

RIVEREAST

## News Bulletin

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**What's This?... Colchester residents Bill Daugherty and Mark Pappalardo woke up to this depressing scene outside their Boretz Road home last Monday, Dec. 30. Their holiday decorations had been vandalized – again. To find out what specifically was destroyed, see the story on page 24.**

## Authentic Filipino Dinner to Aid Typhoon Victims

by Melissa Roberto

On Nov. 8, 2013, the central Philippines were struck by Typhoon Haiyan – one of the strongest tropical storms to ever make landfall.

This typhoon caused catastrophic damage to the people of the Philippines, displacing over four million people, destroying over 1 million homes and taking the lives of at least 6,000 – a death toll that is still rising, according to the United States Agency for International Development (U.S. AID) website, [usaid.gov](http://usaid.gov).

And although it's half a world away, in recent months national organizations have reacted to the typhoon as they have in past devastations whether domestic or international – raising funds to aid the victims.

On a local level, the Freemasons of East Hampton's Anchor Lodge No. 112 are no different. The masons are holding a Philippines Typhoon Relief Fundraising Dinner open to the public this Saturday, Jan. 11, from 6-10 p.m. at the Marlborough Moose Club, 303 South Main St., Marlborough.

However, this fundraising dinner is unique not only because of its purpose, but also because of the authentic Filipino experience it will

offer. Thanks to two masons, Martin Valencia and Rene Villano, the menu features traditional Filipino cuisine.

Valencia and Villano are natives of the Philippines. When the idea arose for a fundraising dinner, they took the reins of the event as co-chairmen, and decided to provide a meal they will cook from scratch.

The menu features two Filipino soups, chicken noodle, and Mongo beans with pork and vegetables. A variety of Filipino entrees will be provided: the unofficial dish of the Philippines, Chicken Adobo (which is chicken marinated in a sauce of vinegar, soy sauce and garlic), as well as Palabok (Filipino rice noodles in sauce) and Four Seasons vegetables (four kinds of vegetables sautéed in sauce).

And as if your mouth isn't already watering, the savory meal also will provide a dessert of macaroons and fried spring rolls, known in the Philippines as lumpia. Coffee, soda, and a traditional Filipino drink called Sago Gulaman Cooler will also be enjoyed.

But beyond the good eats, Filipino music will

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## \$19.43 Million Portland School Budget Presented

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Board of Education received a presentation of the proposed 2014-15 budget – which features a 1.72 percent increase – at its meeting Tuesday night, but the school board has not yet approved the budget.

According to a presentation by Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen, the proposed spending plan is for a \$325,000, or 1.72 percent, increase from the current fiscal year. This year's budget was \$19.10 million.

Doyen said the budget would increase in order to continue the implementation of mandatory state initiatives, as well as to meet contract and payroll obligations.

She said, "The budget is really, in a lot of ways, a repeat of what we are doing this year because we still are under the requirements from the state for some major initiatives that we've started working on."

According to Doyen, the district will continue to focus on three main initiatives next year: the Common Core State Standards; the new state testing program (which will be implemented this spring and will require new resources); and the new teacher evaluation system (which is being piloted this year by select staff members, but next year everyone will be evaluated that way).

"Those three initiatives are the areas we've been really working on for the past couple of years. We've focused on them this year and we're going to be focusing on them again next year," Doyen said. "Most of the other items [in the budget] are really maintenance."

The proposed budget also includes a request for additional staffing: one special education

paraprofessional; one half-time behavior analyst; and one half-time math teacher at the high school. The request would be partially offset by a retiring staff member who will not be replaced.

The budget summary shows that the budget for "salaries" would increase by about \$7,900, from this year's approximately \$11.85 million, and that would include the additional staffing mentioned above, as well as an increase in the athletic director's stipend.

Doyen reminded the board of the importance of a salary budget increase, as "we are a people-driven enterprise. Our success depends on the people that we have at our schools," she said.

She added that retirement numbers are up. "We're seeing more retirements," she said. "When certified staff retires they do get a partial payout for some of their accumulated sick leave."

Even so, retirements save the district money. "When we replace people," Doyen explained, "it's always at a lower amount. So we take that difference out of the budget for the next year."

Doyen said the "benefits" line – which includes health insurance – will increase by approximately 8 percent next year, which she called "a substantial jump." That jump is from about \$3.62 million to \$3.91 million. She affirmed that the benefits line accounts for Portland's biggest overall salary increase, and that the figure is based on patterns from prior years and the knowledge that adding staff means adding benefits.

However, cost savings factored into the proposed budget, too. For example, there is a decrease in the "technology hardware and soft-

ware" line item because Portland was recently awarded a \$256,000 technology grant from the state.

"A lot of the [technology] needs that we have in the district will be met by that grant," Doyen said. "It's wonderful and it's helping us tremendously with next year's budget."

For example, the budget goals include the completion of the fiber optics communication network throughout the school district and the town. While the installment is currently underway, Doyen anticipates it will be completed next year. She called the installment a "really tremendous upgrade."

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Donna Mingrone elaborated on other technology needs.

"We are currently in the process of getting wi-fi at Gildersleeve School," she said, adding that the middle and high schools campus will be getting "high-density wi-fi" that will also be available to guests and may extend out into the athletic fields.

Essentially, the high-density wi-fi would provide a "secure" wi-fi – something, Mingrone said, the campus currently lacks.

Another part of the technology grant will go toward replacing old computers "so that we have updated equipment for the [state] testing," Mingrone said.

"It's a good thing we got the grant money," she said. "I'm trying to spread it as far as I can."

