

RIVEREAST

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The annual Portland Fair made its triumphant return last weekend. One of the event's many highlights was a Costume Contest for Pooches, which put eight festive dogs on display. One of these, a pet therapy dog named Bo-Bo, is shown here dressed up in his Halloween garb with his owner, Sharon Hoy.

Music, Food and Fun at Portland Fair

by Elizabeth Bowling

Last weekend marked Portland's 14th annual Agricultural Fair – a three-day event filled with rides, food, and farm life that the whole family could enjoy.

President of the Portland Fair Committee, Don Bascom, raved about the weekend.

"Weather-wise we got pretty lucky," he said, sounding relieved. "Money-wise it was one of our better weekends," he added, noting that the money raised goes toward next year's fair.

"It was a real good weekend. I have no complaints," Bascom added. "I have a very good crew."

Bascom said the seasoned committee members succeeded in bringing in more local businesses this year than in the past. However they were, as usual, lacking in commercial vendors, he said.

Regarding next year – the 15th anniversary of the Portland Fair – Bascom said the committee will try to do "something different." Specifically, he said he's looking into bringing in a well-known band.

As for this year, though, there was plenty of local entertainment including Sunday's youth talent show, which was broken down into two categories: first and second graders, and fifth and sixth graders.

Evan Guilmette, who won first place in the first- and second-grade category, sang and played guitar to "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain."

LeeAnn Albert won second place in the same

category, but instead of singing, she danced to some tropical music in a hula skirt.

The winner of the fifth- and sixth-grade category was Jaelena Rivera, who belted out "Roar" by Katy Perry. Rivera showed great sportsmanship when she experienced some technical difficulty just as she got onstage. She agreed to wait to perform until the end when the tech team could figure out the glitch with her music. She even agreed to sing a capella if necessary. Luckily, it didn't come to that, not that she couldn't handle it.

Clara Guilmette earned second place in the fifth- and sixth-grade category for her performance in which she sang and played the banjo.

Lily Pelton, also in the fifth- and sixth-grade category, earned third place with her a capella rendition of "Ready or Not" by Bridgit Mendler.

Mariana Bates, also competing in the fifth and sixth grade category, sang "Treasure" by Bruno Mars. Avery Coe, from the same category, sang "Cups (When I'm Gone)" and provided backup music with a cup, just like Anna Kendrick does in the music video.

Other young performers included a group of six girls who danced to Lady Gaga's "Applause" and another group of girls who did an impressive acrobatic performance to "No Speak Americano."

But Portland's talented youngsters weren't the only form of entertainment at the fair. In addition to the music that played throughout

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Lifelong Colchester Resident Turns Local Pastor

by Melissa Roberto

Lifelong Colchester resident Cheryl Anderson Caronna can easily recall several milestones she's reached at Colchester Federated Church.

The first occurred when she was just a couple years old, when she was baptized. Thereafter, within the local church on Main Street, Caronna attended worship services, joined the church as a member in her college years, married her husband, and has had the pleasure of watching other babies become baptized there.

"This is my home church," she said.

But her most recent milestone at the local church was one over 200 people witnessed – and also marked the church as Caronna's new place of employment. She was ordained Sunday, Oct. 6, at the church, and was installed as the church's associate pastor for youth.

Caronna's ordination was meaningful on a personal level and to those already employed at the church. Senior pastor for the last seven years, the Rev. Linda U. Barnes, said she's "very happy" with Caronna's ordination mainly because "she's always been a part of this church."

"She had a long path for ordination," Barnes furthered.

Additionally, Caronna's ordination was the first at the church since 1995. She had accomplished all of the necessary steps to become ordained, Barnes explained. Caronna recalled the process beginning in 1998, when she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph tissue. The news was "life-changing," Caronna said, and signified a time where she began to view life "through a different lens." It was then that Caronna said she had begun studying her faith more.

Meanwhile, Caronna said the former associate pastor Eric Swanson shared with her a dream he had of Caronna preaching on the pulpit. That dream was one Caronna said she often tried to "laugh off" yet it ended up leading her to signing up for seminary two years later, in 2004, at Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Newton, Mass. For seven years, in between working full time at the Christ Lutheran Early Childhood Center in Hebron, Caronna traveled once a week to the seminary in Mas-

sachusetts in an effort to obtain a master of divinity degree.

Last year, she received that degree and began the process of ordination. Caronna was recommended for ordination by the congregation of the Colchester Federated Church and she became approved by the New London Association of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ.

And on Oct. 6, a big celebration ensued, Barnes said. The ceremony involved a laying of the hands, in which clergy members placed their hands on one another leading up to Caronna. A dinner followed and Caronna shared the memorable day with family and friends.

As associate pastor, Caronna said she's responsible for all of the youth programming at the church including youth groups and mission trips. She also teaches Sunday school and junior bible study. The programs include children from the age of birth through high school. Becoming ordained and employed at the church where Caronna's been a member for years is

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Cheryl Anderson Caronna



There were many opportunities for fun at last weekend's fair. Here, Lily Smith, 4, enjoys her ride on Peanut Butter the pony on Sunday, Oct.13.

Portland Fair cont. from Front Page

the fairgrounds, there was a dog show, pony rides and vendors galore.

One rather uncommon contest was the ox draw. The oxen came to the Portland Fair from different farms across Connecticut and one farm in Rhode Island, according to the contest's MC.

The contest is judged by whichever oxen can pull the most weight the furthest amount of inches. The oxen are harnessed together to compete and the weight of the two oxen together determined which weight class they were placed in, the MC explained.

She said there were three weight classes for this year's fair: 2,850 pounds or under, 3,250 pounds or under, and anything heavier than 3,250 pounds goes into a "free-for-all class."

One onlooker said, "It brings meaning to the phrase 'strong as an ox.'"

Similar events included the horse draw, truck pull and lawn tractor pull.

Another fun section of the fair was the archery tent. Fairgoers had the opportunity to pay five dollars for 30 arrows and an archery lesson.

But for a lot of families, the farm animals were the highlight of the fair.

Jackie Paquine, who enjoyed the fair Sunday with her family, said the little ones "love the animals."

Some especially cute animals participated in the Halloween Contest for Pooches Sunday afternoon. Eight local dogs were dressed up in costumes and put on display in the middle of the fairgrounds. Gizmo, a pekingese dressed up as a bumblebee, was named "best in show."

But all the dogs earned a ribbon for their outfits. Timothy Paul and Jonathan James, two

poodles, were dressed up as firefighters; Riley, a golden doodle, wore a Cinderella costume; Bailey, an English springer spaniel, was Minnie Mouse; Gus and Lily, two beagles, wore a couple's costume - Gus was a UConn football player and Lily was his cheerleader; and Bo-Bo, a pet therapy dog, was a witch.

Sharon Hoy, Bo-Bo's owner, said, "He's seasonal. We dress for the occasion."

The fair's rides included the classics, like the Ferris wheel, bumper cars, a moonbounce, and a big slide. But there was also the Ring of Fire, the Sizzler and a handful of other dizzying rides designed for the brave.

Another main attraction at the fair was, of course, the food. It was hard to go hungry with the endless options that included sundaes, fried dough, cheese steak, pizza, curly fries, popcorn, cotton candy, Greek gyro, Buffalo wings, fried clams, fried shrimp, beer tent, meatball grinders, clam chowder, Thai food, kettle corn, apple pie, coffee and tea.

"It's wonderful," fairgoer Blair Backman raved. "The food is great."

For those fairgoers on a diet, however, there was still plenty to see. From handmade blankets, jewelry, T-shirts and sweatshirts, and other knickknacks, the fair was a shopper's paradise.

Joyce Murphy, the Portland Fair secretary, said, "It was a great fair - great weather, no issues, all in all a fantastic event."

She said the Portland Fair would like to thank all the fair-goers, contestants, volunteers and vendors.

Additional pictures from the weekend, as well as a list of contest winners, are on the fair's website, PortlandFair.com.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It's the middle of October. Election season is in full swing. The number of *Rivereast* pages devoted to letters to the editor is slowly increasing. The number of political ads one sees in the paper each week is also climbing. Candidates have started going door-to-door, letting you know why you should vote for them, and not the other guy.

Okay, so maybe that last sentence isn't happening quite as often as it should.

The *Rivereast* towns are seeing several uncontested races this year - and it's a shame. Take Hebron, for example. The only town board or commission that has any race whatsoever is the Planning and Zoning Commission. Is there any sort of race for perhaps the most important board in town, the Board of Selectmen? Nope. How about a contest to see who gets on the Board of Finance? Nope again. Heck, Election Day is still weeks away and the Hebron Republicans already know they're going to be losing control of the Board of Education; there are current members opting not to run again, and no one from the Republican side has stepped up to run in their stead. So it's yet another uncontested race.

Like I said, it's a shame. I get that there's a time commitment involved, and these days, with people working multiple jobs to try to make ends meet, leisure time, and time to spend with your family, can be at a real premium. (And who knows, maybe people simply don't want to see themselves beat up in the letters pages.) But really - *no one* wants to come forward?

Decisions made by local boards and commissions can have an immediate impact on you as a resident - everything from the sidewalks you walk on and the roads you drive on to programs offered to your children in school and money allotted to buy new books for you to read at the local library. Don't like the rulings PZC is making? Run for the commission, and try to do something about it.

What's happening in Hebron this year is hardly new or unique. Every municipal election year, there are non-existent races, where anyone interested in running is simply guaranteed a seat because no one else could be bothered. The level of disengagement seems to be climbing, not just by voters but by would-be candidates as well.

That's why I think it's ultimately a good thing the Chatham Party candidates in East Hampton were allowed to stay on the ballot, despite the party not filling out all of the proper paperwork that was needed. Yes, I could see how one could view it as a "dog ate my homework" type of excuse, but I honestly believe it was a good-faith mistake - and at a time when towns, not just in *Rivereast*-land but across the state, are having a difficult time finding people to run for office, barring folks from throwing their hats in the ring due to a minor paperwork glitch doesn't seem quite right.

"It is always in the best interest of voters to have choices on the ballot," Secretary of State Denise Merrill said in last week's *Rivereast*, and I agree with her. This is a democracy, and democracy should have won - and I'm glad it did.

The effect of the Chatham Party on voter choice in East Hampton is quite noticeable. Look, for example, at the Board of Finance race, which reporter Elizabeth Bowling profiled in last week's *Rivereast*. Eleven people are running for just four slots. Now that's a race!

Love 'em or hate 'em, the Chatham Party has provided extra voices in East Hampton.

It's a shame that, in Hebron and towns across the state, too many voices are content to remain silent.

* * *

If you're a baseball fan, you've been in luck this past week. What a couple of great postseason series that are going on!

As I write this Tuesday night, the American League Championship Series between the Tigers and Red Sox has seen a pair of 1-0 games, with the third featuring a very dramatic, come from four-runs-down eighth-inning rally and then a bottom-of-the-ninth walk-off hit.

Over in the senior circuit, the NLCS, between the Cardinals and Dodgers, was three games old entering Tuesday's action. The first two were decided by scores of 3-2 and 1-0, respectively, with Game Three being a "blow-out," at 3-0.

The year 1968 is known in baseball as the Year of the Pitcher, led by Bob Gibson's jaw-dropping 1.12 ERA for the season. (After the year, Major League Baseball both lowered the height of the pitching mound and reduced the height of the strike zone, in an attempt to help hitters out.) But could 2013 be the LCS of the Pitcher?

Whatever it is, it's definitely a series that shows good pitching trumps good hitting. In the regular season, the Cardinals ranked third in the league in runs scored, and fourth in batting average. The Red Sox, meanwhile, finished first in runs scored, second in batting average, first in on-base percentage and first again in slugging percentage. So Boston and St. Louis should've been mopping the floor with their respective opponents, right? Guess again.

And that just goes to the unpredictability that makes baseball great.

Now, I realize I'm writing this at something of a disadvantage. I realize Wednesday and Thursday could feature 15-14 or 11-9 games that would render my previous points somewhat moot. But from where I sit Tuesday night, if you're a fan of good pitching, you've just been loving these games.

* * *

See you next week.

Local Pastor cont. from Front Page

what she coined "a blessing."

"It's an honor to be worshipping and serving in my hometown," Caronna said. "I worship here and serve as a mentor to others. I've watched generations come through this church."

Additionally, Caronna said health-wise she's doing "great." She has been in remission for nearly a decade and recalls being sick as a way to "slow down and regroup."

She furthered her diagnosis "adds meaning to life at times and now years later I can sit back and say I am better because of it and my choices are smarter and I live life much fuller."

Of her new role at the church, Caronna said she hopes to revitalize the youth programming and to expose children to the Gospel. Though the associate pastor is a part-time position, she

admits she's at the church "all the time."

Barnes, who has witnessed Caronna's heavy involvement there said she is fitting for the role.

"She has a sincere faith and a warm heart," said Barnes, "and a courageous spirit and really helps others grow in faith."

Caronna, who hasn't lived anywhere else but Colchester, currently lives in town with her husband Jim. Her nephew from Middletown also worships at Colchester Federated Church, she says, making the church a place of worship for three generations of her family.

And it seems the church where Caronna began achieving some of her first memorable moments is where she'll stay, she says, "until the Lord calls me to do something else."

Meet the Marlborough Board of Education Candidates

by **Melissa Roberto**

Three political newcomers and two incumbents make up the five Marlborough citizens seeking to fill four seats on the Board of Education in next month's municipal election.

And while the experience of each candidate varies, they all share a passion to volunteer to serve on the local school board and to be a part of decisions pertaining to Marlborough Elementary School, the lone school in the district.

In the running are Republicans Carole C. Shea and Susan Rapelye and Democrats Mimi LaPoint, Theresa A. Brysgel and Wesley Skorski.

