of all ages, children and adults, holds them in their thoughts and hearts.

Former Colombian Hostage Speaks to RHAM Students

by Melissa Roberto

When he was being held hostage by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), returning to the United States was something former Hebron resident Marc Gonsalves could only dream of. He also never expected to step foot on the grounds of his high school, RHAM, ever again.

But after five and a half years as a hostage, Gonsalves was freed in 2008, and on Wednesday he took the stage to speak of his experience to high school students at the 2012-13 National Honor Society induction ceremony at RHAM High School.

During his speech to the students, Gonsalves recalled the terror he was faced with in February 2003 and the five years that followed. He and four colleagues were flying over Colombia on a drug surveillance mission for Northrop Grumman, a global defensive technology company, when the plane's engine failed. The travelers had to make an emergency landing atop a Colombian mountain in the middle of a region controlled by a terrorist group known as the FARC. Although he told the crowd it was a "miracle" that he and two of his colleagues, Thomas Howes and Keith Stansell survived – two other colleagues perished in the plane crash – he called it "bad luck" when the terrorists immediately captured the three and took them into captivity.

The three Americans joined a growing list of captives for the FARC, including French politician Ingrid Betancourt, who was kidnapped in 2002.

But on July 2, 2008, the lives of 15 hostages including the three Americans were changed forever, Gonsalves said, thanks to a devious plan executed by Colombian troops and a team of U.S. Special Forces stationed in Bogota through a series of fake radio messages.

"Once we were out of there it's just been blessings and it hasn't stopped," Gonsalves said.

Gonsalves grew up in Bristol but moved to Hebron in the late 1980s, and graduated from

RHAM High School in 1990. He told the students that he often had many positive thoughts to get him through those long five years. He thought of his family and friends, and even had fascinations of being back at RHAM.

While reflecting on his memories of RHAM, he told the 44 NHS inductees that he went through high school "just trying to get by."

"I probably wasn't even a good student, and I'm sure Principal [Scott] Leslie can attest to that," he joked, adding that he was once a student of Leslie's when the latter was a teacher.

But Gonsalves told the students he views life "a lot" differently now than he did before his capture nearly 10 years ago.

He described life in the Colombian jungle to be "completely backwards" than what he expected the rest of the world to be like while being raised in the United States. In Colombia he had no access to information, nor did he speak the Spanish language.

Gonsalves recalled some of the terrorists to be the same ages as the high school students sitting in front of him Wednesday night. The difference, he said, was that the kids in Colombia did not have any opportunity at an education and did not even know how to read. "That was probably why they were in a terrorist group," said Gonsalves. "They didn't know what they were doing."

Gonsalves said he and his other two colleagues were often confined in small areas for weeks at a time. In an interview after Wednesday's induction ceremony, Gonsalves recalled fantasies the three Americans often daydreamed of. They would dream of writing a book together if they ever made it back home alive, and would also fantasize of buying used Harley-Davidsons and riding across America together, calling it the "freedom ride."

After the ceremony Gonsalves also said he went through four stages during his captivity: shock, adapting to the situation, analyzing the

See Former Hostage Page 2

Reimondo, Kelly Agree to Retirement Offers

by Joshua Anusewicz

One week after receiving the offer from the town, two East Hampton veteran police officers, Chief Matthew Reimondo and Sgt. Garritt Kelly, accepted retirement packages last Friday, Jan. 4, after "significant deliberation," Town Manager Michael Maniscalco announced in a release last week.

According to Maniscalco's release, the offer provides an additional three years to their pensions and the settlement of all accrued vacation and sick time. Citing one of his reasons for offering the packages as "cost savings," Maniscalco explained that rehiring new staff and the difference in starting salaries could potentially save the town over \$100,000 in the first year.

Reimondo and Kelly will remain in their positions as per-diem employees until Jan. 31

"for a smooth and seamless transition," Maniscalco said, as the town appoints an interim police chief and begins the process of finding a permanent chief.

The retirement offer was also presented to Sgt. Michael Green, who declined.

The retirements bring an end to the two officers' time in East Hampton, which spanned close to three decades. Reimondo, a Portland resident but East Hampton native, has been a member of the force since 1985. He was promoted to sergeant four years later and was named chief of police in 1998 at age 35. Reimondo is a graduate of Buffalo State College, the F.B.I. National Academy and the F.B.I. Executive Development Seminar.

On Wednesday, Reimondo said that the time had come for the two sides to part ways.

"I think the timing was right for the town to move in a new direction. Twenty-eight years is a long time," he said, adding jokingly, "I never wanted to become one of the old guys."

In nearly three decades, Reimondo has also chalked up a number of achievements and awards including The Medal of Valor for a high-speed pursuit to apprehend an armed robber and The Department Meritorious Award for his involvement with meth lab seizures, as well as establishing the town's first "drug assets forfeiture seizure and retention" that provided cash to fund the department's operating expenses.

Reimondo said that since he joined the force when he was only 22, the East Hampton Police Department is "only place I've ever known" and he will have "fond memories" of his time serving his hometown. What he'll remember the

most, he said, is the community support over the years; no matter what the cause – a fire, a tragic event, an injustice – he said the community rallies to help.

"It's a small town, it's a family," Reimondo said. "It has its quirks; it has its family feuds. But what amazes me the most is how they rally the forces behind a cause."

Reimondo admitted that he was on the receiving end of that support after he was laid off in 2010 by then-Town Manager Jeff O'Keefe, a move that proved controversial and was ultimately overturned by a town-wide referendum that was spurred by residents. He was reluctant, however, to discuss that time period, instead focusing on the "good times" and the future of the department.

See Retirement Offers Page 2

Former Hostage cont. from Front Page

situation and then accepting the situation.

Through those stages Gonsalves explained he and his colleagues had to support each other – emotionally and physically – to do whatever it took to survive.

While he reminded the crowd that the captives were “treated like nothing” in Colombia, he told the students that the four NHS values of leadership, service, character and scholarship were the “very same ones” that helped the three Americans during the five years they were held hostage.

He told the students that the four NHS values are applicable throughout life.

“I implore you now in the National Honor Society to continue with your scholarship not because you need to get the grade but because you want to learn,” he told the students. “You were born and raised with your values. ... Never let those go no matter what you’re confronted with.”

His last message to the inductees was that “nothing is impossible.”

After the induction, Gonsalves was greeted by parents who just wanted to shake his hand. Many parents applauded him for communicating important life lessons to their children.

Thirteen RHAM High School seniors and 31 juniors were inducted into the W.C. Heisler Chapter of the National Honor Society Wednesday night. A 4.0 grade point average out of a 5.0 scale at RHAM is required by students to even be considered for induction into NHS. Students are then required to fill out an application, provide a letter of recommendation and proof of completing 20 hours of community service. A faculty council made up of RHAM teachers reviews the applications and makes the decision to induct students based on leadership and their roles in the community, in addition to their academic excellence.

As for Gonsalves, he said life has only changed for the better since stepping on American soil again in July 2008. He continues to work for Northrop Grumman as an international security analyst out of Norwalk.

In February 2009, Gonsalves, Howes and Stansell accomplished their goal of writing a book about their Colombian imprisonment called *Out of Captivity: Surviving 1,967 Days in the Colombian Jungle*.

And they also got their Harleys. Shortly af-



Marc Gonsalves

ter their return, the three received letters from Harley-Davidson executives telling them to each go to their nearest Harley-Davidson store and pick out the motorcycle of their choice free of charge. The executives learned of the three’s dream of attaining motorcycles after watching an interview with CNN.

Although Gonsalves admitted it was difficult reestablishing his position as a father figure in the lives of his three children, daughter Destiney and two stepsons, Joey and Cody VanBuren, he explained his relationship with them now is “great.” His children live in Florida, and he visits them a couple times a year.

Gonsalves currently lives in Stratford.

As for the FARC, Gonsalves said the group’s kidnapping still continues. However, since his rescue Gonsalves said the FARC made a political change and started to let a small amount of hostages go in a “slow but long” process.

Gonsalves will continue to live a life of freedom here in the United States. He said being able to return to his high school was a rewarding experience.

“It’s beautiful,” he said of the school. “I wish my children had the opportunity to go here.”

Retirement Offers cont. from Front Page

“The good times far outweigh the bad,” Reimondo said of the tumultuous four months in 2010. “There’s really no use dwelling on what happened. It’s in the past.”

With 26 years on the force, Kelly might be the only one who can compete with Reimondo’s experience in the department. Hired in 1987 as a patrol officer, Kelly was soon named as one of the department’s detectives; he was promoted to sergeant and primary criminal investigator in 1993. In 1998, he was named senior sergeant.

Kelly is also a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy and is a member of Rotary International. He has served on multiple state and regional task forces dealing with cold cases and narcotics investigations, as well as investigative commander to the Capitol Region Investigative Support Team.

Kelly said Thursday retirement is something he had been considering prior to this year, but he had questioned whether it would be “practical” for him to do so. He said the retirement offer from the town, however, was something he “could not turn down.”

When looking back on his career in East Hampton, Kelly said he will remember the accomplishments of the department, particularly on high-profile investigations. As a small department, Kelly said they’ve faced “many challenges” that the officers have met head-on and “never given up” on bringing the criminals to justice.

“What we’ve accomplished, the successes we’ve had,” Kelly said, “that’s what I’ll remember most.”

That’s what it seems the town will remember most, as well. Reimondo said that since his decision was made public last week, he has been flooded with emails and phone calls of support and congratulations, and even been stopped in the street by those wishing him well.

Town Council Chairwoman Sue Weintraub said Thursday their accomplishments have earned them this retirement.

“We live in one of the safest communities in the state and the driving force has been the lead-

ership and stellar achievements of Chief Reimondo and Sgt. Kelly,” said Weintraub. “I am proud of their accomplishments and also understand the tremendous pressures and challenges they face daily.”

Fellow council member Barbara Moore said Wednesday she was “pleased” an amicable agreement could be reached between the two sides.

“I think everyone will benefit from it,” Moore said. “Their experience has been great for the town, but I also think that change is good.”

For Reimondo and Kelly, change will mean finding a new position, as neither said they have plans to stop working completely. Reimondo said he has “several options on the table” that he is looking into, but did not elaborate on what they would entail. Kelly said he plans to remain in law enforcement, adding that he still feels he has “a good ability to contribute on this level.”