Relating the budget back to the schools themselves, the principals of each Portland school made individual presentations to the board.

Valley View Principal Deborah Graner said the goals of the budget reflect ways to "improve

and strengthen the skills of the students," as well as ways to "support teacher success."

She said that "many of our dollars are spent" to align the curriculum to one that matches the Common Core State Standards.

"The curriculum ought to drive your budget," she furthered.

The proposed Valley View budget for next year is approximately \$68,000.

Graner said she expects an enrollment of 312 students for next year, a decrease from the current year, and budgeted accordingly in terms of staffing.

One big budgetary change at Valley View is a \$15,900 decrease from this year's approximately \$45,000 for general supplies because classrooms are still "well-stocked" from this year, Graner said.

Gildersleeve Principal Eileen Katz said her school, too, will also see a "decreasing population" – resulting in a total of 186 students at the school – next year, resulting in about \$32,000 needed for Gildersleeve.

For the current year, the number of third-grade classrooms was decreased from six to five. Next year, a third-grade teacher will retire so one of six fourth-grade teachers may be moving to a third-grade position, leaving five third-grade classrooms and five fourth-grade classrooms for next year, Katz explained.

Katz said the focuses for next year are to continue to work on the Common Core, the new teacher evaluation and the Smarter Balanced Assessment, which is a fully online assessment.

Brownstone Intermediate School Principal Laurie Boske said her enrollment numbers have

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**Filipino Dinner cont. from Front Page**  
be played, and slides and videos of culture in the Philippines will depict just what life on the islands is all about.

“The event is not only about the devastation,” said Valencia, “but also the good things about the Philippines.”

The cost for the event – which will also feature a teacup auction with prizes to be won – is \$20, and 100 percent of the net proceeds will go to aid victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

Valencia pointed out the recent devastation has of course made many aware of what the people of the Philippines are experiencing – but beyond that, he said, Filipino pride still remains

strong.

“Life has to go on in the Philippines,” he said, adding that his own family members and friends – all survivors – were affected by the typhoon.

Freemason and past master of the Anchor Lodge Richard Denno said he anticipates the evening will be full of fun.

“We’re really looking forward to this,” Denno said. “We’re hoping to make a nice donation and also to increase awareness.”

The Jan. 11 dinner is open to everyone. For reservations, email [toursone@comcast.net](mailto:toursone@comcast.net) or call 860-508-3787.

### School Budget cont. from Front Page

gone down, too, but only minimally. This year, the school has 225 students; next year, that number will go down to 216.

Brownstone’s proposed budget for next year comes in at around \$37,000.

This year, the sixth-grade staff at BIS was decreased from six to five. There will be three retirees in BIS for next year: a classroom teacher, paraprofessional and a special education teacher.

“We are looking to replace all of those at this point,” she said.

Her budget for next year is “pretty much the same, maybe a little bit less,” she said.

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For the district as a whole, the cost of heating is projected to decrease because all the schools are now equipped with natural gas.

“We’re increasing our electric rates based on projections from the electric company, but we also decreased somewhat our natural gas rates,” Doyen said. “Next year everything in the district will be on natural gas.”

However the budget for gasoline is up for next year because “gasoline is pretty unpredictable,” Doyen said.

The cost of “repairs and maintenance” is also proposed to decrease next year because the building renovations for all-day kindergarten are already completed.

“That was a one-time expense for last year,” Doyen affirmed.

In the “other services” category, transportation costs are projected to increase by 1.96 percent due to outplaced students, as the number of outplaced students has seen a pattern of increase.

The cost of this year’s “other services” was about \$438,000, and the proposed cost for next year is about \$514,000.

“Other services” also includes daily transportation, as well as transportation for athletic events and field trips.

On a related note, dues and fees increased for next year by \$4,000 (from this year’s \$58,000 to next year’s \$62,000), because of an increase in student trips.

Another expenditure next year will be the high school play, which is put on every other year. The play calls for a \$20,000 “infusion of money from the board” in order to be produced, Doyen said.

Another increase is about \$75,000 in the “purchase services” category, which Doyen called “a very eclectic line item.” This year’s “purchase services” totaled \$438,000 and next year’s proposal is for \$514,000. The category includes professional services that are contracted out – not services that are on staff – for example speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavior analyst, pest control and waste management pickup.

The other major item listed under “purchase services” for next year is the lunch program, coming in at a \$69,000 increase. The lunch program is currently contracted out but has proven to be under projection in terms of cost.

“Everybody is struggling with their lunch programs,” Doyen said. “We, as an administration this year, have done what we could do.”

Next year, the district is planning for losses in the lunch program and will be going out to bid this spring. The goal is to break even, Doyen said.

“Purchase services” also encompasses an \$80,000 cost in legal expenses including negotiations for contracts.

The Board of Education was due to meet and discuss the budget further on Thursday, after press time. The board is also slated to discuss the budget next Tuesday and, if necessary, next Thursday as well. Meeting times are 6 p.m. at the high school library.

The Board of Education must approve its budget and submit it to the first selectwoman by Friday, Jan. 31.

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

As regular readers of this column know, I’m for increased gun control. I advocated it strongly in this very space in the weeks following the horrors at Sandy Hook. I haven’t talked much about it lately, but I’m still very much in favor of it.

However, I realize not everyone feels this way, and I’m adult enough to admit things don’t have to be simply my way or the high-way. If somebody has a reasoned argument against more gun control I’d be happy to hear it. Perhaps we can meet in the middle, wage a compromise of sorts.