Current member Carole Shea has been seated on the school board since 2009. Her decision to run for re-election comes from what she feels is a "personal commitment to public education and children." She said she's been fortunate to have the time to volunteer on the local school



Carole Shea

board and believes she has the background necessary "to continue making a positive contribution to both the school and the town."

Reflecting on her time on the school board, Shea recalled accomplishments of the school district that the board had been involved in. These included monitoring the progress of the Common Core implementation, as well as establishing class size guidelines, fully-funded school security upgrades and negotiating the district's bus contract which ended up saving \$25,000, among others.

When it comes to looking at another four years, Shea, who said she feels the board can "never communicate enough with the public," hopes to use print media, supply more information at meetings and a greater use of electronic media to keep the "entire" community in the know.

In regards to the district's hot topics of full-day kindergarten and reinstating a world language program – both of which are currently being researched by administration and are expected to be delivered to the board throughout

the next two months – Shea said she holds "no agenda" on either, but plans to "remain objective and to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of the options" based on the administration's reports and the recent survey results.

Shea said she brings to the board experience in the fields of business, education and design. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Connecticut and a Master of Arts degree in art education from the University of Hartford. She taught art at Ellington High School for eight years, and then transitioned to designing commercial, health care and education interiors. She formerly lived in Utah and North Carolina with her husband Dick Shea, a current selectman for the town.

In addition to working full-time in commercial design, Shea taught as an adjunct professor at North Carolina Wesleyan University. In Connecticut – where she's lived since 2006 – she's worked with architectural firms in Massachusetts and Connecticut on a number of school projects.

LaPoint is also just finishing up her first term and seeking another. She admits her time on the board during the last four years has come with frustrations, but "feels strongly about the importance of a good public school in Marlborough." LaPoint said she is hopeful educational opportunities for Marlborough children can be enhanced in the future.

In regards to world language that has been widely discussed since the former Spanish program was cut in 2011, LaPoint has a strong stance that MES children should have a "successful" world language program.

"I believe that introducing language to children at the elementary level is very beneficial," she furthered.

Additionally, LaPoint said she feels all-day kindergarten is "necessary" for children as the Common Core curriculum continues to be implemented. LaPoint has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wesleyan University and a Bach-



Mimi LaPoint

elor of Fine Arts degree from the Hartford Art School at the University of Hartford. She is currently a high school math teacher. LaPoint currently lives in Marlborough with her husband and two daughters, who are freshmen at RHAM High School.

Rapelye is new to the political scene, and also fairly new to the town itself. After moving to Marlborough in August 2012, Rapelye said she "quickly noticed how so many neighbors are actively involved." As a proud resident, Rapelye said she's impressed with Marlborough's school system and is running as a way to "give back and make a difference in our town."

Additionally, Rapelye communicated her love for children and being a mother influenced her to run on the school board. If elected to a seat on the board, Rapelye said her initial goal is to "actively listen and educate myself on becoming a board member." The second goal, she said, is to become familiar with the budget process in order to "provide meaningful and immediate assistance to the team." Lastly, if elected, Rapelye would strive to engage in topics concerning school security, Common Core and the language and full-day kindergarten topics.

The political newcomer holds a bachelor's degree in accounting obtained from what is now called Post University in Waterbury. Currently, she is a program manager at Open Solutions, a financial services company. Due to her experience delving into budgets, Rapelye feels she will be a "strong asset" to the board's budget process.

Putting it simply, Rapelye also said she "enjoy[s] children in every way possible." She lives with her husband Dan, three daughters who are currently enrolled at MES, Caterina, 11, Rylie, 8, and Reegan, 5, and a son Brady, almost 2.

Another newcomer, Theresa Brysgel has also chosen to get involved after attending a majority of local school board meetings in the past year. Brysgel and husband Ethan have three children, Taylor, 13, currently at RHAM, and Devon, 11, and Taryn, 7, both students at MES. She first moved with her family to Marlborough in 1998. However, from 2007-10, the Brysgels lived in England and then made their way back to town.

Though this is Brysgel's first stab in town politics, she's heavily involved in the school district. Currently, Brysgel is the education enrichment coordinator for the Marlborough PTO, chairperson for the school-wide Trunk or Treat event, a "room mother" and volunteer at MES, and is active in the community as well as a CCD teacher at St. John Fisher church, as well as a youth sports coach.



Susan Rapelye



Theresa Brysgel

Brysgel's decision to run for the school board comes from her devotion to the community and the school, she said.

"They deserve a school of excellence," she said of residents. "I have been concerned over many of the changes that I have seen in the school over the last several years."

These changes included many teachers that left the district last year, Brysgel explained, as well as the elimination of programs. As a social worker, Brysgel feels she can bring a skill set of being a "good listener" in addition to being an advocate of "effective communication" between board members and the "community at large."

Additionally, enrolling her children in an international school in England that welcomed students from 66 different countries, Brysgel said she can bring a "unique outlook" to the board especially pertaining to a world language and multicultural program.

Conclusively, Brysgel said her goal is simple: "to assure that MES is an outstanding school of excellence and that our students are well prepared for their futures – both immediate and long term – when they graduate from their sixth-grade class."

Wes Skorski, another political newcomer, has been a familiar voice at school board meetings in the last year. A registered Independent, Skorski said he is running on the ballot as a Democrat – a "lack of affiliation" he feels would give him flexibility to work with both parties, according to a press release submitted by Skorski this week.

Skorski came to Marlborough in 2005 with his wife Audrey after living in East Hampton for 10 years. He has a daughter, Maria, 6, and a son, Peter, 4.

Though Skorski is new to serving on a board in Marlborough, he served as treasurer and was on the Board of Directors for a condominium association in East Hampton. To Skorski, the cut of the Spanish program in 2012 was the "catalyst" that influenced him to run for the school board. Additionally, he said his "frustration with the current Board of Education's behavior" was another influence. In the last year, he's voiced his support in bringing a program back and if elected, bringing a program back would be his "first and foremost" goal.

Secondly, Skorski said he'd like to "continuously push for better outcomes at the school" while stating that "does not mean spending more money."

Skorski said he'd bring a background in "technology, business, data analysis and executive leadership" to the board. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science and a master's in management of technology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Currently, Skorski said he feels the school board is "doing the minimum" when looking at a Connecticut state statute about what a board of education should be. However, Skorski envisioned what he feels would benefit the elementary school.

"With leadership, passion, creativity and vision," he said, "MES can become a leading school."

Municipal elections will be held on Nov. 5.



Wes Skorski

Marlborough Kid Hopes to Win Online Cooking Contest

by Melissa Roberto

With the help of his “assistant Mommy,” 6-year-old Ryan Carlson of Marlborough has entered an online nationwide Uncle Ben’s contest in the hopes that he’ll not only dish a healthy meal option to viewers, but also a whopping \$30,000 to go toward sprucing up Marlborough Elementary School’s cafeteria.

Up now on the Uncle Ben’s website is an online video MES first-grader Ryan and his mom Tammy created as an entry to Ben’s Beginners Cooking Program, a program used to promote cooking with their children as a way to foster healthier eating habits in their lives.

The contest calls for contestants to submit a video of a child introducing a recipe that includes an Uncle Ben’s rice product. The contestant that receives the most votes for his/her video will win \$15,000 for their family, \$30,000 for a cafeteria makeover at a school of their choice, and a trip to New York to appear on the *Rachael Ray Show*.

Ryan decided to invite viewers to his “outdoor kitchen,” where he showed viewers how to make a recipe he created called “cucumber avocado rice bites” with the help of his mom. Tammy said the contest gives contestants the option of using an Uncle Ben’s recipe or creating their own. She added Ryan often enjoys making guacamole at home so he wanted to include avocado in his recipe.

In the video, Ryan informs viewers the recipe includes rice, a tomato, cucumbers, an avocado, EVOO, lemon zest and a dash of “s and p.” He then prepares the meal in minutes informing his audience of all of the necessary steps like mixing the ingredients “really good” and offering suggestions like taste testing the food “unless it falls on the floor.”

Of Ryan’s adorable one-liners, Tammy said “he came up with everything on his own” on the spot.

“It just came so natural to him,” the proud mom said.

Tammy added that watching Ryan prepare and assist in creating a meal isn’t a rare sight – it’s something he does almost every night. For breakfast, she said, Ryan knows how to make pancakes “from start to finish,” and often helps prepare dinner. Trips to the grocery store also feature Ryan requesting his mom to buy certain items so he can experiment, she said. Around the holidays, Ryan can also be found by Tammy’s side making cookies and other treats.

“It’s a way for the two of us to spend time together,” Tammy said of cooking with Ryan. “He really just had a good attention span for it.”

The contest guidelines do not state what the cafeteria makeover would consist of at the school the child chooses but Tammy said Ryan already has ideas of how MES could use the money. As a child who does not eat gluten, Ryan is interested in setting up an allergy-free station at the school that includes separate utensils and cutting boards “to make sure they’re safe” for those with allergies, Tammy explained.

The Uncle Ben’s website does not show how many votes each video has received, but as of Thursday Ryan’s video has already gotten feedback from family members and friends.

Board of Education member Louise Concodello, who heard of Ryan’s video this week, said his submission is “an example of one of our students taking the initiative to do something good for himself and his school!”

The town’s tax collector, Barbara Murray, has also watched the video, and said she thinks it’s “adorable.”

“For such a little boy to have the interest he has in cooking is wonderful,” Murray said.

To vote for Ryan’s video, readers can log on to bensbeginnerscontest.com and type in zip code “06447.” His video is titled “UBCAB ‘Uncle Ben’s Cucumber Avocado Bites.’” Voters are allowed to vote once every 24 hours per device. Tammy explained this means a person



Marlborough Elementary School first-grader Ryan Carlson, 6, is in the running for the Uncle Ben’s Beginners Cooking Program, an online video contest that promotes children cooking with their parents. Carlson submitted a video preparing his own recipe and if his video wins, he’s chosen MES as his school of choice to use the \$30,000 prize that goes toward a school cafeteria makeover.

can vote more than once in the 24-hour timeframe by using multiple devices. Online votes attribute to only 20 percent of the total votes, she furthered, but hopes Ryan’s commu-

nity will support him.

According to the website, the winner will be selected “on or about” Dec. 27. Voting ends next Sunday, Oct. 27.

Gaudinski Discusses Status of Marlborough Tennis Court

by Melissa Roberto

Concerns have been raised by residents believing the Rolling Ridge tennis court is in jeopardy of closing, but at Tuesday’s Board of Selectmen meeting, First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski said the court is simply in the preliminary stages of a safety review.

The first selectwoman explained concerns were communicated to her in recent weeks from residents who live near the public town-owned tennis court. She said she believes the concerns stemmed from a statement she made in the Sept. 23 all board’s meeting.

“Ms. Gaudinski stated the tennis courts may need to be closed [due] to safety reasons and liability issues,” the minutes of the September meeting state.

Once residents read the minutes they increasingly became concerned that the town was going to permanently close the tennis court, Gaudinski explained. At Tuesday’s meeting, Sandy Lane resident Peter Wursthorn – acting as “messenger” – submitted an email to the board made up of statements from nearby residents

stating they do not want to see the court close.

“It would be a real loss to the neighborhood to close this court,” resident Bruce Rich of Sandy Lane states in the email.

Vince and Shelly Mondo also commented on the benefits of the court.

“Having the tennis courts in our neighborhood has kept my children active, fit and busy,” the Mondos wrote.

Others in the email, like William Grant of Jerry Daniels Road, state the court is in need of repairs and requested the selectmen to take action so repairs can be made soon. Another resident, Bridget Soboleski of Ridgewood Drive, said her husband has mowed and blown leaves on the court to improve its condition.

“The tennis courts can be patched up to fix the repairs needed and I think the town needs to do that,” Soboleski said in the email.

Gaudinski informed her fellow selectmen that her statement was solely based on safety issues. She said lawsuits in town have existed in the past due to holes in the street among other deficiencies, so she is going to have the court

reviewed as a safety precaution.

“It’s just being cautious,” she explained of future review of the courts. “We need to have an eye out for all those types of precautions. I just want to make sure we’re not being negligent in terms of the property itself on the tennis court.”

Gaudinski said employees from the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) will already be performing work in the town next week so she’s asked them to review the status of the tennis court. Gaudinski said she’s also asked Public Works Superintendent of Operations Chris Corsa to review the needs there as well.

“I know people have felt that simple patch is what’s needed,” Gaudinski furthered. “My information has been it requires much more work than that.”

Resident Louise Concodello, a Parks and Recreation Commission member seated in the audience, commented on the condition of the court. She admitted the fence surrounding it is “old” and that this isn’t the first time residents

have become concerned that the courts could possibly close. She recalled about 40 residents showing up to a Parks and Recreation meeting 10 years ago after a joke about the park closing was taken seriously. At that point, the court had been repaved and the fence was fixed “as best as it could” be, Concodello added.

Gaudinski explained the topic would most likely be discussed at next Monday’s parks and recreation meeting as well as a future selectmen meeting.

In the meantime, Gaudinski informed members the status of the court has only been “preliminary” discussed. She said she’ll keep the selectmen informed of the results after it is reviewed. She also mentioned if it is in need of capital improvement, there’s a possibility it could be brought to the selectmen later this year by the parks and recreation commission during the budget season.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

Tebbets to Retire After 30 Years in Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

After 30 years with Andover Elementary School, secretary Lillian Tebbets announced she’ll be retiring at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

Tebbets has lived in Andover for nearly 60 years with her husband. The couple raised two daughters in town who also attended the school where Tebbets works, first as a health room aid, then as secretary.

This week, Tebbets explained that prior to working for the school she had been a stay-at-home mom. But three decades ago she decided “it was time to go to work,” so she applied at the school, since it was located near her home and the job came with good hours. It also came with plenty of kids, which was the best part, according to Tebbets.