For the town, change will mean a new look to the police department for the first time in years. The town will first look to appoint an interim police chief, who would be expected to start by Jan. 31 when Reimondo officially leaves his post. Maniscalco stated that the town will then open a national search in coordination with the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association to “identify and recruit a talented individual” to permanently replace Reimondo. The permanent chief would then make the decision to fill the sergeant position vacated by Kelly.

At Tuesday’s Town Council meeting, the council discussed the process of appointing a permanent chief taking anywhere from a few months to a year. In the meantime, Weintraub appointed a subcommittee – consisting of Moore and council members Kyle Dostaler and Derek Johnson – that will be tasked with finding a suitable interim police chief.

“We need to find a seasoned individual,” said Weintraub Tuesday. “We need to take our time with this because I think we need a good interim.”

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

As school officials tossed around ideas this week to make our schools safer – such items as installing bulletproof glass (not a bad idea), arming teachers and principals (a really, really bad idea) and installing security guards at every school in the state (not as good an idea as one might think; as I’ve said before, there was an armed guard at Columbine) – there was a sobering reminder that you can take as many preventative measures against guns in school as you want, but the potential still exists for horrific school violence.

Derek Shrout, 17, of Russell County in eastern Alabama was arrested last Friday after his teacher found his journal with handwritten plans to target teachers and students – particularly black teachers and students – with homemade explosives. Disgustingly, Shrout described himself to authorities as a white supremacist, according to media reports.

His first journal entry was dated Dec. 17 – just three days after the Sandy Hook shootings, although it’s unclear whether that tragedy is what inspired him.

According to reports, a search of Shrout’s parents’ home turned up several dozen small tobacco cans and two large cans, all with holes drilled in them and containing pellets, Russell County Sheriff Health Taylor said. Taylor said the devices were just a few steps from being ready to explode.

Since Sandy Hook, gun-lovers have often used the “guns don’t kill people; people kill people” line of defense, stressing that, if someone is hell-bent on carnage, they’ll find a way to do it. After all, the deadliest school massacre in this country’s history didn’t involve guns at all. (A deranged, suicidal Board of Education member set off an explosion at an elementary school in Bath Township, Mich., in 1926 that killed 38 children.) And stories like Shrout’s only seem to help their cause.

But mass killings – like Newtown, or Aurora, Colo., or Virginia Tech – still tend to involve guns far, far more often. As I said last week, as I said in my column right after the shootings, more gun control is needed. State lawmakers reconvened this week, and, as reporter Geeta Schrayter writes about this week, the issue of gun control is expected to weigh heavily on the politicians’ minds. It will be interesting to see what new legislation gets proposed.

* * *

An old editor of mine, when confronted by startling displays of human stupidity, was known to exclaim, incredulously, “What’s wrong with these people????” And those words filled my head last weekend when I read about some recent comments from Newtown state Rep. DebraLee Hovey.

Hovey, for reasons I cannot possibly fathom, was quite upset former congresswoman Gabby Giffords, who miraculously survived being shot in the head during a mass shooting in Arizona two years ago, visited Newtown last Friday and met privately with

local officials and families of the Sandy Hook victims. I thought it was nice that Giffords came here to meet with them; Hovey disagreed.

“Gabby Gifford stay out of my towns!!” Hovey posted, from Florida, to her Facebook page later in the day on Friday (she handily misspelled her last name too).

In comments posted underneath the status update, Hovey appeared to be miffed she didn’t get invited to the gathering with Giffords and the families. Again, she was making these comments from Florida (according to the *Courant*, she was there to attend a meeting).

Hovey seemed to think the gathering was political in nature, writing “There was pure political motives.” (The bad grammar is all her.) This despite the fact the meeting was closed to the press, there was no statement issued afterward, and, while Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal was present along with Democratic Lt. Gov. Nancy Malloy, Republican First Selectwoman E. Patricia Llodra was there too.

I just highly doubt there was any politics at play at all. Rather, Giffords, who like I said barely survived a madman’s bullet, was there to comfort the families during their time of grief. I saw nothing wrong with it.

Hovey’s immature Facebook ranting, by the way, soon drew the attention of the country and the world. She later took it down from her Facebook page, and issued a public apology. But the damage, I suspect, has been done.

* * *

As I’ve said several times, I love strange news stories, and last weekend brought a bizarre one, direct from my hometown of Manchester.

It seems these two twin brothers, Aric Hale and Sean Hale, both 28, were at a hotel room in Manchester with their 27-year-old girlfriend on New Year’s Eve. Yep, you read that right: no ‘s’ on girlfriend. The brothers shared the girlfriend, and she was intimate with each of them, “depending on who she chooses to be with that particular day,” Manchester Police Sgt. Chris Davis told the *Courant*.

Apparently the brothers couldn’t agree whose turn it was to be intimate. According to Davis, Sean Hale asked his brother to leave the hotel room, so he and the woman could begin having sex. Aric Hale refused, and before long the two started swinging punches at each other and trashing the hotel room, Davis said.

Police later caught up with the brothers at an Ellington residence. Aric Hale was charged with two counts of third-degree assault, two counts of disorderly conduct and one count of third-degree criminal mischief. Sean Hale, meanwhile, was charged with two counts of disorderly conduct and one count of third-degree criminal mischief. Both men posted bond and are due in court Feb. 7.

* * *

See you next week.

Grant Approved for Epoch Arts Roof

by Joshua Anusewicz

Gov. Dannel Malloy announced Monday that eight Connecticut towns would receive grant funding from the state’s Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP), including East Hampton, which was awarded \$250,000 to replace the roof of the Epoch Arts building on Skinner Street.

Epoch Arts, a nonprofit organization that offers programs in film, music, theater, and art for youths from kindergarten to high school, requested the funding last summer to improve the condition of the building, a former brownfield site, to offer an expansion of programming. After a lengthy discussion at an August meeting, the Town Council unanimously agreed to send a letter of support to the state Office of Policy & Management (OPM), the agency tasked with issuing the grant funding.

“It is through public/private partnerships like these that we will begin to see economic development, the support of our local youth, and the creation of East Hampton as one of the best

places to live in Connecticut,” said Town Manager Michael Maniscalco in a release this week. “We are all very appreciative of the support and look forward to the beginning of many partnerships to come.”

On Tuesday, Maniscalco called the grant “very good news for our community.”

The seven other towns to receive STEAP funding from the state are Andover, Berlin, East Haddam, Fairfield, Lyme, Somers and Suffield. The funding will go towards various projects that target local infrastructure, revitalization, and job creation.

“STEAP grants are an excellent example of how state and local government partnerships can make meaningful improvements that directly benefit residents,” said Malloy in a release. “As we work to rebuild roads, repair bridges, and strengthen business centers in towns across the state, we are making Connecticut more competitive and a better place to work and live.”

Task Force Recommends Changes for Hebron Library

by Geeta Schrayter

Making Douglas Library a town-run operation, as opposed to being run solely by an association, highlighted a list of recommended changes presented to the Board of Selectmen at its meeting last week.

At the meeting, held Thursday, Jan. 3, Gail Richmond, president of the Douglas Library Association, presented draft recommendations from the Library Study Task Force, which was formed last August.

The charge of the group, which, along with Richmond, was made up of other association members, along with members of the boards of finance and selectmen, was “to study and review alternatives for the provision of library services, the framework for the future of the Douglas Library and the agreement between the Town of Hebron and the Douglas Library of Hebron Association.”

Richmond explained at the meeting that since the formation of the task force, libraries throughout the state had been visited in order to gather information on the structure of different libraries and their service model.

“From that as well as a meeting with Betsy McIlvaine, the president of the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, we made recommendations on what made sense,” said Richmond.

A special meeting of the Douglas Library Association met the night prior to the selectmen meeting, where, Richmond said, “overwhelming support” was received for the six recommendations she presented.

“We feel quite strongly about them because

all the evidence pointed in this direction. It’s not originally where I thought it would go, but I kept an open mind,” Richmond said.

The first recommendation was that the library become municipal.

“Association libraries are an anomaly,” said Richmond. “In all the towns we visited they don’t have the money to run it.”

However, it was also recommended that the association remain in existence “in order to provide support, guidance and members” for the library’s board of directors, according to a draft report from the task force. “The association must also remain in existence in order to continue to receive the income from the Douglas Trust.”

Larson said later in the meeting that making the library municipal but keeping the association seemed like “the best of both worlds, with the association and people with expertise in the library involved still.”

The second recommendation is that the land and building housing the library should be deeded to the town.

“The land and building are owned by the association at this point, but the association hasn’t had money for years to maintain the building and grounds,” said Richmond. “You’re funding it; maybe you ought to own it.”

Larson added later that by changing the ownership of the land and building to the town, it would open up other funding sources and grants that are currently unavailable to the library since it is not a municipal building. If the recommendations moved forward, the library would still

be eligible for grants as a 501c-3 organization, but would become eligible as a municipally-owned building as well.

The third recommendation is that the library board of directors be a governing board. The board would have authority and responsibility for the library and be able to set policies. It would be comprised of six members designated by the association from their membership and three who are designated by the town manager and/or the Board of Selectmen. All of the members would then be appointed by the selectmen.

“The expertise rests with the board [of directors], but it would be a hybrid board so the Board of Selectmen could more or less appoint and oversee the board,” Richmond said, adding it was a “very successful model” in other towns.

The fourth recommendation states that, while the library director would report to the library board, any hiring, firing or disciplining would be handled jointly with the town manager.

The fifth recommendation is for library staff to continue to be town employees governed by the town’s employee personnel policies and procedures.

The last recommendation is for the board of directors to have responsibility managing the library budget for items that relate to internal library operations, such as garnering materials. This would mean the library would be able to move money from one line item to another for internal operations by calling up the finance administrator and receiving the ‘okay’ instead of having to go before the selectmen each time.

Richmond said budget development should continue to happen by the board of directors working with the Board of Selectmen, “but there should be a little internal line item control.”

“We’re not looking for that much change,” Richmond added. “We’re trying to clarify an existing situation to allow the library to move forward and allow the library to function in a way the town residents want.”

The selectmen were impressed with the recommendations.

“You guys have done a great job,” said Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt. “I’m feeling comfortable with the recommendations you have here, and think you should go with the next steps.”