But I’m often reminded not everyone feels this way.

The latest such reminder came over the weekend, when I was reading a story in the *New York Times* about Dick Metcalf. Metcalf had been a columnist for *Guns & Ammo*, a magazine devoted to guns, hunting and other similar topics, up until last November. Metcalf had written a column for the magazine entitled “Let’s Talk Limits,” debating gun limits. Among other things, Metcalf wrote, “The fact is, all constitutional rights are regulated, always have been, and need to be.” Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly – all have certain regulations. (For example, he wrote, a church cannot perform a human sacrifice, nor can a group of people that don’t like you gather on your front lawn without your permission.)

Metcalf took the same approach to the Second Amendment I have in the past; simply put, increased gun control does not violate the amendment. In his column, Metcalf quoted the amendment, which reads, “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

“Those last four words say ‘shall not be infringed,’” Metcalf wrote. “They do not say ‘shall not be regulated.’ ‘Well-regulated’ is, in fact, the initial criterion of the amendment itself.”

To say Metcalf’s column didn’t go over well would be an understatement. Readers threatened to cancel their subscriptions to the magazine, according to the *Times*. Some even made death threats. (I mean, really; *death threats*?) Metcalf told the *Times* two major gun manufacturers told the magazine it would no longer do business there if Metcalf were allowed to remain on staff. So, he was fired.

There’s a reason Metcalf was writing for *Guns & Ammo* to begin with. As he told the *Times*, he’s devoted nearly his entire adult life to the gun industry. He’s written for dozens of gun magazines over the years. Even the editor of *Guns & Ammo*, in a letter to readers apologizing for the column and letting them know Metcalf was sacked, wrote the man has a “long and distinguished career as a gunwriter.” Metcalf lives on a farm in Illinois, and the heads of 23 giant bucks line the walls of his shooting club.

So clearly, the man must know his guns. But now, he’s gone – and feels his gun-writing days are behind him – all because he advocated something he acknowledged not a lot of people like to think about these days: compromise.

“Compromise is a bad word these days,” Metcalf told the *Times*. “People think it means giving up your principles.”

It’s a shame, but he’s right. I’ve noticed it an awful lot lately, particularly in politics. It’s like people think it will make them look in-

credibly weak, like, as Metcalf said, they’re giving up everything they believe in. It doesn’t. It makes people look like adults, capable of living in a civilized society.

It’s not even like Metcalf was proposing anything extreme; the only specific he got into was a recently-passed requirement in Illinois mandating 16 hours of training in order for someone to get a license to carry a concealed weapon. He doesn’t consider that an infringement; I agree.

All I’ve been pushing for is an increase in common-sense gun control. I’m not looking to take guns away. It’s not an us vs. them thing – and I’m certainly not vilifying hunters. I have friends and family who have hunted for years. I just question the need to have, say, a semi-automatic assault rifle when you’re going deer-hunting. And if those can’t fall into the hands of deer hunters, maybe, just maybe, they won’t fall into the hands of somebody who is targeting a school, or a movie theater....

But, like I said, that’s just me. Other points of view are welcome. Conversation can be a very good thing. It’s too bad too many people don’t seem to want to have one these days – and it’s too bad some of those same people cost Metcalf his job as a columnist.

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Did you notice it was cold this week? (I say ‘was’ because, as of Tuesday night anyway, the weathermen are calling for Friday’s high to be a downright-balmy 41 degrees; I certainly hope they’re right.) Yeah, so did everyone else, as the “polar vortex” made a well-publicized grab of much of the United States. States as far south as Alabama and Georgia saw temperatures in the single digits. (It got so cold in Kentucky that an escaped convict decided to turn himself in, just to get out of the cold.)

And as the weather hit its coldest, stories popped up on how to.....well, if not exactly stay warm then at least ward off frostbite. NPR Monday offered some tips on its website on how to stave it off, and that included covering up your ears, fingers, toes and even nose, as all of those body parts have less blood flowing through them and take up a lot less mass than your body’s core.

(Momentarily forget to adequately cover up, though? Don’t worry – NPR said frostbite actually has an early warning sign, known as “frostnip.” This causes skin to redden and sting, and perhaps feel numb as well – and it means to seek shelter, posthaste.)

A how-to-stay-warm myth NPR helpfully debunked was drinking alcohol to warm up. It actually has the opposite effect – it can cool you faster, by dilating the blood vessels near the surface of your skin.

That little nugget made me think of an exchange an early episode of *Cheers*. This particular episode was set in the dead of winter, and Diane asked how anyone could drink a cold beer with the weather as frigid out as it was. The bar’s resident know-it-all, Cliff Clavin, explained, in his typically-convoluted way, that drinking an ice-cold beverage on a cold day results in a more comfortable body temperature.

“Alright,” a not-entirely-convinced Diane replies. “Why do you drink ice-cold beer on a hot day?”

Cliff’s response: “What else are you gonna do with it?”

\* \* \*

See you next week.



Fit-Trix Fitness Center in East Hampton is having a grand re-opening this weekend, starting today and running through Sunday. Owner Jane Traceski invites everyone to try out a class for free and get to know the instructors and members. At left are two of Fit-Trix's instructors, Diane Krajewski in a "pump pose," and Victoria Fielding in a "combat stance." At right, Krajewski leads a Hi-Lo Aerobics class this past Monday morning.



## East Hampton Fitness Center Celebrates Grand Re-Opening

by Elizabeth Bowling

Not even this week's wintry conditions could bring down the morale at Fit-Trix Fitness Center, which is celebrating its grand re-opening this weekend.