“[I’ve enjoyed] the kids mostly,” she said. “You see them come and go. You see them grow. I’ve just liked it.”

During her tenure, Tebbets has seen kids pass through the school who later return with children of their own.

It’s the kids, as well as the everyday activity of coming to school, she said she’ll miss the

most.

“I’ve enjoyed the job very much: seeing a lot of different people, and the interactions with the children and adults here,” she said.

In addition to changing faces, as the years passed Tebbets said there have been many other changes in the position, most notably related to advances in technology.

“That’s the biggest thing I think,” she said. “Everything was paper copies and now you’ve gone to computers and all that type of thing, and all the state reports, they just keep growing.”

But Tebbets said she dealt with these changes because, quite simply, “you basically don’t have a choice.”

“You have to learn,” she said. “I took typing in high school because it was a prerequisite when I was in school and it helped obviously with the computers, but a lot of it was trial and error.”

Tebbets said she would get frustrated every once in a while when things didn’t work right and think “Give me back my paper!” but she

pushed through and has become, according to Board of Education Chairman Jay Linddy, one of the most knowledgeable individuals at the school.

“She has a huge memory bank,” he said, and Superintendent of Schools Andy Maneggia agreed.

“There are many things that will be missed with her retirement,” he said. “In my mind, probably the greatest will be her knowledge of the community and of the students. She knows every youngster in the town and she’s just a very valuable resource.”

Linddy said Tebbets had done “a superb job” over the years, and then cracked, “I certainly hope she realizes by retiring, now she’s going to have to stay home with her husband by themselves with their pet dog, and she might be better off working with us for another 20 years because I know her husband.”

But, Linddy jokes aside, spending time with her husband is precisely what Tebbets said she was interested in doing. In the letter she wrote to Maneggia, Tebbets said she felt it was time

“to stay home with my husband and enjoy life.”

She furthered that point this week, explaining the couple wanted to travel more and spend more time with their grandson in North Carolina. Tebbets also said she has some hobbies she’d like to focus on.

“I make jewelry. I started out bead stringing and now I do bead-weaving, and I still like to quilt every once in a while,” she stated. In addition, Tebbets said cleaning was on her list of things to do.

“I need to clean my house,” she laughed. “You accumulate so many things after you’ve been married for quite a while and it’s just time to dig in.”

But while Tebbets focuses on her family and traveling, quilting and cleaning, over at Andover Elementary School the staff and students will be learning how to deal without an individual Linddy called one of a kind.

“She is just so knowledgeable to the administrators and to the teachers and everything,” he said. “You’re never going to get another Lillian Tebbets.”

Proposed Portland Recreation Complex Gets Public Feedback

by Elizabeth Bowling

Residents of Portland were given an opportunity to learn more about the town's plans for a recreation complex on Route 17 at a public forum last Thursday, Oct. 10.

About 50 Portland residents were in attendance at the Portland High School cafeteria and about a dozen spoke out to express either support or concerns related to the conceptual design. Many others left written comments in suggestion boxes scattered throughout the cafeteria.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield explained that the town purchased the 37 acres of land on Route 17 in 2005 from Nelson Goodrich for \$510,000. The town, she said, is on a 10-year payment plan that is due to end in a couple of years.

The \$188,500 contract with design company Weston and Sampson is being paid for by a \$230,000 small town economic assistance program grant, Bransfield said. Once completed, the plan would go out to bid, she furthered.

"This is certainly an important endeavor for our entire town," she said, noting that the original intent of this land was for recreational use.

Brian McCarthy, the chairman of the park's planning committee, confirmed that no engineering has been done yet. Rather, the committee is still in the planning stages of the process.

Cheri Ruane, a Weston and Sampson representative and landscape architect, explained the overall design.

According to Ruane, the design calls for the installation of a bathroom, two soccer fields, two Little League fields, a basketball court, a cross country running trail, a playground, a picnic area, a walking trail, a concession stand, a restroom building and a splash pad that could be user activated.

The splash pad would not require a lifeguard because there is no "standing water," Ruane explained. Another perk to having a splash pad is that the town wouldn't need to do "excessive water testing," she said.

In comparing the proposed splash pad to a pool, Ruane said having a splash pad "greatly reduces the amount of infrastructure and personnel and liability," she said.

But during public comment, one Portland resident, Kelsey Springer, spoke out to address

the need for a swimming pool in town.

Springer, a Portland High School student and competitive swimmer, said she has to travel to surrounding towns to use their pools.

According to McCarthy, Springer's interest in a town-owned pool has been echoed in survey form.

"We haven't ruled it out," he said, though "there are serious economic considerations for a pool."

Phyllis Prokop also supported putting a pool in Portland. She also generally supported the implementation of the complex because it would be nice to host sporting events "close to home," she said.

"I'm so happy that this is finally happening for us, our kids and our future," she said. "We want Portland to be a destination."

Portland Soccer Club President Chris Donahue sang a similar tune and threw his support behind the complex development.

This fall, the soccer program consisted of about 280 kids, he said. And currently, the only soccer fields the program uses that are owned by the town are the high school and middle school fields. If this park development goes through, he said, the Route 17 Park would be the soccer program's "home."

Resident Joe Inglis spoke out in favor of the proposed complex, too.

Inglis spoke on behalf of Portland Little League, of which he is president. He said, "It's not just about Little League. It's about soccer, it's about basketball, it's about creating a place for the community to gather."

His focus, though, was on Little League, an organization that is made up of about 275 kids between the ages of 5 and 15. Typically, the kids play three seasons – spring, summer and fall – of baseball, he said. He added that soccer is also a multi-seasonal sport.

He said the Little League program is expanding and that most games are played against out-of-town teams rather than other Portland teams. Because competition is mostly coming from outside of Portland, the young players would benefit from having a local complex at which to host tournaments, he said.

Tournaments could also have a positive impact on the community at large because, he said, tournaments are "an introduction of our town

to people who may have never been here before. It would be a great way to make a positive first impression by seeing our facilities and experiencing Portland."

Another Portland resident, Joe Balskus, said the town needs to "dream big" because the complex is going to exist in Portland for decades to come.

"People want this, we need this," he said about the athletic fields. "This a major project for the town – for the town youths, for the town residents, for everyone."

For Portland resident Heather Lagerstrum, however, one major concern was how the park would be separated – for both security and privacy purposes – from its abutting neighborhood, where she lives.

"How is it going to affect homeowners?" she asked. "Is this going to be patrolled at all hours? Is the park going to be gated or closed after hours?"

McCarthy responded that the park's impact on the neighborhood is one of the committee's "primary concerns." He said the plan is to include a "buffer" of some sort between the park and the neighborhood, but the specific type of buffer has not yet been decided. Some ideas thus far include fencing or landscape screening, he said.

Like Lagerstrum, another neighbor to the would-be park spoke out at Thursday's forum. Christina Magnano said, "I'm 150 percent against this."

One of her major concerns is traffic. "If we wanted to live by a recreation center we would have bought a house next to one," she said.

Resident Ann Hodge, who lives next to the proposed park as well, noted the importance of park upkeep.

She asked, "What's this going to do to our taxes and what's it going to do to our town crews?"

Another concern for the planning committee had been the prior agricultural use and prior pesticide use on this property, which was once a tobacco farm, McCarthy said.

He said that "it is not uncommon in the state" of Connecticut to turn an old tobacco field into an area of recreational use.

At the Sept. 18 Board of Selectmen meeting, McCarthy said that test results from the past year showed that some of soil in the area showed concentration of "fairly low levels of some residual pesticides." He added that "a couple are above residential direct contact standards" – which means, "You wouldn't want to have your kid rolling in it all day everyday," he said, but it's something that "can be managed on site."

He was confident that the pesticides remaining in the soil would not be a problem.

"The contaminants that we found are really confined to a fairly thin layer in the root zone and a surface layer," he said.

He added that part of the process would require removing soil from some areas and filling it in others.

"Knowing where those areas are, we'll be able to manage that soil in construction so that we'll be able to place it under areas that are being used for parking or well underneath active surfaces," he said.

Ruane said that parking lots would be located throughout the park so there is not a "sea of asphalt." Thus far, the plan calls for 130 parking spots.

Also according to Ruane, the designers are considering lighting the athletic fields. She added that new technology allows for more control over light spill so that lighting should not disturb the park's neighbors.

McCarthy said, "The committee did not approach this as strictly a ball field or athletic field endeavor. We see this as a resource for the whole town. We want to make sure that this is a place that has something for everyone."

But before the committee takes any further steps, residents have an opportunity to provide feedback via a survey on the town website, portlandct.org, where they can also find more design information.

As of last Thursday, McCarthy said about 300 residents took the survey, but he encourages all residents to take it before it is taken down from the website at the end of the month.

Moving forward from there, the committee would seek approval from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, McCarthy said.

Portland ZBA Pushes Back Public Hearing

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Town of Portland's Zoning Board of Appeals stirred up some controversy at its last meeting, Sept. 26, when it pushed back its public hearing regarding the appeal of a cease-and-desist order that left a handful of residents unsatisfied.

Additionally three ZBA members, including the chairman, did not recuse themselves from voting on the matter that involves a man they know on a personal level.

The cease-and-desist order dates back to June 28, when the town discovered zoning violations at a Portland residency, owned by John Kelly, during a visual inspection and notified the property owner 10 days later, after a holiday, on July 8.

According to the minutes for the Sept. 26 meeting, ZBA Chairman Ben Srb noted for the record that he knows or has had dealings with Kelly, but did not feel that would present a conflict in his decision-making.

Srb said in a phone call last week that he couldn't comment on the matter because "it's ongoing."

Similarly, in the Sept. 26 meeting minutes, board member Donald Snyder noted for the record that he lives in Hill House Estates, which is a subdivision of Kelly's property. He, too, said he did not feel there was any conflict in his decision-making.

Finally, board member Richard Basso also noted for the record that he knows Kelly but

did not think there was any conflict of interest.

"I know a lot of people in town," he said in a phone call last week, adding that he wouldn't "wine and dine" with Kelly, he simply knows him.

According to the minutes, Srb said the board "looks at everything with regard to the issue. The issue before the board is whether the cease-and-desist was rightfully issued."

Kelly's driveway paving at 1 Rose Hill Rd. was deemed a "violation" of a zoning regulation during a visual inspection on June 28.

In a "notice of violation and order to abate" dated July 8, the town ordered Kelly to restore his driveway to its original state – in other words, Kelly needed to undo the paving because "paving of the driveway at this address is a violation of the approved site plan," the notice stated.

The notice, which was from Zoning Enforcement Officer Bob Spencer, gave Kelly two weeks to comply with the order to undo the paving.

The letter stated, "Prompt correction of the above violation by removal of the paving and restoration of the driveway to its natural state in accordance with the approved site plan is required by July 22, 2013."

It went on to say that a follow-up inspection would take place July 23 to ensure that Kelly complied with the town's demands.

But just one day after the town sent its first notice to Kelly, it sent a cease and desist order based on a second visual inspection it conducted that day, July 9. The same violations existed on Kelly's 1 Rose Hill Rd. property as the day prior – he was still paving his driveway, rather than undoing the paving.

The order stated, "Cease any and all work related to driveway paving including but not limited to filling and grading."

Some of Kelly's neighbors spoke out against the driveway paving at the Sept. 26 ZBA meeting, requesting that it be undone because it is harmful to their properties.

According to the meeting's minutes, Bob Satagaj, of 111 Collinsville Rd., said he was concerned that the board may struggle to be objective because of some members' relationships with Kelly.

Satagaj also told the board, "The result of the paving of the driveway is that more water comes into his yard," the minutes stated. He also mentioned that a propane tank on his property is directly in the path of the incoming water.

In sum, the minutes stated that Satagaj said, "The paved driveway has accelerated and increased the water [runoff] significantly to the point where it threatens his safety and damage to his house."

Another neighbor, Sharon Hoy, of 33 Rose Hill Rd., said she believes Kelly should be re-

sponsible for fixing any problems caused by the paving of his driveway at his expense, according to the minutes.

Ultimately, the ZBA, at its Sept. 26 meeting, voted unanimously to have a public hearing for the appeal of the Zoning Enforcement Officer's order from July 8 to abate the unpermitted paving of the driveway on 1 Rose Hill Rd. The board also voted unanimously to have a public hearing for the appeal of the Zoning Enforcement Officer's order from July 9 to cease and desist any and all work related to driveway paving including but not limited to filling and grading.

Asked if she thought there were any ethical conflicts among the ZBA members, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said, "I don't get involved in the Zoning Board of Appeals."

She added that the ZBA is made up of elected officials, and suggested that anyone with questions direct those questions to the town's ethics commission.

However, the chairman of Portland's ethics commission, George Law, could not be reached for comment.

The public hearing will take place at the next Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, Thursday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Mary Lou Rice Room at the Portland Senior center. The public hearing portion will allow Portland residents to voice any concerns. Then the board will vote on appealing the cease-and-desist orders.

East Hampton School Board Approves New Evaluations

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Board of Education approved new teacher and administrator evaluations at Tuesday's meeting.

Board members also learned that the district will go forward with the Smarter Balance field test this academic year, rather than continue with the Connecticut Mastery Test.

Matthew Warner, a member of the town's Educator Evaluation and Development Model (EEDM) Committee, explained to the board the new, state-mandated teacher evaluations.

"This is not a pilot year," he affirmed. "This is in full effect."

He furthered that a third of East Hampton teachers will be evaluated using the EEDM this year, and next year the model will be implemented district-wide.

The evaluation criteria are divided between four categories and totals 100 percent. The categories are student growth and development, whole school learning, observation of teacher performance and practice, and parent feedback.