“I’m very happy with all of your work,” added selectman Brian O’Connell. “I think it will be a great service to the town.”

“This work is long overdue,” said Town Manager Andy Tierney.

Richmond agreed with Tierney, adding a couple of “old-time members” of the association had said the night before that the changes needed to happen. “So they were glad, and the library can deliver the services that people are asking for,” she said.

The Library Study Task Force will continue to hone the recommendations, and report back to the selectmen in February.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m., in the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.

EH Council Continues Discussion on Fire Department Matters

by Joshua Anusewicz

It’s a new year, but the same disconnect is persisting between the Town Council and the East Hampton Fire Department. At Tuesday’s meeting of the council, fire department matters caused rifts between the two bodies, as well as among the council members, which caused a delay of the meeting before the agenda was even accepted.

Issues in the fire department began in the late summer, when three of the five members of the town’s Fire Commission, including the chairman, resigned from their posts abruptly, reportedly due to internal conflict amongst the members. The two remaining members, Richard Dufour and Leroy Goff, opted to remain on the commission and the town worked diligently to replace the three departing members with three new volunteers: Brett Salafia, Eric Valli and Eric Germaine.

However, due to the term limits on the members, Dufour’s tenure on the commission was scheduled to end in November 2012. The commission, though, has requested that due to the recent turmoil, the lineup should remain status quo until August to provide stability for the fire department.

“Our suggestion is let the board sit as is,” said Captain Marty Swan. “We can wait until August and let them prove themselves.” Swan also suggested that the council should refrain from expanding the size of the commission from five to seven, an idea that had been hypothesized by the council.

The comments from Swan, however, came during the public comment section of the meeting, which was delayed because of a lack of

agreement on the agenda. Councilor Ted Hintz Jr. requested an amendment to the agenda that the council discuss and appoint a new member to the Fire Commission at the meeting, an idea that was backed by fellow members George Pfaffenbach and Barbara Moore. The two other council members present, Kyle Dostaler and Chairwoman Sue Weintraub – Glenn Suprono and Derek Johnson were not in attendance – disagreed with Hintz, opining that the council should review the resumes of willing volunteers first and wait for the full council to be present to make a decision.

Due to the disagreement, the agenda was not adopted, by a 2-3 vote. With Hintz’s amendment, at least this time there were more ‘yay’s than ‘nea’s, but the agenda still failed with a 3-2 vote, as it did not reach the four ‘yay’ votes necessary to pass. What resulted was an awkward stand-off between the members that lasted close to 10 minutes, before the council was able to agree to add a “discussion” about the appointment of members to the Fire Commission, which passed unanimously.

“Happy New Year,” Weintraub said jokingly as the motioned passed.

The “discussion” about the appointments was prefaced again by Swan, who stated that a committee member was “in limbo” and the council needed to make a decision on his future. To that extent, Hintz nominated resident Stephen Palmer for appointment to the commission, which was supported by Pfaffenbach.

Dostaler, however, disagreed with making an appointment at the meeting. “What has sur-

rounded the fire commission has been contentious,” he said. “This doesn’t need to be a contentious issue and cause unnecessary anger or drama. We need to come to a consensus. I’m not ready to vote tonight, not because I don’t support him [Palmer], I just think that forcing the issue is a mistake.”

Instead, Dostaler recommended soliciting interested volunteers to submit resumes to the town for the council to review, a process that was completed by the council’s appointments subcommittee when the last three members of the commission were chosen.

But Hintz pointed out that the subcommittee chose four candidates at that time from the dozen or so resumes, with Palmer being the odd man out. Hintz reasoned then that Palmer should be the next in line to fill the spot.

“I asked at the time if we would re-interview and I was told that we wouldn’t,” Hintz said of the last appointment process. “To leave someone sitting in limbo is not the right thing. Steve [Palmer] is a former fire department member and a great candidate.”

Weintraub sided with Dostaler. “Since [the three appointments], things have changed,” she said of the commission, “good, bad or indifferent. We have two council members out tonight and I’d like to wait until our next meeting.”

With that, the vote was cast 3-2 to appoint Palmer, with Dostaler and Weintraub dissenting. However, as was the case with the agenda, since there weren’t at least four ‘yay’ votes, the motion failed, and the appointment was pushed to the next meeting.

Maniscalco also gave an update on the process of purchasing a new fire engine for the East Hampton Fire Department. He related that he recently met with members of the department and the fire commission to “maintain a timeline” to purchase a new engine, as well as an outside source that looked over the needs of the town and the department to decide which type of engine would work best.

Through this process, Maniscalco said that an engine tanker “seems appropriate” for the town, and added that a smaller unit would be sought to negotiate some of the narrow roads and steep hills of the town. The town is currently in the process of looking through used and “demo” vehicles to find a suitable model, Maniscalco said.

The council assured the firefighters in attendance that the process was moving forward. “I’d like to see a new fire truck and I know we’re making an effort to get one,” stated Pfaffenbach.

But firefighter Mike Rich, who also serves as chairman of the committee tasked with finding a new fire truck, said he has been disappointed by the “lack of progress.”

“It’s one step forward, two steps back,” said Rich, who added that it would be realistic to assume that a new engine wouldn’t be in East Hampton until next year.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

Bacon Teacher Releases Fourth Book

by Melissa Roberto

John L. Stanizzi recently released his fourth book of poems – adding yet another accomplishment to a resume that includes nearly 20 years of teaching English at Bacon Academy as well as being its theater director for many years.

And his fifth book is on the way.

Stanizzi released *Dance Against the Wall* at the end of October. It is his third major publication with Antrim House Books, following *Ecstasy Among Ghosts* and *Sleepwalking*. His first book, titled *Windows*, was a slim volume published by Manchester Community College, where he has also taught English since 1989.

Dance Against the Wall includes poems about family, friends, experiences and nature.

While the book – as was the case with his previous three books – doesn't have a specific theme, Stanizzi said the title came from a memory dear to his heart.

Dance Against the Wall is based on a metaphor Stanizzi came up with while watching his best friend struggle from Alzheimer's. He recalled his friend singing and dancing to the popular tune "Itsy Bitsy Spider" in her living room, and continuing to "dance against the wall" even though she was unaware of it, said Stanizzi.

"In our own ways we are dancing against struggles, nature, age and relationships," he said.

The title relates to the first sequence of poems in the book about losing his father to Alzheimer's as well. The rest of the poems in the book shift from family experiences to poems about nature.

Stanizzi described his poetry writing as something "visceral," rather than something he chose to do. He began writing poems at the age of 9 as an "only child with an imagination," and he continued to write after receiving positive feedback from his teachers. "Those two things just played into each other," he said.

While poetry is admittedly the best way for Stanizzi to express himself, he also said it is like a "second full-time job." On top of his duties as an English teacher at Bacon and MCC, his mind constantly remains "open to ideas"

for poems.

His experiences are the backbone of his poems, which Stanizzi explained are quite realistic. "To my sensibility the more specific the poem is, the better," he said.

The special area where Stanizzi enjoys putting his thoughts to paper is in the comfort of his home in Coventry, in an office on the second floor that overlooks a vista with an "outrageous" view of 100 miles "without anything in my way," he said.

But what Stanizzi said is his "absolute favorite thing to do" is teach. Stanizzi teaches literature classes at Bacon and has created a specific class called "Jazz and Poetry," a class about the history of jazz music and contemporary poetry.

A former student of Stanizzi's, Yvonne Monique Sousa, recalled the positive impact his class had on her.

"If Stanizzi had not created the Jazz and Poetry course I wouldn't have been able to explore and discover how creative I am with words," said Sousa, who is now a freshman at Massachusetts College of Art.

Many Bacon students – past and present – argue that Stanizzi is a teacher unlike the rest. They often refer to him as "Niz" or "Staniz," and describe their relationship with him as more of a friend than solely a teacher.

"You can go to him for anything," said Stephanie Napier, a senior at Bacon. "To disrespect him is like disrespecting ourselves."

Stanizzi explained the reason that he has gotten out of bed each morning and headed to Bacon Academy since 1992 is "the kids."

"They're funny, smart, needy, troubled, clever and it's just amazing," he said.

Stanizzi also spent 15 of his years at Bacon as the theater director, and has directed about 40 plays at the school.

While Stanizzi claimed he loves the kids "more than ever," he has decided to retire from teaching at Bacon at the end of the school year for the same reasons he stepped down from the theater director position a few years ago: in an effort to not spread himself so thin.

"I want to leave while I still have the energy and feel on top of my game," he said.

He will continue to teach classes at MCC, as well as conduct writing workshops at the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington – and continue to write poetry in his spare time.

Before his departure, Stanizzi's appreciation for his time at Bacon Academy will be evident not only to people in the community but all over, as his fifth book, *After the Bell*, is about the school itself.

The book includes what Stanizzi described as a realistic teacher's point of view of the high school.

"It's not a cute book about high school kids," he said. "It's a real hard look at what goes on with adolescents in a high school."

Big Table Publishing in Boston will release the book within the next couple of months, Stanizzi said.

Outside of the classroom, Stanizzi enjoys doing an average of eight poetry readings a year, which his retirement from Bacon will allow more time for. He said he never knows what poems he is going to read and decides "based on the feel of the audience."

Stanizzi's most recent reading of *Dance Against the Wall* took place Nov. 20 at Bacon Academy, where approximately 100 attendees filled the theater.

He has also read his poetry at The Buttonwood Tree in Middletown, McMahon Wintonbury Library in Bloomfield and the Charter Oak Cultural Center in Hartford.

The fulfillment of Stanizzi's teaching career also comes from the successes of his former students who have gone on to become English teachers, won poetry awards and who professionally work in theater.

"The fact that they came out of my class is incredibly gratifying," he said.

Faculty and students aren't the only ones who have admired Stanizzi. Readers of his poems reach out to him from across the Northeast and beyond, including Canada, England and even Australia. He explained that he hopes readers gain a sense of who he is while reading his poems.

His works have appeared in many publications including *The New York Quarterly*, *Connecticut River Review* and Garrison Keillor's



John L. Stanizzi, a longtime English teacher at Bacon Academy, recently released his fourth book of poems.

Writer's Almanac.

But the highlight of Stanizzi's career as a poet was receiving the award for the 1998 New England Poet of the Year, an honor that he described as "completely overwhelming."