Fit-Trix, located at 84 East High St., opened in February 2007. A year and a half after opening, the owner, Jane Traceski, expanded the building by about a third. Now, another five and a half years later, she's making more changes.

Traceski, an East Hampton resident, said, "I wanted a place where everybody feels comfortable and where it's actually fun to work out."

The center certainly lived up to Traceski's expectations. But despite seven successful years of fitness, Fit-Trix is undergoing a re-opening because, according to Traceski, "We were getting a little too comfortable."

She explained that she and her staff decided to "look at our club like we were brand new and about to open." They spent every weekend for two months cleaning, painting, rearranging and updating the business' social media sites.

The newly-revamped building has some fresh paint inside, as well as a graffiti wall, courtesy of East Hampton High School sophomore Alex Ulm.

The bright and fun interior design matches perfectly with the attitudes of everyone inside the building.

One member, Carolyn Bernardo, said Monday, "I've gone to a lot of gyms and this is the best."

She added that the camaraderie between members helped her transition into retired life because she went from having a lot of work

friends to having a lot of exercise friends.

The friendships were apparent at Monday morning's aerobic class. The group, made up of about 18 retired women, was the definition of "team effort." They got a good sweat going, sang along to the class' soundtrack, and encouraged each other to smile through the workout.

Traceski boasted, "These are fit seniors!" As the women exited, they sang the praises of Fit-Trix.

"Fit-Trix has changed our lives," one said. Another furthered, "Our clothes fit better," and her friend affirmed, "I lost a whole size."

Many of the women who work out during the day are retired and have formed a sincere friendship through working out, Traceski said. After meeting at Fit-Trix, they became closer and now go out for lunches and movies together.

But member Betty Bailey assured, "You don't have to retire to come here."

In fact, the night and weekend classes, Traceski affirmed, tend to draw a different crowd – one made up of men and women who work during the day. Traceski said she thinks the re-launch will appeal to more people in that category, as it is a weekend event.

The grand re-opening weekend celebration starts today, Jan. 10, and runs through tomorrow and Sunday. The weekend celebrations are free and open to the public.

Tonight, starting at 6 p.m., a 90-minute Zumba class will feature all of Fit-Trix's 11 instructors, whom Traceski calls "world class." She said most of her instructors, and members, have been with her for at least four years.

In fact, she said, many of her instructors started off as members.

The Zumba class will be followed by a reception – anyone interested in attending should bring their own food and drinks.

"It's a chance for people to meet the instructors and talk to members and friends," Traceski said.

Tomorrow's celebration will kick off with Pilates at 7:30 a.m., followed by BodyStep, BodyPump and BodyCombat, as well as information sessions on personal training and massage.

Then from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., kids are encouraged to take part in the "Birthday Party Obstacle Course," which is typically reserved for kids' birthday parties on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year. (A scheduled birthday party runs for two hours and Fit-Trix provides the room and obstacle course. Food and decorations are not included.) The obstacle course is made up of mini-trampolines, BOSU exercise balls, cones, hurdles and other gym equipment set up in a circle or figure eight.

Lastly, at 4 p.m. tomorrow, teens and older are invited to participate in a "Fitness Dance Class."

Sunday will start with Yoga Fusion at 7:30 a.m., followed by another chance to try BodyPump, Zumba and BodyCombat. The grand event will conclude with a Gentle Yoga class at noon on Sunday.

The weekend event will give prospective members a taste of the classes Fit-Trix offers on a regular basis.

And Bailey, who has been a Fit-Trix member for nearly seven years, said it's "hard to say" what her favorite class is because she likes so many.

She added, "There's something for everyone."

Traceski said Fit-Trix offers 45 classes each week and in addition to classes, Fit-Trix has a room of cardio equipment, as well as free weights for those more independent exercisers.

Traceski said, "At Fit-Trix, we take our workouts seriously, but not ourselves. Why would you do something that's 'good for you' if it's not also fun?"

One long-time member, Judy Turck, expressed that working out has, indeed, been fun for her.

"It's done me so much good – the friendships and the exercises," she said.

And even though she's enjoyed her past several years at Fit-Trix, she called the grand re-opening a "positive step" for the fitness center.

Because there are no contracts at Fit-Trix, Traceski said, "We earn your business one month at a time."

The re-launch is providing an eight-week membership special for \$69. Once the eight weeks are up, the member would pay the regular monthly membership fee, which is about \$40.

Fit-Trix's regular schedule is Mondays through Thursdays from 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays from 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Sundays from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

## Electric Car-Charging Station Coming to Hebron?

by Geeta Schrayter

On Jan. 1, production and import of fluorescent light bulbs that didn't meet energy efficiency standards stopped in the United States as part of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

According to the act signed by past President George W. Bush on Dec. 19, 2007, the aim, among other things, is "to move the United States toward greater energy independence and security, to increase the production of clean renewable fuels, to protect consumers [and] to increase the efficiency of products, buildings, and vehicles."

In Hebron, the selectmen have been taking some steps of their own to move the town in those same directions and, last month, that included unanimous approval for Town Manager Andrew Tierney to apply for a grant to install an electric vehicle-charging station at the Town Hall. The station would be available for use by residents, commuters and employees and would

show up on a charging station application drivers use to find nearby stations.

The cost of the project is \$11,000, which includes installation of the ChargePoint Dual Charging Station. Of that amount, \$5,000 of that would be received from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection EV Charging Station Grant Program, while the remaining \$6,000 would come from the town's Capital Non-Recurring Fund after approval from the Board of Finance. Approximate annual costs to the town include an annual electrical cost of \$840 and an annual network license of \$340.