Warner said that student growth and development, which is "based on teacher goals," makes up 45 percent of the evaluation. Whole school learning, which is "a joint effort between principals and teachers to improve the school as a whole," is another 5 percent, he said.

Observation of teacher performance and practice is another 40 percent and is based off of 17 indicators that administrators will look for during observation. The final 10 percent is based on parent feedback, which was administered during open houses earlier in this academic year, Warner said. The committee is now in the process of going to comments to see what can be implemented.

However, one parent made a suggestion regarding the parent feedback portion of evaluations during public comment.

Monique Sherer said, "Being a parent with three children, I found the survey a little hard to answer because I have three different schools, three different teachers – or, in the case of high school, many teachers – to put my opinions toward."

She asked that in the future, the board consider using a more specific teacher evaluation for parents.

Finishing up his presentation, Warner said that the state's intent in implementing this evaluation model was not to "catch" teachers performing poorly, but rather to enhance teacher instruction.

Post-presentation, board member Scott Minnick asked, "Is there going to be a final grade that each teacher will get? And if so, what are the outcomes of that?"

Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas answered it's not a teacher's grade that is important; rather the feedback from the evaluation is what's important because it will help a teacher improve.

East Hampton High School Principal John Fidler then explained to the board the Administrator Professional Learning and Evaluation Program.

Fidler said that administrator proficiency will be determined similarly to teacher proficiency – the evaluations will be divided between four categories totaling 100 percent.

Leadership practice will count for 40 percent and includes indicators like "monitoring and continuously improving teaching and learning,"

on which, Fidler said, the state puts particular emphasis. Stakeholder feedback will be anonymously provided by staff members, teachers and the public and will count for 10 percent, he said.

According to Fidler, student learning, which can be measured by graduation rates, for example, counts as 45 percent. Finally teacher proficiency will count for the remaining 5 percent and will be based on the aggregate of teachers' student learning objectives, he said.

He concluded that the superintendent and assistant superintendent of schools will evaluate administrators based on both direct observation and evidence submitted to them by the administrators themselves.

The board unanimously approved both evaluation plans.

* * *

According to Dugas, districts in Connecticut had a choice between taking the Connecticut Mastery Test or the Smarter Balanced field test – which is not the official Smarter Balanced Assessment that will be implemented in 2014-15; rather it is the state's field test – this year.

"It is in our best interest as a district to go with the Smarter Balanced field test," she said.

* * *

Also at Tuesday's meeting, board member Bill Marshall updated the board on the high school renovation project.

"The high school renovation is one of the most important things that is in our plate right now," he said.

According to Marshall's report, the goals for the project include promoting 21st century learning, identifying zones for community use, having a safe environment for learning, having

a high performing and energy efficient facility, promoting faculty collaboration, and increasing access to technology.

Marshall said it will be important to consider what 21st century learning will entail, for example, in a media center. But essentially, he said, the committee is trying to create a student centered, active learning environment.

He also noted that in discussing plans for a heating and cooling system, a geothermal system is no longer "cutting edge," rather, it's "standard if you want to pay for it," he said.

Regarding a different type of payment, the board voted to reduce the "pay for play" fee by half at the middle and high school levels, effective immediately.

Regarding more general terms of fundraising, Minnick proposed a new fundraiser – at shiningsolutionsfundraiser.com – that would call for students to sell LED and florescent light bulbs rather than candy or snacks.

"No more chocolate rabbits," he laughed.

* * *

According to a student report, the high school's environmental club is seeking to install a compost bin on the school's property. The club also hopes to collect compost during the school day in the school's cafeteria. Collected compost would be disposed of in the proposed outdoor bin. The board will vote on the installation of a compost bin at its next meeting.

* * *

The next regularly scheduled East Hampton Board of Education meeting is Monday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m. at the East Hampton High School library.

Chatham Historical Society to Celebrate 50 Years

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Chatham Historical Society invites the public to celebrate its 50th anniversary this weekend on Sunday, Oct. 20, from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Chatham Historical Museum complex.

The celebratory event is free and will showcase artifacts from throughout East Hampton's history for an entertaining and educational experience.

Sandy Doran, the president of the Chatham Historical society, said the festival is in honor of the society "preserving 50 years of East Hampton history."

"We're just trying to make people aware that we are in town," Doran said. "It's a good opportunity to show people what we have."

She said the historical society is made up of three buildings – a schoolhouse and two museum buildings.

According to Doran, the two museum buildings are filled with collections. Those include an extensive Bevin Bell collection, as well as toys that were built at the Gong Bell Factory and the N.N. Hill Brass Co.

She said a section of the old East Hampton Post Office, dating back to when it was on Main Street, is also on display in one of the museums, as well as a section of an old ship building.

The 1840 schoolhouse is just as it sounds – it's set up as a classroom dating back to 1840, Doran said.

"Every April we have the fourth-graders from Center School come over and they're taught as if it's a regular classroom," she said.

Doran said third-graders from Memorial School also stop by the classroom every fall as part of their annual walking tour through town. Additionally, it's open to Boy Scouts to earn their badge for a museum tour, she said.

"We're also open [by appointment] whenever anyone wants to come in and look around," she

added.

Marty Podskoch, a member of the historical society who is helping organize this year's festival, said he's hoping to make the historical festival an annual event.

Podskoch added that the purpose of the festival is "to get people to come to the museum."

"It's amazing," he said, referencing "all the treasures, the toys and the bells that were made in the town for the past 150 years."

The festival will also include a demonstration on the making of Witch Hazel because the world's largest manufacturer of Witch Hazel products, American Distilling Company, happens to be one of East Hampton's oldest companies.

The company will display its Dickinson Brand products and pass out free samples of its famous health and beauty products.

For a more hands-on activity for kids, the event will offer "old time games and crafts," a press release said.

Children are invited to the 1840 one-room Chestnut Hill Schoolhouse, as well as onto the museum grounds, to take part in playing a "Nine Man Morris," which, according to Podskoch, is a game that's "similar to tic-tac-toe." Instead of using a pen, though, kids will mark their moves with beans or corn.

Children will also have an opportunity to make corn stalk dolls and quilts, and sew journals. They can also play with wooden dolls that were made many years ago in East Hampton's own factories.

There will also be a blacksmith demonstration throughout the entire day. Additionally, a woman will spin wool and make custom embroidered handkerchiefs. She will dress up in garb from the 17th to 19th centuries.

But a more modern twist will come in the form of the day's music selections. A local East Hampton band called SeeQuence will kick off



Kira and Lydia Roloff (front), Mike Doran and Debbie Day are shown here cleaning the Chatham Historical Society's 1840 schoolhouse in preparation for the society's 50th anniversary celebration, to be held Sunday, Oct. 20, from noon to 4 p.m., at the Chatham Historical Society, 6 Bevin Blvd. Photo by Marty Podskoch.

the musical entertainment will some classic rock and roll hits.

Kevin Day and his band, Giggle Juice, another East Hampton band, will be the second and final band of the day.

People should bring their own chairs if they plan to sit and enjoy the day's musical entertainment, Doran said.

In addition to music, the Chatham Historical Society will provide free doughnuts and apple

cider. Other treats can be bought on-site from Higher Grounds Coffee Shop, Main Street Pizza and Crafty Cup Cakes.

The anniversary celebration will take place Sunday at 6 Bevin Blvd., from noon to 4 p.m., and all are invited to attend.

For more information about this event, contact Marty Podskoch at 860-267-2442 or podskoch@comcast.net.

Meet the East Hampton Board of Education Candidates

by Elizabeth Bowling

Thirteen East Hampton residents are running for five available seats on the Board of Education. The contenders consist of five Democrats, five Republicans and three Chatham Party candidates.

None of the Democratic candidates running for the Board of Education currently have seats on the board, but they're optimistic that will change.

Steven Kelley, 19, is a recent East Hampton High School graduate and a current freshman at Manchester Community College and the University of Hartford. As he continues to further his education, he plans to study facilities management and theater management.



Steven Kelley

The lifelong East Hampton resident serves on the Old Home Days Association and is responsible for bringing Pumpkin-town to this year's Big E – an experience that he said helped him gain managerial experience.

In the past Kelley worked at the Parks and Recreation Department's after school program, but now he's seeking election to the Board of Education in hopes of contributing a youthful perspective.

If elected, Kelley said he would like to "maintain extracurricular activities and find ways we can enrich our students' educational experiences with the resources we have."

That being said, he noted the importance of making sure each student gets to benefit from those resources so no one student gets "lost in the shuffle."

"If there is someone who needs help they should be receiving it," he said.

Another concern for Kelley is the new Common Core state standards. He said he wants the new curriculums to continue to incorporate "the East Hampton touch" – which means they should "go above and beyond what is standard," he said.

Karen Terry has lived in East Hampton for 18 years and has two children in the town's school system – one is a junior in high school, the other is in eighth grade – and between the two of them, Terry said she's gained experience and understanding in all four schools in town.



Karen Terry

Terry was the committee chairwoman of a local Cub Scouts Pack and the president of the Junior Women's Club. She also volunteered in support of the high school renovation project by holding signs and making phone calls.

Currently, she's on the committee for Boy Scouts Troop 8 and she directs the 5K road race for high school graduation. Despite her immense involvement in town, this is her first time running for elected office.

Terry is the assistant managing director of LIMRA, a trade association for market research. Her position has given her experience in both business and management, she said.

She said she's running for a seat on the Board of Education, not only because her kids give her a vested interest, but also because the town's education system is undergoing a lot of change.

"We've got so much change going on in town right now," she said. "I want to be able to use my skills to ensure that I can keep things moving along."

She said some major changes include the hiring of new superintendent of schools, Diane Dugas, the high school renovation project, the new teacher evaluation system, and the new Common Core state standards.

Another important issue for Terry is the implementation of full-day kindergarten.

"It's important for us to keep working toward that," she said.

Roy Leonardi is a retired special education teacher. His focus as a teacher was positive behavior reinforcement and children with autism. Now the 71-year-old is earning his master's degree in history at Central Connecticut State University.

He said going back to school has surrounded him with "motivated younger people" and is keeping him young.

Leonardi, who moved to East Hampton in 2001, had a stroke in 2008 and essentially had to relearn everything. He said the recovery experience he had in St. Francis Hospital helped him understand "how positive education should be."



Roy Leonardi

He said full-day kindergarten is the "issue that triggered his interest" in running for the school board.

"Every child should get the chance to have full-time kindergarten," he said. "You don't use a lottery for kids' lives."

He added that from a special education perspective it's best to intervene with a child experiencing difficulty learning at "the beginning of their career in education."

In addition to full-day kindergarten, Leonardi said he supports lighting the soccer field at the high school.

"Most of the parents that I know in East Hampton work," he said. "They don't get home until after 5 or 6 and it would be wonderful for them to come home on an evening in October and be able to see their children play soccer."

He added that other community organizations could use the field, as well.

Chris Goff is a former member of the Board of Education and a former chairman of the Town Council. He has three children and is retired from the field of social work. He could not be reached for comment for this story by press time.



Chris Goff

Jeffrey Carlson, the final Democratic candidate, is the vice president of Young People's Center for Creative Arts. He's also a senior design consultant for a commercial construction firm, as well as a father. He, too, could not be reached for comment by press time.

Five East Hampton Republicans are throwing their hats into the ring for the Board of Education, but only one is running for reelection.

Incumbent **Josh Piteo** is a former member of the Board of Finance and former president of the East Hampton Rotary Club. Additionally, he is responsible for the memorial bricks in the village center.



Jeffrey Carlson

Piteo, who moved to East Hampton in the early 1990s, is seeking re-election to the school board after already serving four years.

He said there are "big discussions coming up with the Board of Education in the next couple years" and he wants to be part of those discussions.

He said board members will have to realize they "can't have everything." He furthered, "The board has to be respectful of the taxpayer" by spending money wisely.

"There's a lot of things that still need to be done," he said, specifically noting upcoming teacher and bus contracts.

He also acknowledged that the high school needs to be "filled with the appropriate technology."

In this age of new technology, Piteo said he wants to make sure the teachers are trained to teach their students the new curriculum so that when kids graduate they can "go anywhere they want to go."

Another important issue to Piteo is keeping the public informed when East Hampton schools thrive, for example, on test scores.

Emily Fahle, 30, grew up in Marlborough and has lived with her family in East Hampton for three years. The new mom worked until recently at a reinsurance company, a company that



Josh Piteo

insures insurance companies. She said her role for four years required a lot of "number crunching and risk analysis" and was "very number oriented."

She said, "I really feel like there is a need for some fresh blood in town. I hope to offer some new ideas and a different perspective as far as the budget goes and working with parents."

Specifically, if elected, she said she'd talk to parents to learn more about what they want out of their kids' educations.

She described an essential "tri-fold partnership" between administrators and teachers, parents, and the Board of Education.

"The trifecta works together to make sure that every kid gets the best education possible," she added.

Regarding full-day kindergarten, Fahle said, "That's something that East Hampton is lacking. Full-day kindergarten should be available to every family, not just on a lottery system."

Another important issue to Fahle is the high school renovation project. She said there needs to be people with a vested interest in making sure the renovations go according to plan.

She added that her young daughter will be a "beneficiary of the new high school" someday and that gives her a vested interest in the project.

Also regarding the high school project, she said taxpayers should "get a great value for their investment."

Rounding out her main concerns, she said elected officials should have more control over the school system "on a more localized level." One way to make that happen, she said, would be to make sure the administration "feels supported" so that "folks in Hartford don't dictate how money is spent."

Former Board of Finance member **Maria Peplau** is trying her luck this year in the race for the Board of Education.

Peplau is semi-retired; she currently works part-time as a florist and has a home-based culinary business. But in the past she's worked in IT and as a chef.