His four book covers include photography taken by Stanizzi himself, that he feels are "soft and welcoming." The *Dance Against the Wall* cover is a picture of yellow wildflowers against a fence in Mansfield.

But the cover of *After the Bell* will be something of a departure. It is being designed by Bacon art teacher Jodi Medlinger – fitting, considering the poems inside will be all about Bacon Academy.

Stanizzi currently lives in Coventry with his wife, Carol, and is a father of four and grandfather of nine.

Readers can buy Stanizzi's books on amazon.com or through Antrim House Books of Simsbury. Stanizzi is also selling copies directly; he can be reached at jnc4251@aol.com.

Discussion Continues on Colchester's WJJMS Project

by Melissa Roberto

At its meeting last Thursday, Jan. 3, the Board of Selectmen aided Building Committee Chairman Tom Tyler through the process of moving forward with the William J. Johnston Middle School/Community Center/Senior Center project.

The project would renovate and expand WJJMS, and include the Community Center and Senior Center all in one building. The existing WJJMS would house the sixth grade in the western wing, while a three-story addition would include both seventh- and eighth-grades on the second and third floor. The existing building would also include a community center and senior center. Construction of the project includes the removal of the 1954 eighth-grade wing, while new parking lots for WJJMS and the senior center would be added.

The selectmen responded to four areas Tyler requested guidance on at the board's Dec. 20 meeting: the order in which the committee should communicate the project's cost estimate to the town boards, inclusion of a pool to the project design, a possible referendum date and determining what community groups will have designated space in the proposed buildings.

Tyler informed the selectmen at the Dec. 20 meeting that the building committee was to review a preliminary final schematic report, including a cost estimate of the project, at its next

meeting, which was held last night after press time. Tyler anticipated the report to be a "fairly detailed estimate" with a breakdown of costs for the school, community center and senior center.

The selectmen agreed that a tri-board meeting, involving the boards of selectmen, finance and education, would be the most effective way for the committee to update the boards with the cost estimate so all board members can receive information and ask questions simultaneously.

Schuster said he hopes to schedule the tri-board meeting for sometime in February.

The selectmen also discussed the possibility of including a pool to the schematic design of the project. Schuster said without the cost estimates it is "tough" to provide an answer but that "having a pool is probably not a good move at this point" due to the scope of the project. He suggested including a pool in the schematic plan so that, if it were added at a later date, the building committee, and the selectmen, would already know where it would be located.

However, Tyler said changing the schematic plans to include a pool would cost money. The selectmen directed Tyler to find out what this cost would be and then report back to them.

Tyler also asked the selectmen if holding a referendum before the end of June would be possible. He explained that June 30 is the dead-

line for submitting the WJJMS project plans to the State of Connecticut Bureau of School Facilities. If the project were passed by June 30, it would keep the town in the 2012-13 cycle for funding from the state, Tyler said.

However, Schuster didn't sound too optimistic about being able to hold a referendum by then.

"We don't have a lot of time and we're about to go into the budget process," he said. "It would be a very tall order to get this in by the end of the fiscal year."

The selectmen also said they couldn't discuss the referendum date further due to the lack of cost estimates. Schuster said the Board of Finance would also need to approve the financing of the project before the referendum.

Lastly, Tyler informed the selectmen at the Dec. 20 meeting that community groups in town have made verbal and written comments asking for space in the proposed community center, one in particular is the veterans. Tyler said providing allocated space for community groups is a determining factor in gaining the community's support. "People might not support the project if they feel they can't use it," he added at last week's meeting.

Selectman Stan Soby asked Tyler to let the board know at its next meeting which groups

have expressed interest in having designated space in the new building.

Coyle suggested the selectmen create a policy that determines how the space is used for "rooms that aren't allocated." She said the town does not currently have a policy to determine that but that it is something the selectmen should start to think about.

Before making any further decisions the selectmen will need to receive cost estimates for the project, which the building committee reviewed last night after press time.

Also at last week's meeting, the selectmen also called a special Town Meeting to take place Jan. 23, 7 p.m. at Town Hall to consider a resolution on the lease-purchase agreement for the Energy Conservation project. A full article on the energy savings project appears elsewhere in this issue.

The selectmen also approved the Administrator's Union job descriptions. Schuster said on Tuesday that the selectmen did not change the core function of anyone's job and that the vast majority of changes were "non-substantive."

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Colchester Holds Info Session on Energy Performance Contract

by Melissa Roberto

Public Works Director Jim Paggioli led the town's first public information session Monday on the Energy Performance Contract project.

The project includes energy-efficient improvements in several schools and town buildings, including Bacon Academy, Jack Jackter Intermediate School, Colchester Elementary School, Cragin Memorial Library, both fire companies and Town Hall, while also saving money the town spends on energy.

Paggioli explained that the project is financed through the energy savings achieved by the upgrades.

"The improvements pay for themselves by the energy that they save," said Paggioli.

This project dates back to the summer of 2009, when Colchester received a stimulus grant of \$69,867 and the selectmen agreed to spend the grant funds to have an energy audit performed on the buildings. A request of approval was written and CELTIC Energy of Glastonbury was chosen to assist in selecting an Energy Services Company (ESCO).

Honeywell was hired in December 2011 as the ESCO and completed the investment grade audit in September 2012 and made recommendations that would reduce the amount of energy town buildings would use, as well as re-

ducing the cost of that energy.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster has explained in previous selectmen and board of education meetings that this project would not bring any additional costs to the town. Honeywell has guaranteed the town a certain level of energy savings and if those savings do not reach expectations, Honeywell has guaranteed to reimburse the town the difference.

The boards of selectmen, finance and education have all voted to support the project. At their Dec. 20 meeting the selectmen recommended the town adopt a lease-purchase financing plan for the project.

The lease-purchase to finance the program includes a principal amount not to exceed \$3,500,000 over a period of up to 12 years with the first payment to be made during the 2013-14 fiscal year.

A town meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, to vote on a lease-purchase financing for the project.

Paggioli provided a graph that broke down the total energy costs the town paid in the 2010-11 fiscal year – a year the town had "complete data" for when the project was started, he said. The costs were broken down into the five various forms of energy the town utilizes: electricity, heating oil, water, operation and mainte-

nance (O&M)/telephone lines and propane.

The total energy cost for the 2010-11 fiscal year was \$1,559,043. That total was made up of the five energy forms: \$1,209,402 for electricity; \$239,153 for heating oil; \$76,231 for water; \$19,847 for O&M/telephone lines and \$14,410 for propane.

Another graph was presented at the info session to show what the energy costs would be for the town during the project phase – costs that were projected based on the 2010-11 energy costs.

Paggioli said the town would see a "much more consistent electricity bill" with a projected cost of \$993,558. Heating was projected at \$198,710, along with \$67,404 for water and \$14,410 for propane. The remaining expense of \$284,961 would be the project repayment.

Once the lease is paid off – which is anticipated to take up to twelve years – the \$284,961 would be retained by the town.

"Throughout the entire town we are looking at an energy use reduced rate of 18.2 percent," said Paggioli.

Paggioli also referenced towns and school systems that are currently under similar energy performance contracts. The towns of Stratford and Thomaston in Connecticut have utilized contracts, as well as the city of Somerville,

Mass. Schools that are under contracts also include Danbury, East Hartford, Farmington and Middletown.

The energy saving measures that would be utilized in the town and Board of Education buildings include water conservation measures, installation of centralized energy management systems, mechanical upgrades, electrical power factor correction, lighting upgrades and control sensors, building envelope/weatherization, transformer upgrades, automated dialers and boiler/kitchen hood controllers.

Colchester's financial officer Maggie Cosgrove explained that this project would reduce the amount of money the town spends on energy and replace it with a lease payment.

"It's not an additional payment to be added to the annual budget, rather it is simply moving utility costs to a lease payment and once the payment is paid off all of the energy savings would be retained by the town."

An additional information session on this project was held last night, after press time, and another is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Readers can also log on to the town's website, colchesterct.gov to receive more information on the project and view the PowerPoint presentation.

Changes Made to Improve Safety at Colchester Schools

by Melissa Roberto

Colchester Public Schools were deemed safe following a security audit in each of the schools just four days after the Newtown Elementary shooting last month, but in Tuesday's Board of Education meeting Superintendent of Schools Jeff Mathieu announced improvements have been completed to make the schools even safer.

Mathieu said efforts to "make the schools as safe as possible" included procedural changes and physical improvements to all four schools in the last few weeks.

All four schools already had a buzz-in system in place including exterior cameras that provide office professionals a visual of visitors. An additional 12-16 cameras are located inside each of the schools as well. William J. Johnston Middle School staff will now ask the purpose of visitors prior to letting them into the building, Mathieu said.

"The difference between the middle school and the other three schools is that where the office is located there's not a direct sight line from the camera so the middle school wanted that extra step," Mathieu said.

At Bacon Academy, the student safety officer Selvon Luke, Bacon's assistant football coach, is now located at the front door of the school, as opposed to being in the school hallways. Colchester Police Officer Tim Edwards will continue to be the student resource officer at Bacon as he is for all four schools in town.

Mathieu said a procedural change in some of the schools is to check IDs when visitors, and even faculty, enter the building. A Colchester Elementary School secretary moved a desk into the main lobby of the school's office for the purpose of checking IDs.

Locking doors is another procedure the schools have made a priority. At CES, cafeteria entrances are used for loading areas. The school has made efforts to make sure those doors are locked at "all times," said Mathieu. Jack Jackter Intermediate School has also deemed this an important responsibility by making sure all doors are locked during afterschool programs.

Major changes were also made regarding students traveling outside between classes. Fifth-graders at JJIS had been walking outside the school one Friday a month to the gym for their Higher Order Thinking school meetings (which allow students to present original writing samples). However, they will now access the gym from inside the school, which will be a longer route but will keep the students indoors. The middle school and high school also faced a similar problem because students have to travel outside to get to their classes. The middle school courtyard is an area where students are often walking through to get to the cafeteria. The path is now enclosed with an eight foot fence that was installed during the school's December break.

Bacon Academy also has two portables students need to travel to for class and was enclosed by a four-foot fence. Now, the fence has been extended to eight-feet tall.