This week, Tierney said the project was beneficial in two areas. First, he explained the installation would bridge a gap in the location of charging stations in the state.

"Hebron is right in the middle of a big hole, so there's not [a charging station] in this area," he said. And while filling that hole, the charging station could also aid in economic devel-

opment.

"We're looking at the charging station as an economic benefit," Tierney said. "It will bring people who don't normally come to Hebron into town to check it out."

Selectman Jeff Watt furthered those sentiments and called the initial station "a good start." Watt said acquiring one station would "position us for further charging stations in the future" along Main Street, which would encourage people to explore area businesses while their car is charging.

The second reason Tierney said the station would be beneficial is that it would allow the town to apply for a second grant through the Department of Transportation (DOT) for the purchase of an electric car.

"I haven't been able to apply for a grant for electric cars," he said. "It wouldn't make sense to go for that if there's no charging station."

Tierney said he should find out "within a couple of months" if the grant is approved.

Assuming it is, he said, the new charging station should be installed by the end of April – which also happens to be the time an application could be submitted for the next round of DOT grants for electric cars.

"We'd save a lot more on fuel [with an electric car]," Tierney continued.

At the moment, Tierney said, the town is "turning over police cruisers" and using them for various town employees. With electric cars, there'd be no need to do this.

"The savings on gas alone would pay for the electricity we'll be paying for the charging station," he said.

Watt expressed excitement over the possibility.

"I'm very excited about the fact we're not only going to be able to make a charging station available to the public, but the possibility for future town cars to be electric cars," he stated. "My hope is that this is only the start."

# Portland Academic Author Publishes New Edition of Book

by Elizabeth Bowling

A local expert on municipal government in Connecticut recently published the third edition to his academic textbook entitled *Local Government in Connecticut*.

Frank Connolly, 71, of Portland, spent most of his life involved in either local government or education and turned his extensive knowledge into a piece of literature in 1992. Now, more than 20 years later, he's completely revamped it to be totally updated and very informative.

But before Connolly became an author, he initially attended Southern Connecticut State University to become a teacher, but when he took a course in urban studies he realized he had a greater interest in government.

He decided to take a break from working on his teaching degree – though he did eventually go back for it – to get his masters degree in city planning and public administration from the University of Virginia.

Upon completing the program, Connolly, who was 23 at the time, returned to Connecticut and became the town planner in Windham for its regional planning agency. From there, he was “loaned out” as a part-time town planner for Coventry, he said.

His part-time work in Coventry turned full-time until five years later when he became the town manager for another five years.

After his 10-year stint in Coventry, Connolly went on to become Newington's assistant town manager for five years, and then was appointed town manager there for another five years. After that he became the town manager of North Branford for 10 years, rounding out about 25 years of experience as a town manager in Connecticut.

After all that time as town manager, he “switched over to the dark side,” he joked, by getting involved in education.

He started as the school business manager in Stonington for six years; then was the interim school business manager in Rocky Hill; then interim school business manager in Killingly; and then went back to Rocky Hill as the interim school business manager, which is his current position.

Referring to his job as school business manager, he said, “It's real administration of work. You're dealing administratively with budgets, you're dealing with personnel, you're dealing with labor contracts, you're dealing with contracts – transportation contracts, cafeteria contracts. But you're not in the political realm.”

Additionally, Connolly teaches public administration, public finance, labor negotiation, collective bargaining and public policy at the University of New Haven. He's been an adjunct for about 15 years, he said, and uses his book as a textbook in class because “it's got all the stuff I need,” he laughed.

On a more personal level, Connolly has lived in Portland for 10 years but never got involved in its local government. He is, however the president of the homeowners' association – a position he describes, with a laugh, as a “mini-town manager” – for the over-55 community in which he and his wife reside.

Asked if he had any expert advice for his hometown, Connolly said, “Portland is pretty well run.”

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Connolly has certainly become an expert in local government thanks to his years of experience, but that hasn't always been the case.

“When I first started in local government, I couldn't understand what was going on. And I couldn't find any textbooks on local government,” he said. “I'd go to these meetings and thought I had understood what went on and then two weeks later it went in a different direction. I just couldn't understand it. So I did a literature search and I found there was no book on how local government functions.”

He said he couldn't find any references regarding, for example, how Planning and Zon-

ing commissions function, how taxes are collected or how the mill rate is calculated.

So he took the liberty of writing a book.

His first edition was published by the University of Connecticut Institute of Public Service. He updated it years later, and it was published by the Connecticut Conference Municipalities. Finally, Wesleyan University, whom Connolly called “quite a publisher,” published his latest edition.

According to a press release from Wesleyan, Connolly's book explains Connecticut's basic forms of local government and its many variants. It also examines the inner workings – including governance, management, administration, municipal services, education and land use – of those governments.

This third edition was published Oct. 30, 2013, and has been entirely revised and expanded to include chapters on charter revision, municipal employees and unionization, education, homeland security, pensions and economic development. Plus, it includes references to key sections of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Connolly's *Local Government in Connecticut* was originally published in 1992 and revised in 2001. He said his second edition was used as a textbook at many high and middle schools across Connecticut and can be found in public libraries across the state.

Connolly said, “The first two editions were similar. This one is a big change. This is now a full-blown book.”

He explained that the third edition is over 200 pages and contains much more information than his prior two.

Regarding his decision to come out with a third edition, he said, “It was time to update it,” adding that a lot of data had changed since 2001.