Peplau, who has lived in East Hampton since 1974, has two grown children who both went through the East Hampton school system and said she supports the changing curriculum and the schools' technology updates.

"If elected, I'd like to work with the other board members and be more fiscally conscious of what they're spending their money on," she said. "My interest is to keep the spending down for the taxpayers."

She said the Board of Education budget goes "up and up and up every year." One way she'd combat the increasing budget if elected would be to "eliminate any waste in the program."

She said if possible she'd go into the schools and check out how things are being run to ensure that there is no "duplication of effort." If there is any duplication, though, she'd like to find "ways to clean up the operation to the taxpayers' benefit."

That clean-up process wouldn't mean making cuts, she said, but distributing work differently.

If elected, Peplau said she would also try to create an alumni association to help fundraise for the school to "help defray some of the cost to the taxpayer."

Debra Devon has lived in East Hampton for about eight years. She has three children – one is a graduate of East Hampton High School and the youngest two are currently EHHS students – and recently re-entered the workforce.

If elected for the Board of Education, Devon said she would focus on "bringing everything back to the local level."

One matter of particular importance to Devon is to have an open dialogue with the taxpayers. She said she'd work to inform the people about what's happening within the schools. For example, she said she'd like to provide more information on the new Common Core state standards.

She said she'd also be interested in "promot-

ing more parental involvement," for example, inside the classrooms during the school day. She added that taxpayers "need to be able to see what's happening in our school system."

Additionally, she said she'd keep future generations in mind while serving on the school board.

"I think there is a need for a long term plan in education," she said.

The final Republican candidate is **Karen Lee**, a mother of two and a human resources manager at United Technologies. She could not be reached for comment.



Karen Lee

The Chatham Party has three contenders running for the Board of Education.

Joelyn Leon has a vested interest in the Board of Education because she has two children in the East Hampton school system – one in seventh grade and one in second.

Leon ran for the Board of Education for the first time two years ago but was not elected. Regardless, she has about 20 years of experience in politics, particularly at the state level. In the past she worked for Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and in the state capital. But currently she works full-time for United Auto workers. She also has a master's degree in public policy.

Leon has lived in East Hampton for 11 years and has managed to get quite involved in the community's education scene. She is a member of the middle school and elementary school PTO, as well as the treasurer of EHHS Renovate to Educate, a political action committee that pushed for the high school renovation project.

She said she wants to be a voice for the parents in town, regardless of their political affiliation.

"I understand it's a difficult thing to be involved in but at the same time it's so important to be involved in your community and give back," she said. "I really would be honored to serve all of the residents of East Hampton in this capacity."



Joelyn Leon

The issues Leon said she would focus on if elected are the implementation of full-day kindergarten and the completion of the high school building project.

"I really am interested in seeing the high school renovation through," she said. "It would be really exciting."

Leon said her main reasons for running for the school board are her kids, as well as the community in general.

"Having two kids in the system, I want to see them get the best education possible," she said, adding that she wants all kids in town to receive the best education possible "because it makes our community a better place and makes our community more appealing to others."

Liz Whitty was raised in East Hampton, where she lived for the majority of her life. She went through the town's school system, as did her daughter, her nieces and nephews.

She ran for a seat on the Board of Education two years ago but doesn't have any experience on any town boards. She does, however, have experience on professional boards. She is the director of development for the school of dental medicine at the UConn Foundation.

"I think it's appropriate to give back to your community and of all the things you can do in your community, education is what I know the most about," Whitty said. "Anything you chose to do in life, you have to have an education."

Whitty said that, if elected, full-day kindergarten would be "one of the most immediate things that we'll have to discuss to make it accessible for everybody."

She said she's also interested in maintaining student success in the town's math and science department.

She said it would be important to "make sure our community is providing everything it can so our students can be competitive."

Regarding math and science, she added, "The good news is we're very competitive already."

Regarding the high school renovation project, she said it will be important to "be as fiscally responsible as possible to get as much

for every dollar as we can.”

She added that the board will have to move along with the renovations “with foresight” because education is constantly changing due to technology.

“I think we’ve got a very good school system in town,” she said, noting that she’s impressed with Dugas and the teachers. “I’m really encouraged,” she added.

Peter Levy has lived in East Hampton for eight years and is a semi-retired special education teacher. He is now doing wood-working. He has two daughters; one is 13, the other is 10. Both of his daughters go to the environmental magnet school in Hartford, which offers “more contextual learning,” he said.



Peter Levy

Levy said he’s running for the Board of Education because, “I have been watching my kids’ education for the past eight years and I’ve had some reservations of the things being done.”

Specifically, he said he didn’t feel his kids were being challenged.

Levy said, now that he has time to serve his community, he hopes he will be elected to the school board because he has “a lot of expertise in the education field,” as both his parents and his wife are educators.

“Given my experience, I know what students

need to learn and I know what teachers need to teach,” Levy said.

Some issues of particular concern for Levy are the high school renovation project and the special education program.

He said the renovation “needs to be seen through” and the special education programs need to be “as humane and efficient as possible.”

Though he did note that special education “costs an awful lot of money.”

“I don’t think you can just throw money at problems, but you also can’t get service for nothing,” he said. “You get what you pay for. It’s a balancing act.”

Levy spoke highly of Dugas, and said he would like to help her in any way possible if elected. He also praised the schools’ test scores.

“East Hampton tests very well for our income bracket,” he said. “There’s some very good, very dedicated teachers.”

Another important issue to Levy is opening up school facilities to the entire community.

“Rather than telling people the state of the schools, I think people need to be invited in to see it,” he said. “I think we under-use the facilities in our town,” noting that he’d like to see the uses of the high school swimming pool or basketball courts, for example, expand.

Levy said that as a Chatham Party member, if elected, “I’m going to vote for what’s in the best interest for the kids.” He added, “[Education] is our biggest expense in town, and it should be.”

* * *

Elections are Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at East Hampton High School.

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Meet Portland’s School Board Candidates

by Elizabeth Bowling

It’s not much of a race for the local Board of Education this year, with five residents running for five open seats, but the five are all eager to continue serving – or, in the case of one candidate, start serving.

Two seasoned Democratic candidates and one rookie are seeking terms on the seven-member, Democrat-controlled Board of Education and two experienced Republicans will serve again, too.

The Democrats are incumbents Andrea Alfano and Ben Srb, and newcomer Christopher Darby. The Republicans are incumbents Betsy Smith and Michael Pelton.

Andrea Alfano has served on the board for five years and has lived in Portland for 17. She works for the UConn School of Social Work.

Alfano is running for re-election to the school board not only because her 15-year-old son is a sophomore at Portland High School, but also because she has more to accomplish.

“It seems like these five years have gone by so fast and we’ve done a lot of good work,” she said. “I want to be a part of some upcoming changes.”

Some success the board has seen recently includes the implementation of full-day kindergarten, she said. In terms of upcoming changes, Alfano said she’d like to see through that technology upgrades are implemented just as smoothly.

“I have more to give,” she added.

Ben Srb has lived in Portland his whole life, since 1975. He owns Primary Landscaping LLC and Primary Sanitation Services in town.

He said he’s interested in serving on the Board of Education for another term because he wants to continue to help Portland progress.

“We’ve made a lot of progress over the past five years. We’re definitely heading in the right

direction and I want to be part of it,” he said, echoing Alfano.

Specifically, Srb said he’d like to see an increase in programs for students, like Advanced Placement courses and the Water and People course.

He said it’s beneficial “any time we can offer more programs to the kids.”

Christopher Darby, a newcomer to politics, is the father of a seventh-grader at Portland Middle School and a fifth-grader at Brownstone Intermediate School. He and his wife were also foster parents to his wife’s two cousins, who graduated from Portland High School in 2008 and 2010, respectively.

But his connection to Portland schools doesn’t stop there. His wife is also an alumna of PHS and later taught in the system. So, Darby said, he knows a lot of the teachers and has been involved in the schools for a while.

Darby himself is a high school English teacher in Middletown. He stays involved in Portland by volunteering with Boy Scouts and his church. Additionally, he used to coach soccer for Parks and Recreation.

After living in Portland for the past seven years, Darby said, “I’d like to give back to the community and make the schools even better than they are.”

He added that as a taxpayer he wants to maintain the town’s good schools in a cost effective manner.

If elected, Darby said he’d like to maintain areas that are already thriving, like the arts programs and academics – he noted that Portland students recently earned high scores on the SATs.

The two incumbent Republican candidates are guaranteed the remaining two seats.

Betsy Smith, a practicing accountant, has one year of experience on the Board of Education already after filling a vacant seat last summer. Smith has two children – her son is a sophomore at Portland High School and her daughter is 4 – and the three have lived in Portland for almost six years.

She said she decided to run for the Board of Education because the board needed a Republican member so she stepped up.

Smith said she’d like to develop as a board member in this term and in order to do that, she said, she would work on her “understanding of the contracts that we have with our major vendors and the bidding process.”

She added that she wants to understand “when it’s appropriate to not go out to bid.”

In a concluding remark, Smith said she’d like to continue to support Portland’s superintendent, administrators and students “to do the absolute most we can with the tax dollars that we have.”

“I try to appreciate and understand people’s concerns,” she added.

Like Smith, **Michael Pelton** recently filled a vacancy on the Board of Education. Pelton has now served on the board for three months

and is looking forward to his upcoming term, he said.

Pelton is a nutrition business consultant and the owner of Inner Circle Family Martial Arts. Through his martial arts school, he has worked with a lot of kids and parents in town, as well as the town’s Parks and Recreation Department.

Pelton and his wife have lived in Portland for 13 years, and all three of their children have gone through the Portland school system.

He said he’s running for the Board of Education because he wants to help Portland’s youths, particularly in terms of health and wellness.

“The Board of Education is a great opportunity to affect the kids in town,” he said, noting that he would focus on “pushing whatever I can to make the town healthier and the kids more active,” as well as “healthier lunches and healthier meals.”

Pelton noted that as school lunches have become healthier, the number sold has decreased. He said he’d like to see that turn around.

Pelton also said he is in favor of the new teacher evaluations and new curriculum. He added that he’d like to ensure that what’s taught in the schools is appropriate.

He added that his position on the school board is “the first public office I’ve ever done so I’m looking forward to doing the best I can.”

* * *

Elections are Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.



Andrea Alfano



Christopher Darby



Michael Pelton

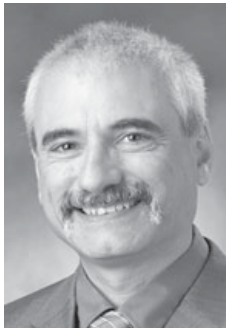
Introducing Colchester's Finance Board Candidates

by **Melissa Roberto**

A total of six candidates, a mix of incumbents and newcomers, are vying for seats on the Board of Finance, but only four will come away with victories at next month's elections.

The candidates include incumbents Republican Rob Esteve and Democrat Thomas Kane, both running for two open slots for a six-year term, Democrat Kurt A. Frantzen and Colchester Independent Party candidate James D. McNair III, both newcomers to the board running for one seat to fill a four-year term and current members Democrat John A. Ringo and Republican Bill Curran, who each are looking to fill one open slot for a two-year term.

For **Rob Esteve**, serving on the finance board since 2009 has introduced him to learning about how municipal financing works. In short, Esteve, who is vice chairman of the board, said he'd like to take what he's learned and use it to serve another six years.



Rob Esteve

As the board's liaison to the Board of Education, Esteve said he's now knowledgeable of the finances that make up a school district. This includes what mandates are cast on school districts from the state and federal levels, he said. Looking back at the last four years, Esteve was proud of the board's ability to grow the town's general fund balance, as well as being a part of the approval of the town's energy conservation project, which he said was a "real win situation" because it didn't cost additional tax dollars yet still updated the schools' infrastructure.

Looking ahead to the board's future, Esteve said his motivation is to continue working with the school district, and in doing so, his focus would be to address the facility needs at William J. Johnston Middle School, which he said are still outstanding due to the recent referendum failure. Additionally, Esteve said he'd be interested in finding alternatives to lower the school board's health insurance costs.

"If you can reduce your cost there you get to put it towards education and that's certainly something I'd like to do," he said.

As an engineer at Pratt and Whitney for the last 26 years, Esteve said he would bring problem solving skills and his ability of "understanding complex problems" to the board. Esteve has been a resident of Colchester for 23 years. He and his wife Heidi have two sons, Paul, 19, and Alex, 17. In regards to the upcoming election and to project votes he's helped put forward, Esteve is an advocate of exercising the right to vote.

"Regardless of how you vote I always like to see people come out and exercise their right."

Current member **Thomas Kane** is also seeking a six-year term, after serving on the finance board for the last two years. Prior to being on this board, Kane was a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for eight years and served as vice chairman for two of those years.



Thomas Kane

Kane has a bachelor's degree in political science from St. Michael's College in Vermont. He also studied law at the Western New England College School of Law in Springfield, Mass. Currently, Kane is an attorney and partner of Kane, Hartley & Kane in Glastonbury. He also serves as a director on the Board of Directors for Connecticut Attorney's Title Insurance Company (CITAC), and is also the chairman of its strategic planning. Additionally, Kane is a member and treasurer of the Glastonbury Rotary Club.

Asked what has influenced him to run for another six years on the board, Kane said it's to continue – and "see out" – what he feels are initiatives the board has been working diligently on. He said these initiatives have been started to make up for the finances of Colchester's past, specifically the years of 2008-2010, which, he said, got Colchester into "a bit of a situation." The initiatives he's been proud of participating in and would like to see continue include funding the road maintenance budget, a "comprehensive" vehicle maintenance plan that has been funded and is on the path to being self sustained,

he said, and the development of a "town-wide and school-wide maintenance plan."