In addition, students and faculty are no longer allowed to park in the back of the high school which Mathieu said it would make it "easy to identify" if someone unknown is on the property.

According to the state Department of Education, schools are required to conduct three lockdown drills a year. Mathieu said all of the schools held lockdown drills this week.

In addition to the improvements in schools, a task force has been created to review the town's crisis plan if an emergency situation similar to Newtown were to exist at any of the schools. The force is made up of an administrator from each school, Mathieu, Director of Facilities Greg Plunkett and representatives from the State Police and Colchester Fire Department.

The task force is working on developing plans for the outside perimeter of the school during an emergency. For example, where parents would park and walk to meet with their children, a route for emergency vehicles and staging for fire trucks.

The task force had its first meeting Jan. 4, and will continue to meet every other Friday at the town's emergency operations center underneath the gymnasium at JJIS.

Also at Tuesday's school board meeting, Mathieu explained to the board that the state Department of Education deadline for sending in the district's preferred model of teacher and administrator evaluations is Jan. 15.

State districts are given the preference of choosing the state System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED), also known as the state model, a district-designed alternative, or a hybrid model for both teacher and administrator evaluations.

The board approved the district's preferred methods of a hybrid model for teacher evaluations – which Mathieu said is a slight variation from the state model – and the state model for administrator evaluations, which will be sent to the state Department of Education by Jan. 15.

The board also made changes to the budget calendar. The Jan. 22 Board of Education meeting was canceled and rescheduled to Monday, Jan. 28, to include discussion of the 2013-14 budget. The budget will also be talked about at the regular Board of Ed. meeting scheduled for Monday, Feb. 11.

A town-wide budget forum is also scheduled for Feb. 6.

The Jan. 28 Board of Education meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at CES, located at 315 Halls Hill Rd.

Salem Dogs Coming to Colchester?

by Melissa Roberto

Colchester's dog pound may be welcoming more dogs from the adjacent town of Salem in the near future, as town officials have started to talk about the possibility.

The Salem dogs wouldn't be the only out-of-town pooches in the Colchester pound. Since 1992, the pound has also been home to Marlborough canines.

In order to include Salem, Colchester's First Selectman Gregg Schuster said all three towns would need to sign a formal agreement.

"It's the start of more regional sharing," said Schuster.

Colchester, Marlborough and Salem already share the same animal control officer. Bill Paul started as the Colchester and Marlborough assistant ACO in 2007, and became the animal control officer in both towns last July. Last month, Paul was also hired to be the Salem ACO.

Paul said there is "always availability" at the pound, which is located on Old Hartford Road by the Public Works department, and including Salem into the mix wouldn't pose any problems.

"It will actually benefit Salem residents because it's right next door," he said.

On average, there is a total of 10-12 dogs each month at the pound, but Paul said that number may vary depending on the time of year.

The facility has 15 indoor/outdoor runs for the dogs and Paul visits it twice a daily to make sure the dogs are fed and exercised.

In order to provide quality service, Paul said he would not take on an ACO role in any other towns in addition to the three.

Paul said at the pound dogs are constantly coming and going, adding that he hasn't ran into any difficulties finding people to adopt them.

"People have good hearts that want to adopt dogs," said Paul.

Adoptions are made easier through the use of the town's website colchesterct.gov and petfinder.com. The pound also works closely with Gagnon's Pet Resort in Colchester as well as the veterinary hospitals in Colchester and Marlborough.

Although Schuster admitted the towns are only in the initial verbal stages of an agreement, he looks at Salem as "a good neighbor."

Marlborough First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski said selectmen from all three towns will meet to discuss the matter next Monday, Jan. 14.

Home Invasion Reported on Ivy Court in Colchester

State Police are currently investigating a reported home invasion and subsequent assault that took place on Ivy Court just before 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3.

The two alleged victims were confronted at their door by two "probable male suspects" wearing masks, State Police Lt. Paul Vance said Tuesday.

One of the suspects was also armed with a

handgun, police said.

The suspects then fled on foot towards Route 2. Both victims were transported to Marlborough Medical Clinic for minor injuries.

Vance said Tuesday state police had developed leads, but no arrests had been made.

Anybody with information is asked to call state police at 860-537-7500.

State Officials to Grapple With Newtown Implications

by Geeta Schrayter

The tragic events of Dec. 14 left not only Newtown and the state but the entire nation – and world, even – in shock. In the aftermath of the massacre that took 26 lives at Sandy Hook Elementary School, people have begun to search for answers. “How” and “why” something like this could happen has been asked over and over, and ways to prevent a similar occurrence in the future is a topic of much discussion.

And that discussion will inevitably make its way to the State Capitol, where the 2013 legislative session began Wednesday. As incumbents get back into the swing of things and first-time state senators and representatives get their bearings, it’s clear one of the issues Connecticut’s politicians will be focusing on is Sandy Hook and gun control, a hot topic since last month’s incident.

“The two major topics this session will be what to do about Sandy Hook – a fellow review of the atrocity – and the budget deficit,” said state Rep. Pam Sawyer, who is beginning her 11th term. Sawyer, a Republican from Bolton, covers the 55th District, which includes Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough.

On Monday, she explained Connecticut has some of the strictest gun laws in the nation, but that didn’t mean they shouldn’t be strengthened. In 1993, she said, the state passed an assault weapons ban that named a number of specific guns to be considered an assault weapon. Sawyer said she voted against that particular bill, because she felt it could be easily circumvented.

“You can’t name a gun because all a manufacturer has to do is change a stock, change a sighting, change a design and they can call it something else,” she said. Sawyer said she supported banning assault-style weapons, but the 1993 ban was done “the wrong way.”

In 2000, Sawyer said, the law was changed to include a list of features that would help determine whether a particular semiautomatic firearm is considered an assault weapon, but she felt that still wasn’t enough.

According to Connecticut General Statute 53-202a, if a semiautomatic firearm isn’t included in the list of specified weapons but has at least two items on a list of five criteria, it’s considered an assault weapon. However, in the case of the Bushmaster .223 wielded by Adam

Lanza when he entered Sandy Hook Elementary, only one of the criteria was met, thereby making it legal.

“The problem with the Bushmaster is it only had one [criterion], according to the way the law was written,” said Sawyer. “So Connecticut will revisit that particular statute to strengthen it, again, trying to find a way to capture as many machines as possible. We have to tighten up what we have even though we have some of the strictest in the country.”

Sawyer added she was a “firm advocate” of the Second Amendment, but assault weapons were unnecessary.

“I’m a firm advocate of the people’s Second Amendment rights to defend their home and property and for self protection, but the military style weapon is...there’s just not a true need for it,” she said, adding to her, the only reason to have one would be for military or competitive use.

Sawyer furthered gun restrictions needed to be made on assault weapons at the national level, because if they’re not, a Connecticut resident need only step over state lines to get one.

“That’s the problem of going state by state,” she said.

But for newly-elected state Rep. Melissa Ziobron, decisions on gun control should remain with each state.

“I personally believe that’s a state-by-state issue,” she said, “but at the end of the day, there’s the Second Amendment which gives us that right [to bear arms].”

Ziobron, a Republican, who represents the 34th District, which covers East Hampton, East Haddam and a portion of Colchester, called the Second Amendment a “critical piece of our history” and the groundwork for the formation of America’s democracy. She said gun-ownership was an American right, and Connecticut’s current gun laws were “pretty good.”

“Our current gun laws are really strict,” she said. “I don’t know if people really understand out of the 50 states we’re the fifth overall as far as our strictness is concerned.”

Ziobron said there’s a significant background check and “all kinds of processes in place” to determine whether or not someone should be issued a gun permit.

“Local law enforcement, according to state statute, does not have to issue a permit if the applicant is deemed unsuitable,” she said. “It’s not a guaranteed application.”

Ziobron added she was hesitant to make comments until all the facts of the case are in. However, she said she was “open to hearing debate,” even though she didn’t think stricter laws would have stopped Lanza.

“I’m not sure if we had stricter laws if it would have changed the scenario,” Ziobron said. “Sandy Hook had just got done updating their safety protocol; it did not matter.”

Linda Orange, state representative for the 48th District, covering the rest of Colchester and portions of Windham, Lebanon and Mansfield, said the problem wasn’t necessarily gun laws and ownership but the fact that guns get into the wrong hands.

“In speaking with gun owners, they certainly don’t want their guns used in crimes,” Orange, a Democrat, said. “They’re citizens of our communities and you never hear of someone with a gun permit actually out there committing these types of crimes.”

The problem, then, arises from the number of guns that get in the hands of criminals and individuals, like Lanza, who shouldn’t have them in their possession, she said.

Orange, who has been a representative for the past 16 years, said she’d be pushing for the reinstatement of a gun task force that brings state police into the cities to help track and reclaim illegal firearms. In addition, she said, gun owners should be aware of the mental health of the people in their home, and make decisions regarding their guns accordingly.

“If [Mrs. Lanza] had – or anyone – thinks that there is an issue within their family, and they do possess firearms, the best thing always would be to remove them, even if temporarily,” she said.

Which led Orange to what she considered an important aspect of the case along with gun control: ensuring there’s proper funding for mental health support in the state. Orange and other *Rivereast* area state officials said they felt that while discussing gun control was important, it wasn’t the only facet that should be examined in response to Sandy Hook.

Ziobron said mental health was a “huge” part of the discussion.

“We keep focusing on guns, but we need to look at all the factors, and we can’t do that unless we have all the facts,” she said. “I don’t think it’s appropriate to have this discussion without looking at all the pieces of the puzzles. Certain guns and accessibility are part of this, but certainly mental help, the possession of prescription drugs and a host of other things are too.”

Likewise, Sawyer cited mental health as an area that concerned her, calling the system “weak.” She also mentioned the prevalence of violent video games – of which Lanza was said to have played – that use assault-style weapons. When the games are played for a prolonged period of time, said Sawyer, “the violence becomes pervasive with an unstable person.”

Christie Carpino, the Republican state representative for the 32nd District, which encompasses Portland and Cromwell, added the “whole situation” needed to be looked at before there were any “knee-jerk reactions.”

“We need to do a top down review of all the laws,” Carpino said. “Police are still investigating so we need to find out all the details.”

Carpino mentioned school safety as an area that needs to be examined, and said an open conversation with public safety personnel, school personnel and parents needs to be held to help put forth meaningful legislation.