“Since the second edition was published there had been a lot of changes in local government. Technology has changed dramatically in local government,” he noted.

Connolly added, “Technology is changing – websites, emails, the ways we do business in local government is totally different.”

He also attributed changes in security to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, which he said were responsible for “a greater emphasis on security” in municipal buildings, schools and homeland security in general.

Connolly said it took him “several months” to write the first edition of his book and “another couple months” to complete the second edition. But he said the third edition took “almost a year” because he not only updated data, he also expanded the chapters and sought out the expertise of fellow-local government experts Roger Kemp and Philip Schenck. The first two editions of the book were written solely by Connolly.

This newest edition “covers all the functions of local government including education,” which Connolly considers his “specialty.”

Connolly said Kemp's “specialty” is his background in economic development.

Kemp, a Meriden resident, has contributed to nearly 50 books on municipal government. He has served as a municipal manager in Connecticut – he was Meriden's town manager for 10 years – as well as in New Jersey and California.

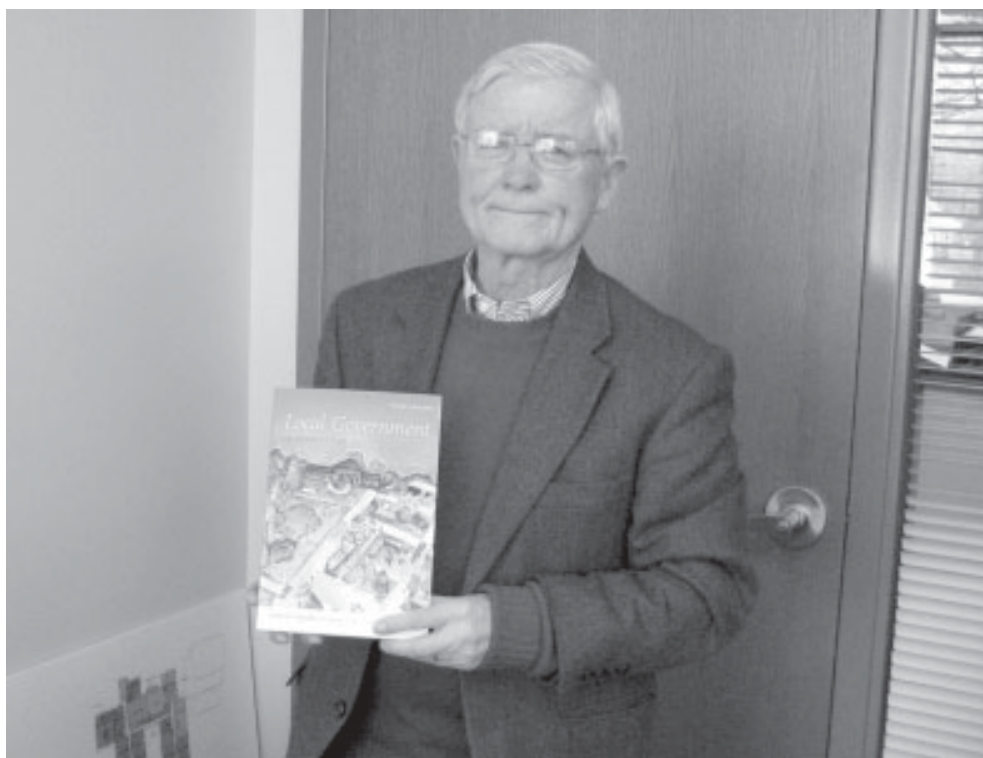
Connolly described Schenck as having “extensive municipal experience” and his “specialty” is his background in homeland security.

Schenck, an Avon resident, served as town manager in Connecticut – specifically, in Avon for more than 30 years – and other New England municipalities.

“We've worked together for years as fellow town managers,” Connolly said of the two men, who have since retired from their respective positions.

“We all have general government knowledge,” he added.

Asked if he plans to publish a fourth edition



**Pictured here is Portland resident Frank Connolly holding the new edition of his book, *Local Government in Connecticut*, which was originally published in 1992 and revised in 2001. The third and newest edition was published in October.**

in upcoming years, Connolly sighed, “I don't know. There was a tremendous amount of information that went into this because it was not only expanding in the chapters, but the appendices.”

He explained that he turned the appendix into a resource that explains common local government jargon, including a key for abbreviations and acronyms. “We have our own language,” Connolly said.

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“I did learn a lot, I certainly did,” Connolly said about writing his third edition. “If anyone's interested in learning about local government, hopefully this will be the go-to book.”

In an interview last week, Connolly touched upon some of the information in his book. For example, there are three forms of government in Connecticut: council-manager, selectmen-town meeting, and mayor-council. The book provides a list of each town in Connecticut and its chosen form of government.

Readers will learn the difference between a city and a town – interestingly, it has nothing to do with population; rather, it depends on the charter. In fact there is an entire chapter dedicated to charter revision and it happens to be one of Connolly's favorite chapters.

Another one of his favorite chapters is called “Other Local Officials” – which explains the functions of harbor masters and town attorneys, for example.

Connolly also quipped about his book's explanation of pensions, which he called a “hot button” topic currently. For example, he said teachers are not included in local pensions because the state handles teacher pensions.

Another section of his book which he put an emphasis was the local politics calendar.

He explained, “Politics is a two-year calendar; local elections are every two years for the most part. But the budgetary cycle is a one-year cycle.”

So his book has a graph of how the two cycles fit together.