If elected, Kane furthered his goals would include becoming "more efficient" as an employer with Town Hall, and to reduce health insurance costs. Additionally, he'd like to be a part of "trying to preserve services and capital spending without increasing the mill rate."

In terms of the recent WJMS/Senior Center/Community Center project failure, Kane said he felt the town "clearly" did not want a unified campus.

"The needs aren't going away," he explained. "We need to find a way forward that addresses the needs of schools, the community and seniors forward in a way that could be financially feasible to the town."

Lastly, Kane defined himself as "a listener," and "always open" to suggestions. He admitted he doesn't know all the answers but is interested in continuing to come up with some if elected.

New finance board candidate **Kurt A. Frantzen** has been serving on the Conservation Commission since 2008, and has taken on the role of vice chairman for that commission for the last two years. On his decision to become involved in town finances, Frantzen said he felt he should "get involved and help my fellow citizens' work through some of the issues we face."



Kurt Frantzen

If elected, Frantzen said he would have a "reason voice both for effective planning but also budget restraint." In terms of improvement, Frantzen said he'd like to see "effective communication" between the board and administration as well as the board and taxpayers. He used recent referendum votes like the WJMS building project that was full of "benefits that lacked attention" as examples of why he'd like to strengthen communication.

"A better vetting of these kinds of issues with the town and the voters is crucial and I hope that I can find ways to improve that," he said.

Frantzen said he would bring the experience of evaluating risks and finding cost-effective solutions working in a consulting company for 26 years to the board. He holds an undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, a master's degree in plant pathology/plant disease from Kansas State University, as well as a PhD at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in biochemistry. He also is currently running his own consulting company. Frantzen lives with his wife Joan and has two sons, Nelf and Garth, who are both in college.

Also running for the four-year slot is CIP candidate **James D. McNair III** who is familiar with Colchester's political scene after having served four years on the Board of Education and two years on the Planning and Zoning Commission.



James McNair

McNair holds an economics degree from Princeton University and a master's of business administration in finance from Purdue University. When it comes to understanding finances, McNair said it's something he's "always been interested in." While seated on the Board of Education from 2002-06, McNair served as the chairman of the school board's budget subcommittee, which delved into the school district's annual budget.

McNair explained the main reason why he's chosen to run for the finance board is to give voters "the pros and cons" of the town's financing – whether it be the annual budget or projects and transfers, he said.

"What I want to bring to the table is a more objective way of looking at things," said McNair. "The Board of Finance isn't [formed] to pass a budget, it's to put forward a recommendation and make sure the voters know of the pros and cons."

Additionally, McNair said his agenda for the finance board would be based on transparency.

He said he feels its important voters know what they're voting on, and also what elected officials are approving. He is also the former publisher of a watchdog website for the town.

McNair has lived in town since 1999 and has been married for 27 years and has twins, a son and daughter.

John Ringo is very much a finance board veteran, as he's served on it for a total of nearly 14 years. What's important to Ringo when it comes to his duties as a finance member is to "keep balance on the board" in addition to making sure the town's bills are paid, he said.



John Ringo

"And making sure the people in the town can afford it," he furthered.

Ringo said the board is "constantly maintaining and keeping our eyes on where all the money is being spent and how." To Ringo, listening "is the key" to serving on the board in addition to "understanding what's going on."

If elected to serve another two years on the board, Ringo said his goal would be to contribute to making decisions determining the futures of the three buildings – middle school, senior center and community center – that were included in the recent \$57 million project that was shot down.

"There's still a need there for all of those items," he said. "I would be an advocate for initiating that whole system back up again."

Additionally, Ringo said he hopes to see more economic and commercial growth in Colchester – what he feels the board needs to focus on in order to "take the burden off of homeowners." In addition to his capacity as a town volunteer, Ringo also dabbles in several capacities outside of Town Hall including working full-time at East Hampton High School as a building substitute, part-time as a music teacher at Franklin Academy in East Haddam, and also offering private piano and voice lessons. On the side, Ringo also works at Portland West Golf Course in Portland. He's also a former small business owner of a financial services industry responsible for mortgages, commercial and residential loans. He and his wife Cheryl have a son, Brett, and daughter Sarah.

A recent addition to the finance board, **Bill Curran** is also seeking the two-year term seat

after being appointed in July to fill a vacancy left by Cathy Pompei. Though only serving on the board for about two months, Curran said he's learned quite a lot already and hopes that can continue.

Specifically, Curran said his role on the finance board gave him a "much better understanding" regarding the heavy price tag of the building project that recently failed. Though he said he understood why taxpayers were concerned with the cost, Curran said his stance on the project "basically changed" and he realized a need for it after learning more about the numbers behind the project cost. Additionally, Curran said being seated on the board made him realize "how well-run this town really is."



Bill Curran

Curran holds a baccalaureate degree in management and a master's degree in industrial technology lean systems, both from Central Connecticut State University. Professionally, Curran is an Eastern regional process improvement manager at TW Medals in Agawam, Mass. There, in the manufacturing industry, Curran is responsible for coming up with solutions to processes. He said this has equipped him with critical thinking skills that he'd like to use to come up with streamlining the budgetary process.

Of his choice to serve on the finance board, Curran said he formerly felt if he was "going to sit here and complain about the tax situation in the town I better get involved and find out what's going on."

Curran moved to Colchester almost four years ago with his wife Anne after looking hard for a place to move after living in Manchester for 30 years. Now settled in at Northwoods, Curran said Colchester is the "perfect place."

"The house, the community and Colchester itself – we just love it here," he said.

Curran also has two daughters, Kristine and MariElizabeth, and four grandchildren.

Elections will be held Nov. 5.

Colchester Town Boards Discuss Referendum Failure, Future

by Melissa Roberto

In Wednesday's tri-board meeting, the boards of selectmen, finance and education began to digest the bold defeat of the William J. Johnston Middle School (WJJMS)/Senior/Community Center project at referendum.

The three boards admitted the message of the Oct. 1 referendum was "loud and clear" from voters. The project that was proposed to renovate and add to the existing middle school and house a senior center and community center was shot down by a 1,993-693 tally. And based on the discussion, it looks like the boards' first steps are to receive public input about the project that failed, and reconvene in December with their findings.

Opinions were voiced about the current needs at all three respective buildings, as well as ideas of where to go from here. At the start of the meeting, First Selectman Gregg Schuster explained if a new project was going to go out to voters this year, it'd need to meet a June 30, 2014, deadline in order to meet the state Department of Education application deadline for school construction reimbursement. The boards came to a consensus to take the idea of meeting that June deadline off the table.

"It would be a complete rush job," Schuster said. "It would be throwing something out to the voters without having much time to have a discussion to the town."

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein called it "a very aggressive timeline," and Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov added it'd be difficult for the boards to get enough information out about a new project to the public in the short amount of time, especially during another annual budget development process.

In regards to the timing, Ford said his focus was not to rush another project forward. He said he felt the next step was to seek public input.

"I think we need to do some outreach to start

with and we need to take our time," said Ford. "If we rush this it's going to fail again. We really need to understand this project, what the concerns were and we need to know the project we're putting forward is the most economic we can do."

Not rushing a project was a point the boards agreed with – but it was also made clear taking another 6-7 years to develop another wasn't the answer either.

"I would also remind everybody that slow and deliberate is what got us here today," Esteve said. "We kind of lost our way and got to a point where data and decisions got outdated."

Esteve, who is also liaison for the school board, said he didn't want to start seeing middle school students being pulled out and enrolled into magnet schools. He added that it's a "hard, cold fact" that WJJMS repairs in the short term have the possibility of becoming obsolete in a future project.

But project or not, Goldstein highlighted serious needs at the school exist and he told the finance board it can expect to see repairs included in the 2014-15 fiscal year education budget proposal.

"The immediate needs will be addressed this year," Goldstein said.

Mitch Koziol of the education board said he hoped the boards would not make "rash decisions" pertaining to the short term needs though he understood "desperate" needs of the middle school, like the need of a boiler, exist. He said immediate repairs, like a new boiler, should be integrated into the next project. Finance member Art Shilosky had similar thoughts.

"We have to incorporate what we do in the short term to go into the long term," said Shilosky.

Other town officials, like school board vice

chairman Don Kennedy and selectwoman Rosemary Coyle, stressed the other two-thirds of the project, a senior center and community center, cannot be forgotten.

Coyle highlighted needs of the current senior center on Norwich Avenue which include a building that's too "small" and isn't handicapped-accessible.

"We can make it look appropriate but we really don't have a facility that attracts not only the seniors that go to it now but the younger seniors," said Coyle.

Schuster said he does not see the needs of a senior center or community center going away. He said there are "so many options" for a senior center. These options included buying an existing building in town and renovating it, building on town-owned land, or building on land not owned by the town.

"The key is to figure out what the community and seniors and youth are going to find acceptable," the first selectman said.

Ford explained an operations committee – formed earlier this year by himself and selectman Stan Soby – is currently trying to find ways to move forward. The committee is made up of members of the finance and selectmen boards, as well as the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees who own the senior center and Old Bacon Academy. Ford expects the committee to report on its ideas in the next month.

Additionally, Tarlov explained long-term needs including repair and maintenance at all school and town buildings are currently being identified by Director of Educational Operations Ken Jackson and Public Works Director Jim Paggioli. The finance board expects a report from both in January.

"That will give us a much clearer picture of what we're looking at in terms of needs and

financing ahead of time," Tarlov said.

With community outreach as the next step, members came up with ideas to obtain information from voters. Coyle suggested putting a comment box at the polls on Election Day. Esteve offered up the idea of looking at the demographics of the Oct. 1 referendum data to show who came out and voted, he said.

The tri-board meeting also touched upon what unknowns still stand. Members questioned if the building committee still exists, and if the same architect would continue to work with the town if another project was put forward in the future. Member of the building committee Pam Scheibelein seated in the audience spoke of her confusion.

"For myself personally I feel like I'm in limbo," she said. "I think [the building committee members] deserve from the board of selectmen since you appointed us to make a decision whether we're still a committee or we aren't."

Schuster said by town charter he believes a town meeting would need to occur to vote to disband the committee because it was initially formed by a town meeting. Coyle said she disagreed and feels the committee's work has been completed. She requested a legal opinion to figure it out.

Members of the audience spoke in response to the meeting. Building Committee member Paul Picard said he'd be interested in serving on a committee in the future. Resident Tearice Peters suggested separating all three buildings in the future and providing options to the public. Another citizen requested the boards take to social media to reach the public.

* * *

The next tri-board meeting to discuss issues in the town is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 11.

Colchester Tax Collector Loses Annual Salary

by Melissa Roberto

In the midst of the tax collector's office facing changes in recent weeks, a unanimous vote taken by the Board of Selectmen at a special meeting last week determined that Tax Collector Tricia Coblentz will no longer be paid an annual salary.

According to the meeting minutes posted on the town website, the board "moved that having exhausted all available paid leave time under the Town's Personnel Policies, to prorate the pay of the Tax Collector, Tricia Coblentz, based upon the number of hours she works each week in relation to a 35 hour full-time schedule." The town attorney Pat McHale and Chairman of the Board of Finance Rob Tarlov were present at the meeting.

The pay change – which will go from a \$60,819 salary to an amount Schuster would not disclose Tuesday – went into effect immediately starting with the next pay period. This news also comes on the heels of a July *Rivereast* story that reported Coblentz had not declared improvements to her home, failing to take out the proper building permits. In August, Building Official Tim York confirmed Coblentz took out the permits needed.

The wiping of Coblentz's salary came during a time of change in the tax collector's office. According to Schuster, a staffing shortage has existed in recent weeks within the office. He said this was the result of planned and unplanned absences from one employee, who he acknowledged as Coblentz. This also resulted

in the tax office being closed during times it was supposed to be open.

Schuster confirmed he hired a Connecticut certified tax collector, Mike DesRoches, to temporarily work in the tax office when needed due to the staffing shortage. A supplemental appropriation of \$2,500 from the general fund balance to the tax collector payroll line item – which covers payroll for all employees in the department – was recommended by the selectmen and approved 4-1 by the Board of Finance in its Oct. 2 meeting. Schuster confirmed the appropriation was to pay DesRoches for his time working in the office as needed. DesRoches' end date has not yet been determined.

Tarlov, the only finance member in opposition of the vote, said he opposed it because he didn't feel a "special appropriation" was necessary.

"I didn't feel it was necessary to appropriate out of fund balance when there was other available money," said Tarlov, highlighting available money in the budget like the salary of former executive assistant to the first selectman, Derrik Kennedy, who recently accepted a position elsewhere.

Tax Assessor John Chaponis who works closely with the tax collector's office said he was "very pleased" with the addition of DesRoches.

"Colchester is extremely lucky to have some-

one of Mike DesRoches' caliber," Chaponis said. "In addition to being a certified public accountant and a Connecticut certified tax collector, Mike is extremely proficient with the specialized software utilized by Colchester's assessor and collector's offices so he comes right in and is ready to help out immediately."

Due to the subject being a personnel matter, Schuster said he could not comment further on Coblentz's situation. This week, Coblentz said she's been on Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) in the last month, due to an illness. However, she explained she wasn't "100 percent" out of the office, and has come into work when she could.

Specifically Coblentz said her illness coupled with the ongoing "severe" illness of her daughter – that, she added, the town is aware of – made it difficult for her to come to work. Coblentz added when she is not in the office she's been working from home and feels the work is being completed.

"I've been in touch with the office," Coblentz said. "The work is still continuing to be done... And it's still holding strong."

The tax collector furthered the office had already been understaffed. A part-time position in the department that had been vacant was cut altogether from the 2013-14 fiscal year budget.

"We don't have the proper staffing anyway even when I'm there," she explained. "I have one full time employee and if you take a poll of

all of the different offices we're the one that has the least staff."

Coblentz added she feels the recent hiring of DesRoches is "great."