“That’s my goal: to put forth something meaningful that has an effect,” she said.

As far as gun control and the Second Amendment are concerned, Carpino said there needs to be a balance.

“I’m a firm believer that there’s got to be a balance,” Carpino said. “We have to protect the safety of the public, and yet our Constitution is very clear that we have the right to bear arms.”

And so, as the legislative session moves forward, the question of rights and what *is* right will inevitably be asked. Representatives will be forced to examine a number of issues it’s likely they weren’t planning on when they were elected in November – and steps will hopefully be taken, wherever possible, to prevent the heartache the Newtown tragedy caused all over the world from happening again.

Andover School Board Passes \$4.33 Million Budget

by Geeta Schrayter

At the Board of Education’s Wednesday meeting Superintendent of Schools Andy Maneggia presented – and the board adopted – a \$4.33 million school budget for the 2013-14 year.

The spending plan represents a 3.68 percent increase over the current year’s budget. However, as Maneggia explained, the majority of the increase can be contributed to an insurance increase – something he had prepared the board for.

“The board is well aware of the fact we anticipated an increase in the insurance line because during the year I shared the high amount of claims there were,” said Maneggia. “I told you to brace yourself; I had to brace myself. Anyway, we knew it was coming.”

The 3.68 percent increase for the 2013-14 year amounts to \$153,811 and of that, \$125,800 goes to the Object 200 line which includes medical and dental insurance, retirement and unemployment. Maneggia explained in his budget summary the \$798,321 set aside for that account was due to insurance premium rates, federal taxes and increased disability rates.

“The 200 series is the major increase in the budget, it really is,” said Maneggia, and speaking on the numbers as a whole, he said it was a “tight budget.”

“We’re relying a lot on grants, and when you’re relying a lot on grants you’re walking on thin ice sometimes,” he said. “You never know whether it’s going to sustain you or you’re going to sink.”

Maneggia said the budget was prepared based on a number of assumptions and constraints, and on Thursday he said his biggest concern was whether or not these areas remain

the same.

“You really do the best you can in projecting what you think the cost is going to be and then you pray,” he said. “This is the best estimate we can give at this particular time and that’s all you can do.”

Of the \$4,334,118 Maneggia proposed, \$2,732,885 is for Object 100 items, which includes salaries and wages, contractual obligations, degree changes and negotiated contracts. The number is a \$35,781 increase over the current year’s budget; however, Maneggia noted it’s only \$9,032 more than the amount budgeted for fiscal year 2011-12.

“When you really think about what is contained in there, that’s a very reasonable effort on the part of the school system,” he said.

An increase was also seen in the Object 500 items, which include tuition for special education outplacement, magnet school tuition and transportation. For the 2013-14 year, the amount comes in at \$309,985, compared to \$302,895 in the current year’s budget. Maneggia explained the increase is primarily due to added costs for transportation.

Andover shares the cost of transportation with RHAM for 180 out of the 183 school days. The total cost for Andover for 180 days would be \$295,228 but that number drops to \$147,614. The three additional days brings that amount back up to \$152,535. In the current year, the budgeted amount is \$147,379.

There was also a \$700 increase in the Object 700 items. The items in this category include funding for the technology plan and equipment for students and staff. Furniture is also included, and Maneggia explained most of the increase is due to the need for new stools

in the art room.

Budget decreases were realized in three areas. In Object 300 items, which include professional development, student services and contracted services, the number dropped from \$119,874 to \$114,012 for the 2012-13 year. Maneggia noted this is the second year the total cost has been reduced. Although there was a one percent increase in Andover’s contribution to AHM Youth and Family Services (bringing the number to \$16,471 from \$16,148) as well as a \$1,000 increase in legal fees, and a \$215 increase in library services, there was an overall decrease due to a \$6,000 drop in the amount budgeted for a special education consultant.

“The children have progressed nicely,” Maneggia said, explaining the services of an outside consultant hadn’t been used as much which was “a credit to staff and small class sizes.”

In addition, there was also a \$500 decrease in the line for a computer consultant.

A \$440 decrease was also realized in the Object 400 items which include electricity, roof repairs and contracted maintenance services. Maneggia explained each of these items are difficult to predict, but some savings would be realized due to an improved electricity rate that was received through the Connecticut Council for Municipalities. The savings would offset slight increases for rubbish maintenance, periodic water testing and carpet cleaning. An extra \$500 was also added for contingency due to the fact “there are a lot of variables in this account,” said Maneggia. “Hopefully we’ll be able to stay in budget and so forth.”

The final decrease, amounting to \$9,258, was seen in the Object 600 items, which include supplies, heating and fuel. Maneggia explained the majority of items stayed close to the same, but there was an \$8,000 reduction in oil. Maneggia budgeted 35 gallons at \$3.35 per gallon, which he said seemed reasonable at the present time. However, he noted if something were to happen that would cause an increase, “everything goes out the window.”

The remaining decrease was realized in the fuel line for the buses. Maneggia budgeted \$23,100 compared to \$24,500 in the current year. He explained he calculated how many gallons are burned in a year and multiplied it at a cost of \$3.30 per gallon, then divided that number in half, since 50 percent is paid by RHAM.

“So when all is said and done, we have a budget of \$4,334,118. An increase of \$153,811, or a 3.68 percent increase. And that’s the budget that I’m recommending to you,” Maneggia said as he finished presenting.

“I think it’s a great budget,” said Board of Education Chairman Jay Lindy. “It’s a lot better than what I thought it was going to be knowing that insurance was going to be a big factor.”

The budget was passed unanimously. A special meeting on the proposed budget will be held for the public on Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 6:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m., in the Andover Elementary School library.

Obituaries

Colchester

Peter Paul Petro

Peter Paul Petro, 60, of Colchester, beloved husband of Bonnie (Foote) Petro, passed away Thursday, Jan. 3, at Yale-New Haven Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. Born Jan. 24, 1952 in Hartford, he was a son of the late Francis and Helen (Pizzola) Petro.



He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from UConn. A car enthusiast, he enjoyed working in sales for Auto Body Supplies & Paint for many years. In his spare time, Peter was also an avid sports fan, following the UConn Huskies and New York Yankees and Giants.

In addition to his loving wife of 24 years, he leaves two sons, Paul Michael of Glastonbury and Patrick Joseph of Colchester; a brother and sister-in-law, David and Joan of Wallingford; his mother-in-law, Pauline Foote; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was also predeceased by a brother, Butch. Friends called Monday, Jan. 7, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, Jan. 8, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial followed in the Petro family plot in the Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Smilow Cancer Center at Yale-New Haven Hospital, 20 York St., New Haven, CT 06510.

Colchester

Kenneth Herman

Kenneth Herman of Colchester passed away at home Sunday, Jan. 6, after a hard fought and courageous battle with leukemia that lasted two years. He was born Aug. 20, 1937, in Bronx, N.Y., to the late Milton B. and Anne (Levine) Herman.



Ken is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Daryl Kleper Herman. They were married Dec. 22, 1957. He was a devoted dad to his children – his daughter and son-in-law, Janet Herman St. Marie and Anthony St. Marie of Manchester and his son and daughter-in-law, Howard M. Herman and Laura Herman of Newington. Ken was an adoring “papa” to his granddaughter, Stephanie Kate St. Marie, who was the light of his life.

In addition, he is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Calvin and Diane Herman of Quaker Hill and his sister, Carole Herman of W. Newton, Mass.

Ken was employed at the Bureau of Business Practice for 29 years, retiring as Vice President of the National Sales Force in 1994. While Ken was a resident of Uncasville for 37 years, he was a member of several boards and commissions, including the Charter, Planning and Zoning and Parks and Recreation. Also, he managed a successful political campaign for the office of first selectman.

Ken served as the president of the Montville Jaycees and Big Brother of Southeastern Connecticut, coached a Babe Ruth baseball team for several years, and as a participant of the golf league scored a hole-in-one.

When he became a Colchester resident 15 years ago, Ken transferred his membership from the Montville Rotary to the Colchester Rotary. He was an active member of the organization, and was honored to be named a Paul Harris Fellow. May his memory be for a blessing.

The family received guests Wednesday, Jan. 9, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before a chapel service later that morning. Burial followed in the Ahavath Achim/Jewish Aid Cemetery, Colchester.

Donations in his memory may be made to Autism Speaks or Hospice SECT.

East Hampton

Susanne Kae Owen

Susanne Kae Owen, 71, of East Hampton and formerly of Colchester, died Monday, Jan. 7, at Marlborough Health Care. Born March 23, 1941 in Taycheedah, Wis., she was the daughter of the late William and Vivian (Renford) Klintworth.

Susanne had lived in Fond du Lac and Milwaukee, Wis., and attended the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, for a couple of years before moving to California with her family in 1961. She was previously married to John Owen in 1962. Susanne was very active in the lives of her two children serving as a member of PTA, classroom volunteer, coach and athletic volunteer for several sports as they were growing up.

She had moved to Colchester in 1998 working for May Co. and then Macy's in Waterford until her retirement in 2007, when she then moved to East Hampton.

She is survived by her two children, Wesley Owen and his wife Sharon of East Hampton, Kimberly Owen Gibbons and her husband Jeff of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; her sister Linda of Colorado; her loving grandchildren, JR Gibbons, Colleen Owen, Brynn Owen, Cheyenne Gibbons, Kieran Owen, Dawson Gibbons, Cody Gibbons and Brendan Owen.

She was predeceased by her brother Phillip in 1972.

Susanne's number one priority in life was always the welfare and happiness of her family. The highlight of her days were talking on Skype to her grandkids in Iowa, playing cards with her grandsons and attending the sporting events, theater productions, and other activities of her grandchildren, including the graduation of her eldest granddaughter from East Hampton High School.

Susanne loved to watch sports on TV, especially college basketball and football. She was a big fan of UConn women's basketball, Notre Dame, Wisconsin and UCLA football, and, of course, the Green Bay Packers. Susanne was well liked by all who met her and loved very much by her family and friends.

A visitation will be held today, Jan. 11, from 6-8 p.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Alden B. Strong

Alden B Strong, born June 1927 and a life-long resident of East Hampton, passed away Sunday, Dec. 30, after suffering with Alzheimer's and living at the Masonic Care in Wallingford. He was 85.