In explaining the importance of understanding the calendar, Connolly said, “If you want to promote a new baseball field, when do you do it? When do you start? You need to know the best time to [present something to the town] because if you miss the budgetary cycle you're too late. And then if it's a local election year, there's more interest being paid to you.”

Visual learners should note that the local political calendar is one of many graphics in

the book.

“We've included a lot of graphics in the book so that you can see how the forms of government are set up and the chain of command,” Connolly said, giving an example of another graphic.

“The book is written with a lot of graphics and a lot of cartoons,” he furthered. “I've fallen asleep reading too many textbooks and I did not want that to happen.”

That's why he wrote his book in short, easy-to-read chapters that can be read in bulk, or individually and still be understood.

While a textbook is typically designed for students, Connolly said he wrote his for “anyone who is an aficionado of local government.” He added that it's also “a book for people that are newly-elected officials.”

However, one part of the book would be particularly helpful to students seeking a job in local government. The chapter entitled “Careers in Local Government” was one Connolly said he spent a lot of time developing.

It breaks down each job in local government based on a person's educational background. For example, an economics major interested in a job in local politics may consider becoming a town's finance director.

“I linked your specialty, and what you may be interested in majoring in, to what jobs are available in local government,” he explained. “It helps in my classes.”

“There are many, many very talented people in local government with all kinds of specialties and all kinds of backgrounds,” he furthered. “Local government has become very specialized now.”

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In addition to three editions of *Local Government in Connecticut*, Connolly has written articles for *Connecticut Magazine*, *Connecticut Government* and several newspapers, but this is his only book. He is currently working on a fiction book, called *Hidden Agenda*, which deals with the inner workings of town government and features a town manager as the hero.

But despite being halfway finished with his work of fiction, Connolly said, “I don't know if I'll ever finish it.” Upon further contemplation he said, “Once I slow down, a little maybe.”

To purchase Connolly's *Local Government in Connecticut*, visit [wesleyan.edu/wespress](http://wesleyan.edu/wespress). The new edition corresponds to a website that provides supplemental information and tips for teachers.

# Three Portland Schools are ‘Excelling’

by Elizabeth Bowling

Portland Middle School was recently classified as a “School of Distinction” based on the 2012-13 School Performance Report, which was released last month by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE).

The School Performance Report provides a School Performance Index (SPI) for each school based on a score ranging from zero to 100 points. The SPI is the average of a school’s performances on all state tests – the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) or Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) – for all the subjects tested. Similarly, the report provides a District Performance Index (DPI) for each school district based on a score ranging from zero to 100 points. The DPI is the corresponding average of all students in the district.

According to the CSDE, the target score for both the SPI and DPI is 88, as a score of 88 indicates “students will have performed at or above ‘goal’ level on the majority of tests.”

For the 2012-13 school year, the Portland School District earned a DPI of 92.4 under the CMT category, thus achieving its 88-point target for the CMT in each subject area. The overall math DPI for the CMT was 92.2; reading was 92.1; writing was 94.8; and science was 90.4. The CMT participation rate for all Portland students was 99.9 percent.

However the district failed to meet its target for the CAPT, earning a DPI of 76.4.

In addition to calculating each district and school’s performance index, the state also places each school into one of six categories. They are, in order from the highest ranking: “excelling,” “progressing,” “transitioning,” “review” and “focus.”

For Portland Middle School, students’ per-

formance was based on the CMT, which is administered to students in grades three through eight, and was ranked as “excelling.”

The “excelling” category means a school has a performance index of at least 88. That means more than 25 percent of students in that school scored “advanced” in a majority of subjects tested. It also means the CMT participation rate was at least 95 percent. Only 123 out of 820 schools in the state earned the “excelling” classification.

According to PMS Principal Scott Giegerich, the school earned an SPI of 94.1, which was the fifth-highest in the state.

“The totality of our curriculum, programs, and our professional as well as support staff, coupled with our collaboration with families makes a difference,” Giegerich said in a written statement.

In addition to being categorized as an “excelling” school, PMS also earned the “School of Distinction” title, which was only awarded to 73 schools in the state, according to Giegerich.

According to its website, the CSDE issues an annual list of Schools of Distinction, which recognizes the schools that achieve high standards in three different ways: Highest Performing Subgroup; Highest Progress; and Highest Overall Performance.

PMS ranked in the “Highest Overall Performance” category for the CMT, to earn its “School of Distinction” title. Further, it earned the title by meeting the following criteria from the CSDE: SPI for the “all students” group was greater than or equal to 88 and is among the highest 10 percent of all schools.

“Collectively, we do all that is necessary to identify students, help them to progress and nurture them to achieve,” Giegerich said. “At Portland Middle School, the whole child is recognized and attended to on an individualized basis.”

Brownstone Intermediate School and Gildersleeve Elementary School joined PMS in the “excelling” category.

Brownstone Principal Laurie Boske sang the praises of all those involved in helping students succeed.

She wrote in a statement Tuesday, “All of us at Brownstone Intermediate are so proud of the continued academic success of our students over the past few years. We pride ourselves on our ability to connect with every student, uncovering their strengths and helping them through the struggles.”

She also mentioned the importance of the efforts of those outside of BIS who help students excel.

“We also have incredible support from our parents who follow up at home,” Boske wrote. “We also thank Valley View and Gildersleeve School staff who have provided our students with the foundation skills needed to succeed. In the future, we are going to keep doing what we are doing right now, which makes Brownstone a fun place to learn and grow.”

Gildersleeve Elementary School Principal Eileen Katz also spoke highly of those at Gildersleeve for working to make improvements.