In regards to the removal of her salary, Coblentz said she feels the selectmen "had no authority" to do that.

"I don't see anywhere in the charter or personnel policy where they're authorized to do that," she said.

Additionally, Democratic Town Committee Chairwoman Dorothy Mrowka confirmed this week Coblentz recently resigned from the committee.

"It was a personal decision," said Mrowka. "I don't know why she resigned. We accepted her decision to resign and sent a letter thanking her for the support of the town committee."

Coblentz spoke of her decision to resign from the DTC.

"I've met a few great people there who try to make the committee work, but overall I don't think people are able to express themselves," she said. "I don't like to be labeled in a box as a group."

In regards to Schuster's initial concerns due to an understaffed tax collector's office, he said this week he hopes the supplemental appropriation and other actions the Board of Selectmen took will allow for the office to be appropriately staffed and running during all of the business hours.

Hebron Couple Celebrates 75 Years of Marriage

by Geeta Schrayter

On Oct. 15, 1938, a young couple stood together and said their “I do”’s in the Good Shepherd Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. This weekend, that same couple will be celebrating 75 years of marriage by renewing their vows at Church of the Holy Family in Hebron.

Fred and Helen Ueberacher first met when they worked at the Western Union Telegraph Company in New York.

“He was my boss,” Helen laughed when asked how they met; she was a typist and he was head of the department. The couple was together for a little over a year before they married – and that was a move not everyone was initially pleased with.

When the time came to ask for Helen’s hand in marriage, Fred took her parents on a picnic and told them about his intentions. But at first, they weren’t thrilled with the idea.

“They didn’t react all too good because I was catholic and he was protestant,” Helen explained. “They thought it wouldn’t last.”

But the couple went through with the marriage and eventually, as they remained together year after year “my parents finally came around,” Helen explained.

And the two of them continued to stick together, living a full life and raising two children, Lynn and Steve, in Brewster N.Y., before retiring in St. Petersburg, Fla., for 18 years of warm weather, golfing and dancing.

Helen said the two of them liked to go dancing together rather regularly, and Fred could be found golfing every Monday. Just before the

duo moved to Hebron to live with their daughter and son-in-law, Lynn and Bob Coffey, five years ago, Fred even made a hole-in-one, something he was quite happy about.

As far as what the couple enjoys about each other, Fred said he was a fan of Helen’s cooking, particularly her potato pancakes; other items she was known to make over the years were chicken meatballs and apple brown betty.

For Helen, it was Fred’s fathering skills she found endearing.

“He was a good father, he took care of the kids,” she said, to which Fred laughed in return “now the kids are taking care of us!”

For the two of them, staying together all these years could be mainly attributed to one thing: respect.

“We get along,” said Fred. “We respect each other. We talk things over before deciding.”

“We always got along,” added Helen. “We never had no problems.”

The two said it was also important to compromise with one another.

This week, their daughter added things were different when her parents got married, and focused more on the family and working together.

“They supported each other and supported the family,” she said. “It was really kind of different. These days, people just seem to focus on themselves. It was a whole different time.”

Lynn Coffey added her parents had always been there for their children, providing a stable, value-filled upbringing – and they were always there for each other, too. She added words



This weekend, residents Fred and Helen Ueberacher will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary. At left is the two while still in their dating phase, in the summer of 1937. Years later, they moved to Florida, seen at right, before eventually coming to live with their daughter and son-in-law in Hebron.

weren’t always necessary with her parents, because their actions spoke louder.

“Support was there for what the other person needed without a big demonstration of it,” she said. “They didn’t have to say a lot of words, the actions were always there.”

And on Saturday, the actions will be there once again as the couple, who will also be celebrating their 100th birthdays this winter, renew their vows during a family get-together and Mass at Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., at 5 p.m.

Hebron’s Bond Rating Goes Up

by Geeta Schrayter

Hebron’s been upgraded. Earlier this week, Standard & Poor’s Rating Services announced the town’s bond rating had been raised from ‘AA’ to ‘AAA’ – the highest rating available.

According to Standard & Poor’s guide *Understanding Ratings*, the ratings are “opinions about relative credit risk” and the ability of an issuer – in this case the Town of Hebron – to meet its financial obligations.

The ratings are usually in letter form, ranging from ‘AAA’ to ‘D’ and are based on the assessment of different factors.

Factors considered in Hebron’s assessment included the town’s economy, which S&P called “very strong,” as well as the town’s budgetary flexibility which was also deemed “very strong,” and budgetary performance.

“Hebron’s budgetary performance has been strong overall, in our view, with surpluses of .9 percent for the general fund in fiscal 2012 and 2 percent in total government funds,” S&P wrote in their rationale for the rating.

In addition, S&P wrote the town had strong management conditions with “good financial practices.”

In a release sent out by S&P, credit analyst

Hilary Sutton said the rating “reflects Hebron’s very strong budgetary flexibility, strong budgetary performance, and very strong liquidity.”

Town Manager Andy Tierney said receiving the upgrade was “a pleasure to see.”

“We just keep getting great news,” he said, explaining the rating was due in part to some of the debts in town coming off the books and tax collections remaining consistent.

“What this means for the town is when we go out to finance a new project we’ll be saving money because we really have the best bond rating, so we can get a lower interest rate,” he said.

And, Tierney added, continuing with good management practices meant trying to keep town debt level. He explained it wasn’t necessarily good to pay the town’s debt off completely and cause a significant drop in the mill rate. If that occurred, when a large project needs to be completed in the future, adding back in a large amount of debt would cause a large spike in the mill rate.

“We try to keep it even and it makes a smoother transition from budget year to year,” he said. “We don’t want too much [debt] on

but not too much off. We’ll be adding projects as they’re prioritized and move forward to maintain some of that stability.”

Board of Finance Chairman Mike Hazel called the rating “a very good thing.”

“It shows the finances of the town are in good order and the town is managing its finances well,” he said. “I think the comments from S&P were very complimentary to staff in town, and they did a good job working with S&P to show the strengths of the community.”

Hazel said while the town wasn’t planning on taking on new debt anytime soon, the ‘AAA’ rating “would certainly make it easier” when the time came to do so.

“The higher the rating, basically the lower interest rate on debt should we issue it and the easier it is to find buyers for debt,” he explained. “Given the current fiscal situation in the country and the state, [the rating] really shows how well we’ve done in managing town finances.”

Along with the ‘AAA’ rating, Hebron was also given a stable outlook. Sutton added “the stable outlook reflects our view of Hebron’s consistent financial performance and economy, which is supported by good management.”

As a result of said outlook, S&P said they didn’t plan to revise the rating in town for the next two years “because we believe the town will maintain strong reserves and continue to participate in the broad and diverse economy of Hartford.”

Since future capital needs for the town are limited, S&P said they expect the debt profile to remain strong. Additionally, even with a challenging economy, S&P said “Hebron’s unemployment remains low and tax collections remain stable.”

Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman Mark Stuart called the rating “fantastic” and commented on S&P’s decision not to review the rating for a couple of years.

“An agency is only going to do that if they really believe in the creditworthiness of the municipality or company they’re reviewing,” he said. “We pay attention to the money. So when the subset of voters say we’re being foolish, wasting money, not being transparent or fiscally prudent or taxpayers are not getting value for their dollars, I say ‘Go look at the report.’ They wouldn’t have [raised the rating] if we weren’t following the rules.”

Three Finance Candidates for Three Seats in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

Three candidates are running for seats on the Board of Finance this year, and with three seats available, all of them will achieve their goal.

Incumbent member **Malcolm Leichter**, a Democrat, will be heading into his third term. He holds a master of science in instructional media, spent eight years as a teacher, then worked in the private industry. He spent 15 years working with IBM where he was responsible for about a \$3.5 million budget, followed by another 15 years working as the director of business and technology with Lebanon Public Schools.

There, he said, "I had the opportunity to be on the other side of the table and have to prepare budgets, present budgets and defend budgets as well as manage the wants and needs of the public school system while having a very, very fiscally tight budget."

His financial experience has only continued to grow with the eight years he's already spent on the finance board. In addition, he explained he's been liaison to the selectmen for the past six years, which has afforded him "a lot of insight as to what comes across their desks every day and what some of the fiscal responsibilities will be for the town down the road."



Malcolm Leichter

Leichter said he wanted to continue to serve on the board because he wanted to help keep the town affordable for residents – including his wife and himself. He has been a resident since 1974 and raised his two daughters in town with this wife Maryanne.

"My hopes are that we can keep the people of Hebron in Hebron," he said. Now that he's retired, Leichter explained he understands how difficult it can be to keep up with the growth in taxes in town.

"Many seniors have, and are, moving out of Hebron because they just can't live a lifestyle

here that their income supports," he said. "There are those that can, too, I don't want to say that every senior has to move out but my wife and I spent our entire married life in Hebron and this is where we've retired and this is where we want to stay."

Leichter said he thought he could help make that happen, due in part to his years of experience with municipal finance and the year's he's already been involved with Hebron's finances.

"I think we've got to make some changes where we make it more affordable for people to live and to stay in Hebron, and I think I can do that," he said.

As far as what needs to be changed or focused on, Leichter said the board should continue on with what the selectmen have already done, in taking all town requests, prioritizing services and determining if the requests are "needs" or "wants" and putting them all on a timeline.

"Right now things can come up that are hot on somebody's mind and all of a sudden we need to do it," he explained, but "we can't continue operating in that respect. We need to have a more planned, systematic schedule."

Leichter added that when large projects are undertaken, financing for maintaining those projects needs to be considered as well. He used Burnt Hill Park as an example. While an "overwhelming majority" of voters were in favor of the park, the town has been unable to budget for adequate park maintenance "because people won't pass the budget."

"I understand things are tight but we can't invest money in a large degree as we did in the parks and then not maintain them to the quality we need to."

In addition to Leichter, two newcomers will be joining the board: Republicans **Terrence**



Terrence Piggott

Piggott and Henry Sawicki.

Piggott and his wife raised their two sons in town and have called Hebron home since 1977. This week he explained he's worked in the car business since 1971, managing different dealerships. He currently sits on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Piggott said he decided to run for the Board of Finance because "I love the town, I've been here for quite some time and I'd like to see the needs of the town taken care of."

However, he went on to say he knew a lot of people in town were worried about taxes.

"So what I'd like to do, is while still providing for the town, keep the taxes where they are or in check as best as we can," he said.

At this point Piggott said he wasn't familiar enough with the details of the town budget to say exactly what areas might need to be changed, but he added the current board has done "a pretty good job."

"The town is going along good," he said. "I just want to keep it going and keep taxes in check."

But for Sawicki, who has lived in town for



Henry Sawicki

10 years, has worked with various Fortune 500 companies over the years and is currently on the Zoning Board of Appeals, some changes need to occur with the school budget.

Sawicki said he was running because he wanted "to get more fiscal responsibility in town."

"Mainly, we're spending too much on the schools with enrollment going down more and more and every year [the budget] keeps going up," he stated, and called that "the main thing."

"We've got to bring it in line with enrollment."

Sawicki said he felt the town "needs to spend a little bit more on other things other than the school."

"The town's been lacking in getting money for a lot of things because it just wasn't available," he stated.

Sawicki went on to say the town "does fine," but reiterated he felt it was the schools that needed some work, both in their transparency and the size of their budget.

"I'm trying to get some fiscal responsibility back," he said.

And with his seat guaranteed along with that of Leichter and Piggot, he'll have four years to try and make that happen.

Voting will take place Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.

East Hampton Police News

10/5: Michael P. Affinito, 22, of 30 Barbara Ave., was involved in a one-car motor vehicle accident in the area of 134 Mott Hill Rd., when he lost control of his vehicle and hit a tree, East Hampton Police said. Affinito was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to drive right, misuse of plates and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

10/8: Police responded to a Colchester Avenue address for a report of a disturbance. Upon arrival, officers found John Forbes IV, 26, of 205 West High St., on the property. Forbes attempted to flee on his motorcycle, police said, but ultimately lost control of his motorcycle and was immediately taken into custody. Forbes was arrested for violation a protective order, disorderly conduct, operating under the influence and operating under suspension, police said.

10/9: Richard P. Vezina Jr., 47, of no certain address, was arrested for violation of a protective order, police said.

Marlborough Police News

10/9: State Police said Joseph Walz, 20, of 63 Lafayette Rd., was charged with interfering with an officer.

10/9: State Police said Jodie Burns, 32, of 45 South Main St., was charged with interfering with an officer.

10/11: State Police said Doris Livingstone, 79, of 4 Wells Ave., East Hampton, was traveling eastbound on Route 66 when a 16-year-old East Hampton resident entered into the eastbound lane of travel from the driveway of Bank of America and struck Livingstone's vehicle. Police said Livingstone was transported to Marlborough Clinic for evaluation/treatment. The 16-year-old and her two passengers did not report any injuries.

10/10: State Police said Calvin Whidden, 27, of 51 Silver St., Middletown, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

Colchester Police News

10/9: State Police said Leonard Bermudez, 26, of 10 Forest Dr., Uncasville, was charged with failure to respond to an infraction.

10/10: State Police said William Fick, 48, of 43 Orchard Farms Rd., was traveling on Old Hartford Road when he struck a vehicle driven by Terry Moquin, 52, of 165 John Brook Rd., Canterbury, who was attempting to turn left into Hope Hardware and Plumbing. Police said Fick was issued a summons to appear for operating a motor vehicle under a suspended license and passing on the right.

10/11: Colchester Police said Philip Sirois, 54, of 56 Allen St., Terryville, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right.

10/12: Colchester Police said Christopher

Flythe, 35, of 112 Buckley Hill Rd., was traveling southbound on Westchester Road when he turned to the right and struck a mailbox. Police said the vehicle then fled the scene. An investigation revealed that Flythe was at fault for the crash. Police issued Flythe a summons for making an improper turn and evading responsibility.