He was retired from Bevin Bros. of East Hampton, where he was an intricate designer of the dies which made the sleigh bells. Alden was a Korean War veteran. He served in Okinawa, Japan. He was also in Duluth, Minn., in which he met his wife-to-be Joanne.

Alden was also an avid bowler. He won many awards from bowling, including state champion and other local bowling awards. He also collected stamps from all over the world. He would get his brainstorm at night while he was supposed to be sleeping for his next project to make downstairs in his basement. He built a snow sled which you could use in the snow or ice. Many winters it was on Lake Pocotopaug hauling people on skis on the back. He made a bowling glove to wear so he could still bowl with arthritis in his fingers. He also made a tractor out of a car motor and two transmissions so he could plow the driveway.

He taught his family to play setback, which was his favorite card game. After his wife passed away he would go down to the senior center in East Hampton and teach the ones that were there to play.

He was predeceased by his spouse, Joanne Lundgren Strong, in October 1999., his brothers Ralph and John Strong, and his parents, Ethel and Ralph Strong.

He is survived by two children, daughter Nancy Strong Cleary and husband Robert of Enola, Pa., and son Mark A. Strong and wife Ann of East Hampton; three grandchildren; one brother, Myron Strong and wife Linda of Virginia; and nieces and nephews.

There will be no service, and there will be a private family burial.

Colchester

Andrew Flanagan Jr.

MSgt. Andrew Francis Flanagan Jr., U.S. Army (Ret.), 82, of Colchester and formerly of Enfield and Bloomfield, beloved husband of Marie (Pelletier) Flanagan, passed away peacefully Monday, Jan. 7, surrounded by his loving family. Born Nov. 6, 1930, in Hartford, he was a son of the late Andrew and Alice (Cavanaugh) Flanagan.



A gentle man dedicated to both his family and country, he served proudly for 21 years with the Army. His career spanned World War II, Korea and Vietnam, receiving numerous commendations including the Bronze Star.

Upon completion of his service, retiring at the rank of Master Sergeant, he continued in the same spirit by actively leading and participating with the VFW in the following capacities: Connecticut state commander from 1995-6, 3rd District commander from 1991-2 and quartermaster of posts 10219 and 1009 from 1970 to 2012.

Mr. Flanagan was also a member and adjutant of the Donald A. Bigelow American Legion Post 54 in Colchester, as well as the Antique Veterans of Colchester Honor Guard, commemorating the selfless service of many comrades.

In 1970, he began his civilian career, first at the Arrow Hart Co. and then Crouse-Hinds Airport Lighting until his retirement in 1995.

In their spare time, both he and Marie were avid fans of UConn basketball. His greatest joy, however, was found in his family, especially his children and granddaughters (his pride and joy).

In addition to his loving wife of 56 years, he leaves three children and their spouses, Daniel and Susan of Windsor Locks, Michael and Darlene of Middletown and Andrea and William Phinney of Colchester; four granddaughters, Megan LaRose and husband, Jackson, Bridget Armstrong and husband, Paul, and Kellina and Breana Flanagan; dear friends and neighbors, The Herwerth family of Colchester; his fellow veterans; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two brothers, William and Patrick.

Friends may call 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A reception will follow the wake at St. Joseph's Polish Society, Colchester.

The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 14, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Rendering of full military honors will follow Mass. Entombment will be private at the Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be the Wounded Warriors Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

Portland

Ann L. France

Ann L. France, 97 of Portland, wife of the late Bertrand P. France, passed away Monday, Jan. 7, at Water's Edge. She was the daughter of the late Peter and Lucia (Tuccio) Augeri.

Born Oct. 3, 1915, in Middletown, she was a lifelong Portland resident and a member of the Church of St. Mary in Portland.

She leaves a son, David P. France of Portland; sisters, Eleanor Rombali and her husband, Joseph of Durham and Nell Bartosiak of Middletown; and several nieces and nephews and their children.

She was predeceased by her sisters, Angie Hemman and Mary Martin, and by a brother, Joseph Augeri.

Services will be held Saturday, Jan. 12, at 11 a.m., at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Church of St. Mary 51 Freestone Ave Portland, CT 06480.

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

Amston

Robert E. Owen

Robert E. Owen, 75, of Southamton, Mass., beloved husband of Vyrline (Phillips) Owen for almost 20 years, passed away peacefully with his family at his side Thursday, Jan. 3, at St. Francis Hospital. Born in Amston to the late William and Ruth (Raymond) Owen, he was a graduate of Cheshire High School and was a resident of Granby for 15 years prior to moving to Southamton in 2010.

He served his country proudly with the U.S. Air Force and worked for Talcott Machine in Meriden, retiring in 2002. He had also worked in the deli department of Big Y in Southwick and Westfield, Mass., as well as part time with J & E Precision of Southamton.

Robert enjoyed bowling and was a member of the Cheshire and Southington bowling leagues. He loved to travel, working in his vegetable garden, and often cooked wonderful meals with his fresh vegetables, including the best eggplant parmesan.

Besides his wife Vyrline “Lynn” Owen of Southamton, he is survived by his sons Brian Owen and his wife Geri, and Bruce Owen, and his daughter Brenda Bass and her husband Doug, all of Cheshire; his stepson Brian Clee and his wife Sue of Gilbert, Ariz.; his stepdaughters Karen Labrie and her husband Edward of Southamton, and Tricia Davis and her husband Erik, of Granby; his grandchildren, Megan, Nicholas, Alyssa, Christopher, Brittany, Natasha, Amber, Shyanne, Rheal, Lila, and Kayla; and his sisters Emily Lathrop of California and Virginia Chandler of Florida.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his sister Louise Ancher.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Jan. 9, at the Hayes, Huling & Carmon Funeral Home, 364 Salmon Brook St., Granby. The family received friends prior to the service Wednesday. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers please make memorial donations to the Masonicare Home Health and Hospice, 111 Founders Plaza, Suite 200, East Hartford, CT 06108.

For online condolences, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Peter S. Gutterman

Peter S. Gutterman, 70, of Windsor, passed away peacefully Sunday, Jan. 6. He was at home in his favorite room with his family by his side. Born July 10, 1942 in Hartford, Peter was the loving son of the late Hyman and Pauline (Einhorn) Gutterman. His death was the result of pancreatic cancer.

Peter was an inspiration to those who knew him and will be remembered most for his kindness, humility, wisdom, devotion to his family and friends, and sense of humor.

He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years Rosalyn (Pollack) Gutterman and by his family; son Andrew Gutterman, his wife Karen Ciesluk Gutterman, and their children Natalie and Isaac, of Belmont, Mass.; daughter Nancy Gutterman of Santa Monica, Calif.; and two brothers, William Gutterman and wife Roberta, of Rutland, Mass., Harold Gutterman and wife Shirley of Palm Desert, Calif.

Until recently, Peter was president of Sentry Real Estate Services, which he founded in 1971, and Sentry Commercial, founded in 1991. Peter began his long and fulfilling career in real estate in 1968 after attending the University of Connecticut, where he received a bachelor's degree. Throughout his career, Peter was a leader in the local real estate community serving as president of the Greater Hartford Association of Realtors, director of the Connecticut Association of Realtors and in 1986 he was named Realtor of the Year.

He delighted in sharing his knowledge and passion for his chosen profession with others, teaching classes in real estate principles and practices for over 20 years at Manchester Community College and at the University of Hartford. He also served as Director of the Continuous Progress Educational Center and Chairman of the Education Committee of the Greater Hartford Board of Realtors.

Raised in Colchester, Peter moved to Windsor in 1967. While an active member of Congregation Beth Ahm, Peter served as Chairperson of the Building Committee during the synagogue's renovation. He was also a charter member of the Rotary Club of Windsor.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 9, at Weinstein Mortuary, 640 Farmington Ave., Hartford. Burial followed at B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom Cemetery, 10 Clubhouse Rd., Windsor. Friends visited at the family's home at 20 Ethan Dr. in Windsor Wednesday afternoon.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, 74 Cheshire Rd., P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492 or the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center, Hartford Hospital, 80 Seymour St., Hartford, CT 06102.

Colchester

John Lata Jr.

John Lata Jr., 77 of Colchester, passed away Friday, Jan. 4, with his loving family by his side. Son of the late John Lata, Sr. and Drucilla (Beebe) Lata, John was born in Hartford on June 15, 1935. He spent his early childhood in Niantic, later residing in Manchester and Crystal Lake, and graduated from Rockville High School.

John had a lifelong career as an electrician in the greater Hartford area working at Pratt & Whitney Machine Tool and Stanadyne. John loved a good joke, fishing, golfing, the New York Yankees and the New York Giants.

He leaves his dedicated, loving wife, Anne of Colchester; four children and three step-children, Paul Lata and his wife Mary of Enfield, Brian Lata and his wife Julie of Pensacola, Fla., Audrey Lanigan of Edgewater, Fla., Carrie LeBlanc and her husband Robert of Windsor, Michael Hoopes and his wife Cecelia of Charleston, S.C., Michelle Maglieri and her husband Michael of Tolland, and Juliann LaRose of Colchester; seven grandchildren; a sister, Ranny Syphers of Tolland; and a sister-in-law, Marlene Lata of Wethersfield.

John was predeceased by his brother, Richard "Dickie" Lata.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, Jan. 8, at Carmon Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Avenue in Windsor, with calling hours prior to the service. Burial will be private and held at the convenience of his family.

John's family wishes to extend sincere appreciation to the staff of Harrington Court in Colchester for their special care and professional kindness.

In lieu of flowers, make memorial donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Pl., Memphis, TN 38105.

To send notes of condolence and sign the online guestbook, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Elinore A. Perley

Elinore A. Perley, 99, of Portland, previously of Stratford, widow of Frank J. Bruneau and Charles E. Perley Jr., passed away peacefully Wednesday, Jan. 2, at Portland Care and Rehab Center, Portland. Born in Bridgeport, she was the daughter of the late Samuel and Anna Jaros Kovachik and was a retired bookkeeper.

Elinore was a longtime member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Trumbull and was active in church activities including the Dorcas Guild. She was a longtime volunteer for the Red Cross and a member of the Eastern Star. In addition, Elinore was a Brownie Leader and a great baker, famous for her pies. Elinore was a kind and generous person who will be missed by her family and all who knew her.