10/13: State Police said Edward J. McMahon, 18, of 28 Gillette Ln., was charged with DUI and restricted turn.

10/13: Colchester Police said at approximately 9:30 a.m. a person reported an employee of Gibbs Oil located on 299 Main St. was suspected of stealing money during their shift. The case is still under investigation.

Obituaries

Portland

Robin A. Mitchell

Robin A. Mitchell, 51, of Portland, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 9, after a long battle with cancer. She is the daughter of Alice L. and the late Richard A. Mitchell of Portland.

Besides her mother, she is survived by her son Joseph, sister Karen Rubistello, brother Scott, grandson Mason, niece Katie, brother-in-law George, her beloved Sammy Hamilton and many friends and cousins.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Portland at 11AM on Saturday, Oct. 19.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Trinity Episcopal Church Book of Remembrance, 345 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

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

Portland

Charles M. Jarzabek

Charles "Charlie" M. Jarzabek, 52, of Portland passed away Sunday, Oct. 13, at Middlesex Hospital. He is the son of Katherine "Dolores" (Maher) Jarzabek of Portland and the late Joseph F. Jarzabek Sr.



Born on Dec. 3, 1960, in Hartford, he has lived in Portland for the last 50 years. He worked as an animal control officer for the Town of Portland for over 24 years. He was a member of the Middlesex Historical Society, the Gettysburg Foundation and he loved collecting memorabilia from the Battle of Gettysburg.

Besides his mother, he leaves his brother, John W. Jarzabek of Portland; a sister, Tricia Hasselman of Glastonbury; two nephews, Joseph Jarzabek III and his wife, Shawna and Brian Hasselman; and niece, Holli Jarzabek.

He was predeceased by a brother, Joseph F. Jarzabek Jr and a nephew, John W. Jarzabek Jr.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Oct. 19, with a Mass at 11 a.m. at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends may pay their respects on Saturday at the church from 10 a.m. until the Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Gettysburg Foundation Membership, 1195 Baltimore Pike, Gettysburg, Page 1 of 6 17325.

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

East Hampton

Barbara Gorin

Barbara (McKinstry) Gorin, 92, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 9. She was born and raised in Tracy, where she was known as Babs, and was involved with many sports including diving, basketball, and softball.

Her family summered at Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton, where she met and fell in love with Harrison Gorin. They were married in Meriden on July 6, 1944, and following Harrison's return from military service in the Pacific built a home and business together in East Hampton.

In addition to being a devoted wife and loving mother to her two children, Barbara was an avid baseball fan, first following the Brooklyn Dodgers, and later the Boston Red Sox. She was also a fan of UConn women's basketball, and loved spending time at the beach.

After her husband's passing in 1981, Barbara shared her home with her beloved sister, best friend and constant companion Mabel. Together they spent winters in Florida and many summers in Cape Cod.

In addition to her husband, and sister Mabel, Barbara was predeceased by her brothers George and Elwyn, and sister Fern Vass.

She is survived by her son Dr. Thomas Gorin and his wife Ginnie of Storrs, and daughter Jacquelyn Gorin and her husband Jason Martin of Glastonbury. She also leaves three grandchildren of whom she was very proud, Daniel Gorin and his wife Henny, Dr. Amy Gorin and her husband Stephan Stacey, and Tim Gorin and his girlfriend Leif Rawson-Ahern; five great-grandchildren, Nate and Jade Gorin, and Owen, Griffin and Phoebe Stacey; and many nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank the staffs of One MacDonough Place and Mansfield Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation for their kind and compassionate care for Barbara over the past several years.

Friends called Tuesday, Oct. 15, from 6-8 p.m., at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial was Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 10 a.m., in the family plot in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The March of Dimes, 500 Winding Brook Dr., Suite 8, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Amston

Dorothy Rita Whiteley

Died Oct. 12. Dorothy Rita, (Duffey), (Sunshine in Face) Whiteley, of Amston and formerly of Plainfield, has started her journey across the Rainbow Bridge, to join her many pets and family who crossed before her, on her way to the Creator.

Dorothy was predeceased by her parents, Edward and Eva (Couture) Dufault, as well as her five siblings, sister, Marie Phillips, and brothers, Kenneth, Donald, Arthur and Herman. Dorothy was also predeceased by her last husband, John, (Jack) Whiteley.

Born in Plainfield, Dorothy spent her childhood on the small family farm, where she developed a love for all animals. Throughout her life, she rescued many animals, keeping them safe till they crossed the bridge. What a great reunion she and they will share.

Dorothy is survived by her daughter, Edwina Carole Kovacs and husband Michael of Amston, with whom she lived for the last 32 years. She leaves a son, Donald Mazzucchi and wife, Susan of Cape Cod, Mass. Also surviving is her grandson, William Pulver, Wind Walker and his fiancée, Patty, Flying Bear Rose, also of Amston. She is survived by many other cousins, nieces, nephews, a much loved sister-in-law, Joyce Dufault of Rhode Island. She also cared a great deal for Raymond and Lynne Laberge and Mark Laberge.

Dorothy and her very best friend, Alice Miles, and husband Bill spent many wonderful days at tag sales and the Hebron doll shows, run by their friend, Ann Ives. Dorothy received a diploma from Doll Hospital of Los Angeles, and went on to repair many antique dolls. She also made repros., which were sold at the doll shows or gifted to family and friends. Dorothy restored and dressed dolls and toys which were then donated to the Northeast Action Committee for children in need at Christmas time.

Dorothy was a superb seamstress, making clothes or repairing them for many family and friends, as well as dresses for antique dolls. She made fantastic, crazy quilts, some of which were purchased by Ella Grasso. Dorothy felt very honored to have made quilts for Ella.

Dorothy was a hard worker. She always held down two jobs, days in factories and nights in restaurants. She worked in the Royal Robes as a young woman, at Kaman Aircraft, at Joe's Diner, Johnny's Grill and as a cook and waitress at Melody Inn. Interestingly, when Melody Inn was known as the Dragon Hotel, her grandmother was the cook there. She also loved selling poppies and would bug people until they bought at least one.

Dorothy had many health issues over the years. She was a two-time cancer survivor, she had three heart bypasses, three strokes, sarcoidosis, diabetes and a pacemaker. But her greatest challenge was Parkinson's disease. Through it all, she remained strong and fought each fight with quiet dignity, strength and determination until she finally could fight no longer.

Dorothy will be eternally missed by all who knew her, but most of all, she will be missed terribly by the family dogs, Midnight Angel and Mata Hauri Samuel.

Mother always asked for people to give her flowers while she lived and hoped that after she crossed, people would donate the flower money to her favorite charity. As a final gesture of love, it is hoped that donations in her memory be made to the Americas Basenji Rescue, c/o Keath Rhymer, 2589 S. Roena St., Indianapolis, IN 46241. Donations are tax-deductible. Please mention mom's name, and Keath will say prayers for her and you.

Friends and family attended calling hours Tuesday, Oct. 15, at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral day began Wednesday, Oct. 16, at the funeral home, and processed to the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron for the celebration of the funeral liturgy. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery in Plainfield.

To share online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Angela P. Doyle

Angela P. Doyle, formerly of Norwich, died Friday, Oct. 11, in Colchester. She was born in Meriden, the daughter of the late Casmir and Anna (Jez) Pyrek.

As a young woman, Angela was living in Meriden before she was admitted to Uncas on Thames Hospital to be treated for tuberculosis. She recovered from the disease but never left Norwich.

She met her husband Henry Doyle, who was also a patient at the hospital; they were married and settled in Norwich. She was recruited by the hospital to train to be a practical nurse. She completed schooling and worked at the hospital for 25 years, until her retirement in 1971. She was a member of the Connecticut State Employees Association for many years.

She is survived by her son, Thomas D. Doyle and wife Joy of Newport, Maine.

She was predeceased by her husband, Henry Doyle, in 1980.

Her family would like to express their sincere appreciation and gratitude to the staff at Harrington Court for the many years of outstanding care they provided and also to Hospice for their guidance, care and support.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, Oct. 16, at the Woyasz & Son Funeral Home, 141 Central Ave., Norwich. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery. There were no calling hours.

Hebron

Peter J. Sylvester

Peter J. Sylvester, 51, of Hebron, beloved husband of Gayle (Greenburg) Sylvester, died Thursday, Oct. 10, at Windham Hospital. Born Jan. 11, 1962, in Hartford, son of the late Raphael and Marjorie (Bagot) Sylvester, he was raised in South Glastonbury and had lived in Hebron for the past 20 years.

Peter was a master carpenter and mechanic, an avid hunter and fisherman and a hand crafter of homemade bows. Most recently he was a carpenter for Allied Construction in Manchester.

Besides his wife, who he referred to as his best friend, he is survived by a daughter, Shannon Sylvester, and a son Nicholas Sylvester both of Hebron; three brothers, Paul Sylvester of Manchester, Raphael (Bud) Sylvester of East Hampton, Michael Sylvester of Manchester; two sisters, Gina Wetzel of Lebanon, Mary Sullivan of Florida; a brother-in-law Gary Greenburg of Newton, Mass.; a sister-in-law Jennifer McPherson of Southington; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Monday, Oct. 14, in Gilead Congregational Church, Hebron. Burial followed in Gilead Cemetery. Friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, on Sunday, Oct. 13.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., Rocky Hill, CT. 06067.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

Portland

Gloria D. Goding

Gloria D. Goding, 80, of Summer Street in Portland, wife of the late Harold Goding, died Tuesday, Oct. 15, at Middlesex Hospital. Born April 29, 1933, in Middletown, daughter of the late Domenick and Beatrice (Magnano) Daniels. Gloria had been a resident of Portland most of her life.

She is survived by her loving family, three sons and daughters-in-law: Ray and Mickey Hale of Middletown, Thomas and Laura Hale of Rocky Hill, Daniel and Cindy Hale of Middletown; a daughter, Kathleen Backman of Middletown; a brother, Domenick Daniels of Westbrook; eight grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Gloria was predeceased by her son, Randy Hale, and a brother, Sebastian Daniels.

The funeral will be held Saturday, Oct. 19, at 9:30 a.m., in the Coughlin-Lastrina Funeral Home, 491 High St., Middletown. Burial will be in the family plot in St. Sebastian Cemetery, Middlefield. Friends may call at the funeral home Saturday morning from 8:30 a.m. until the time of the service.

Those who wish may make memorial donations to the Middlesex Hospice Unit, c/o Development Office, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Portland

Claude Ronald Tarrant

Claude Ronald Tarrant, 75, of Groton, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer Monday, Sept. 30, surrounded by family. Ron, as he was known to most, was born in Portland, on Feb. 10, 1938, the youngest of seven children, to William Porter and Helen Hodge. He was adopted by Dr. John Tarrant in 1945, when his mother remarried.

He married the love of his life, Donna, in February 1976. She predeceased him May 12, 2012.

Ron served in the U.S. Air Force from 1955-59, receiving an honorable discharge. He held several jobs over his lifetime. He worked at the Naval Underwater Sound Lab as a security guard for seven years, even training at Smith & Wesson Academy, where he received sharpshooter status. He then worked for Pfizer for 18 years as a chemical operator, retiring from Pfizer in 1988.

However, retirement was not for him. He then became director of maintenance at Days Inn in Mystic, receiving the Employee of the Year award in 1991. He worked as maintenance supervisor for several apartment complexes for about 20 years, and many tenants looked to him as a father figure. He last worked at the Crystal Mall as a security guard.

He was an excellent carpenter, building such things as extra shelving for his wife's shoes, an outdoor playhouse for his grandchildren, and, just weeks before he died, a beautiful three-foot model boat he designed himself.

His children and grandchildren will forever remember his stories of Ooey, Gooye and Louie and how Noank got its name. He loved being outside, whether raking leaves or detailing his car.

Ron, also known as Pa, Papa and Harry, is survived by four step-children, whom he called his own, Kathryn Brown-Tracy (Alan), Cherie Easty (Richard) and Lisa Luck, former daughter-in-law, Liz, all from Groton, and Roger Luck Jr. (Debra) of Salem; his siblings, Lenora Frazier of Portland, Charles Tarrant of Richmond, Va., and Ed Tarrant of Seattle, Wash. He also leaves behind 11 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and his Siamese cat, Moosa.

A memorial talk will take place at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Flanders Road, Mystic. Burial will be at a later date.

East Hampton

Darlene Lydia Durgan

Darlene Lydia Durgan, 46, of Middletown, beloved daughter of Carlton and Sandra (Tourletotte) Durgan of Cobalt died Sunday, Oct. 13, at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Born Nov. 19, 1966, in Middletown she had grown up in East Hampton and was a graduate of Vinal Tech High School where she had been a member of VICA and a cheerleader. Darlene had worked at Liberty Bank for 15 years and then for Pratt & Whitney for the past 12 years. She was an avid race fan, especially NASCAR, and she had traveled to Honduras twice with the Heifer International Program through the Haddam Congregational Church.

Besides her parents she is survived by her long-time loving companion Daniel Evarts; her sisters, Dianne Durgan of East Hampton, Debra Wilmes and her husband Michael of Rocky Hill; a brother-in-law, John Sobolewski of Cobalt; godparents, Dee and Bob Durgan of Ellington; nieces and nephew, Alicia Wilmes, Craig, Jenna and Jackie Sobolewski; also many aunts uncles, cousins, friends and her two beloved kittys, Eva and Molly.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Thursday, Oct. 17. Funeral services will be held today, Oct. 18, at 11 a.m., in the East Hampton Congregational Church, with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial will follow in Union Hill Cemetery in Middle Haddam.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Susan B. Koman Breast Cancer Fund, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX 75265.

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