Survivors include her beloved children, a son, F. Jeffrey Bruneau and his wife Lynn of Seymour, two daughters, Gail Smithwick and her husband Michael of East Hampton and Melissa Whitaker and her husband Michael of Stratford, a stepson, Charles E. Perley III of Nevada, and stepdaughter, Candace Sanford of New York; seven grandchildren, Amy Montgomery, Patrick Smithwick, Jeffrey Bruneau, Meghan Bruneau, Michael Whitaker, Laura Cascio and Erik Perley; seven great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased in addition to her husbands by a stepson, Daniel Perley, two sisters, Ethel Kovachik and Olga Hendrix and two brothers, Samuel and Albert Kovachik.

The family would like to thank Dr. Matt Raider, and the staff of Portland Care and Rehab, for their loving and compassionate care during our mother's stay.

Friends and relatives are invited to attend funeral services Saturday, Jan. 12, at 11 a.m., in Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 406 White Plains Rd., Trumbull, CT 06611, with the Rev. Linda J. Kraft, pastor, officiating. Burial in Lawncroft Cemetery will be private and at the convenience of the family. Visiting hours will be held Saturday morning at the church from 10:30-11 a.m., prior to services.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Arrangements in care of the Dennis & D'Arcy - Abriola & Kelemen Funeral Home of Stratford. To offer online condolences please visit www.dennisanddarcy.com.

Portland

Harold E. Talnose

Harold E. Talnose, 85, of Portland, formerly of West Haven, passed away Sunday, Jan. 6, in Middlesex Hospital. He was the son of the late Antonio and Ethel Darling Talnose.

He was the father of William (Sophia) Talnose of Orange, Stephen (Carol) Talnose of Peachtree City, Ga., and David (Kathy) Talnose of Wolcott; brother of Richard Talnose and Cecelia Flynn both of Milford, Dorothy Leahy of Vermont and the late Eugene and Wilford Talnose; and is also survived by seven grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his former wife, Anna Nusdeu Talnose.

Prior to his retirement, Harold was a meat-cutter for the former Forte's Market and Apuzzo's Market. He also was the owner of the former Harold's Market in Branford. He was a World War II Army veteran and an avid Red Sox and Green Bay Packer fan.

His funeral procession left the Porto Funeral Home, 830 Jones Hill Rd., West Haven, Wednesday morning, Jan. 9. A Mass of Christian Burial was then celebrated in St. Paul's Church. Interment followed in St. Lawrence Cemetery. Friends called Tuesday, Jan. 8.

Memorial contributions may be made to Save the Children at savethechildren.org. Sign Harold's guestbook online at portofuneralhomes.net.

Portland

Joseph George Triblets

Joseph George Triblets, 101, of Cromwell, husband of the late Elizabeth Marie (Formica) Triblets, passed away Thursday, Jan. 3, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Portland, he was the son of the late Joseph and Katie (Wallace) Triblets.

Joe lived in Portland and Middletown most of his life and was a member of St. John Church in Cromwell. He served in the U.S. Army prior to World War II and worked for many years at New Britain Machine. He was a loyal Red Sox fan who waited patiently for 86 years between world championships. He also enjoyed woodworking, fishing, crabbing, cooking and was a terrific cribbage and setback player.

"PJ" will be remembered as a sweet, gentle and generous man who was devoted to his family.

He is survived by two sons, Joseph "Butch" R. Triblets and Edward LaBarge, both of Cromwell; two sisters, Marge Coleman of Cromwell and Charlotte Donovan of Rochester, N.Y.; three grandchildren, Corey Triblets, Rhody Triblets and Mark LaBarge; nine great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Along with his wife and parents, Joe was predeceased by his grandson, David LaBarge; four brothers, Frank, Steve, John and Edward Triblets; and four sisters, Claire McGetrick, Frances Zarlowinski, Gerry Triblets and Janet Sundell.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Cromwell Funeral Home, 506 Main St., Cromwell, followed by interment in Calvary Cemetery. Friends called Tuesday afternoon at the funeral home, and may send messages of condolence to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Colchester

Howard M. Gray Sr.

Howard M. Gray Sr. died Sunday, Jan. 6, at Harrington Court Health Care Center in Colchester. He was born in 1920 in East Blue Hill, Maine, son of the late Herman O. and Annie Estella (Cook) Gray.

Howard was a veteran of World War II, was employed as an aircraft mechanic and pilot, in pilot production at Raytheon Co., then at Northern Chemical Industries in Searsport, Maine.

He married Sylvia Alley of Winterport in 1947; she survives.

The family would like to thank the management and staff at Harrington Court for the wonderful care Howard received.

At Howard's request there will be no funeral. A private committal service at Oak Hill Cemetery in Winterport, Maine, will be held in the spring.

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

Colchester

Richard Joseph Cavanaugh

Richard Joseph Cavanaugh, born June 13, 1942, died Monday, Dec. 31, at Marlborough Health Care in Marlborough.

Richard (Richie) Cavanaugh was a former resident of Colchester. Richie resided at New Beginnings For Life, LLC in Colchester.

Richie was born in East Hampton, where he lived for many years. Richie was the son of the late James and Mildred (Jacobson) Cavanaugh of East Hampton.

Richie was predeceased by a brother and sister.

Richie is survived by two brothers and three sisters, along with many nephews and nieces.

Richie will be deeply missed by all the residents and staff that cared for him at New Beginnings For Life.

Haddam Neck

Nancy Brown Hart

Nancy Brown Hart, 79, of Haddam Neck, passed away at Chestelm Health and Rehab Monday, Dec. 10, after a long illness.

She was predeceased by her husband Robert W. Hart.

She is survived by daughter Elizabeth Malloy and her husband David of Haddam Neck, daughter Catherine Morrison and her husband Kenneth of Haddam Neck and son Robert R. Hart and his wife Carolyn of East Haddam. She also leaves behind cherished grandchildren Hannah, Grace and David Malloy, Mary Morton, Corey, Stephen, Luke and Ethan Hart.

A memorial will be held Saturday, Jan. 12, at Haddam Neck Congregational Church at 2 p.m., 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, CT 06424.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Haddam Neck Congregational Church Memorial Fund c/o Sue Olsen, Treasurer, 11 Injun Hollow Rd., Haddam Neck, CT 06424 or the Haddam Historical Society High School Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 97, Haddam, CT 06438.

Haddam Neck

Frank A. Rogers

Frank A. Rogers, 48, of Safety Harbor, Fla., and formerly of Haddam Neck, passed away Thursday, Dec. 6. Frank was a proud United States Marine Corps Veteran who served in Beirut, Grenada and Lebanon.

He was a lifetime member of the VFW Post 5095 in East Hampton and a skilled carpenter with a huge heart and a great love for children and animals.

Frank is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Karen M. Rogers; children Jeremy F. Rogers, Corey F. (Kate) Rogers, Tarryne E. Rogers, Justin Fontana, and Willie Noe; parents Marie (Charlie) Nichols and Frank Rogers; siblings Courtland Rogers and Corinne (Walter) Farren; nieces and nephews Michael Visintainer, Sean Visintainer, Jaimie Farren, Patrick Farren and Kiley Farren; numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, a loving family of friends and his beloved English bulldog, Tank.

The family received friends Thursday, Dec. 13, at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Funeral services were held in the funeral home with the Rev. Walter Nagle officiating. Burial followed with military honors in St. Bridget of Kildare Cemetery in Moodus.

You will live on in our hearts forever. SEMPER FI.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



East Hampton Police News

12/25: Michael J. Staples, 19, of 18 Joe Williams Rd., Moodus, was issued a summons for failure to drive right and operating an uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

12/31: Michael Allen Latronica, 61, of 74 Prospect St., Middletown, was arrested for fifth-degree larceny, police said.

12/31: Robert Peter Gish, 73, of 320 Plains Rd., Haddam, was arrested for criminal possession of a gun and interfering with/resisting an officer, police said.

Andover Police News

1/2: State Police said James Zoldak, 23, of 2168 Virgie Cole Rd., South Boston, Mass., was making a left turn from Bunker Hill Road onto Route 6 when Zhiming Fu, 29, of 5025 Kensington Way, Riverside, Calif., struck him from behind, causing Zoldak's vehicle to veer off the left shoulder of the roadway. Fu and his passenger, Yehan Xu, 25, of 3800 SW 34th St., Gainesville, Fla., were transported to Windham Hospital for reported stomach pain, police said.

Marlborough Police News

1/3: Michael Defranzo, 46, of 16 Lakewood Rd., East Hampton, was charged with reckless driving, DUI and tampering with ignition interlock device, State Police said.

1/4: Robert Joseph Cote, 28, of 347 Central Ave., Norwich, was charged with reckless driving, misuse of plates, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with no insurance, possession of narcotics, carrying of dangerous weapon and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

1/5: Maegan M. Brzostowski, 23, of 44 Middletown Ave., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain lane, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

1/3: Christopher Peck, of 314 Elm Trail, Coventry, was charged with third-degree larceny and third-degree burglary, State Police said.

1/4: William Francis Gordon, 35, of 38 High St., Higganum, was charged with DUI, failure to wear safety belt, possession of less than a half an ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

1/5: Michael J. McCarthy, 32, of 1 Alexander Rd., was charged with evading, failure to drive in right-hand lane on a multiple lane highway and operating a motor vehicle when license or registration is suspended, State Police said.

1/7: Joshua Wetmore, 20, of 64 Briarwood Dr., was charged with violation of a protective order, State Police said.

Portland Police News

1/3: Brandon Wyzykowski, 19, of 3 Quarry Ln., was charged with sixth-degree larceny and possession of alcohol by a minor, Portland Police said.

1/4: Sheryl Jordan, 49, of 279 Hopewell Rd., Glastonbury, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

1/5: Joseph Yarrow, 52, of 140 Great Hill Pond Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree threatening, police said.

Andover Police News

1/1: Cindy D. Dalterio, 52, of 21 Johnston Ave., Willimantic, was arrested for failure to drive right and DUI, police said.

1/2: Nicholas Villar, 23, of 197 Wall St., Hebron, was arrested for fifth-degree larceny, police said.

1/2: Scott Robert Briggs, 56, of 659 Durham Rd., Madison, was arrested for illegal transfer of a gun and interfering with/resisting an officer, police said.