“I’m thrilled,” she said in a phone interview Tuesday. “It’s the result of a lot of hard and focused work.”

Katz explained that the school had two areas from the prior academic year in need of improvement: the free and reduced lunch numbers, and the special education numbers.

“We made a very concerted effort throughout the year to focus on intervention for those students,” she said. “The result was that we did much better and boosted up our SPI and moved into the ‘excelling’ rank.”

Regarding the 2013-14 school year, Katz said, “It’s going to be a little tricky for this upcoming year because we’ve opted to do the Smarter Balanced testing and that’s all computerized. It’s a very different type of testing than the kids are used to. We’re really looking to gain information for next year for instruction.”

Rounding out the district’s five schools are Valley View Elementary School and Portland High School.

Valley View – which doesn’t administer state tests because its students are too young – earned the second highest ranking of “progressing.” And PHS landed in the “transitioning” category for its SPI between 64 to 87 percent.

No Portland schools ranked lower than the “transitioning” category.

In summarizing the success of the district, Board of Education Chairman Chris Phelps expressed pride in all Portland schools.

“We have great schools,” he said Tuesday, noting that he hopes to “continue that growth.”

He chalked up the success of the district to collaboration amongst the administrators of all five schools – something he calls a “hallmark” in the district – which results in consistency of student performance.

# Special Election for New Marlborough Selectman

by Melissa Roberto

Election Day isn’t until November, but in Marlborough, registered voters will have the opportunity to flock to the polls much sooner.

Town Clerk Nancy Dickson validated a petition last week that calls for a special election that could possibly overturn the Board of Selectmen’s recent appointment of Democrat Denis Soucy to the three-person board. Soucy was selected to fill the seat left vacant by fellow Democrat Mike Gut, who resigned from the board in November upon moving to Lebanon.

According to state statute, the remaining selectmen had until Dec. 26 (30 days after Gut’s vacancy date) to appoint a registered Democrat to fill out Gut’s term, which runs through November 2015. First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski and selectman Dick Shea, both Republicans, voted unanimously to appoint Soucy to the seat in the Dec. 19 selectmen meeting. Minutes before appointing Soucy, Gaudinski and Shea said their decision was based on Soucy’s experience in the town, which includes more than 30 years as a member of the Planning Commission.

However, state statute includes a provision allowing citizens to petition for a special election if they are in opposition of the appointment. The petition requires a sufficient amount of signatures by registered voters per state statute. In Marlborough, the number of signatures needed was 209.

Dickson confirmed paperwork for a petition was picked up on Dec. 20. Resident Lauren Cragg – also chairwoman of the Democratic Town Committee – then turned in the petition

to the Town Clerk’s office last Thursday, Jan. 2, at 3 p.m. The petition was originally signed by 252 people, but only 233 could be validated; the other 19 were either ineligible under state statute or Dickson could not read their signatures. After the 233 signatures were validated, two citizens came into Town Hall requesting their names be taken off of the petition.

Soucy was one of three citizens who initially expressed interest in the seat. The other two candidates were Eric Young and Torin Lee-Lewis. Lee-Lewis was endorsed by the Democratic Town Committee at the end of November.

According to Dickson, Soucy can remain acting as selectman up to the election, in which he will automatically run as a candidate. Dickson furthered the DTC will need to hold a caucus at some point between Jan. 28-Feb. 4 in order to nominate a Democrat to run against Soucy.

Additionally, Dickson said any other citizen in town of another party, with the exception of a Republican (due to there already being two Republicans on the board), can petition through the Secretary of the State’s office to appear on the ballot. Each petition will require eight signatures – a number determined by taking one percent of the number of voters who supported Gut in the 2011 municipal election, per state statute.

Cragg stressed this week she was acting as a private citizen when signing the petition, and commented on her decision.

“I was pleased to sign the petition because the selectmen’s action cuts against 20 years of

tradition in Marlborough,” she said. “Instead of the Republicans selecting the Democratic candidate, I believe we should let the people decide.”

Gaudinski commented on the news of a special election this week.

“I would have hoped the leadership of the Democratic Town Committee would have not felt the need to submit the petition for a special election,” Gaudinski said. “In good faith, the Board of Selectmen appointed Democrat Denis Soucy, who had served the town well on the Planning Commission for over 30 years and is a well-respected person in town.”

The special election will cost approximately \$4,000 to hold, Gaudinski said.

The last special election to be held in Marlborough occurred on July 25, 2006, for first selectman. DTC-endorsed candidate Bill Black ultimately won, after a petition was filed following the appointment of Dennis Hawrylko to replace Republican First Selectwoman Nancy Bader, who had stepped down.

Dickson said this week that, based on state law requirements, the earliest date the election can be held is May 20.

Gaudinski confirmed Thursday the next step is for the DTC caucus to be held that would put forth a candidate. However, she said any registered Democrat in town – not just a member of the DTC – can attend the caucus and make a nomination. A vote would follow, the selectwoman said, that would ultimately put forth one candidate.

So, for the moment at least, Soucy is on the Board of Selectmen – and he added this week

he’s “very interested” in keeping his seat.

“I am anxious to get to work in order to keep our town moving forward in a positive direction,” he said in a statement issued to the *Rivereast*.

However, Soucy added that, from a taxpayer’s perspective, he is “very disappointed by the Marlborough DTC’s decision to move forward with the special election to fill the vacancy on the Board of Selectmen.”

He also recalled the legal process the selectmen followed when appointing him.

“There is a process in place that allows the remaining selectmen to fill a vacancy, quickly, efficiently, and at no cost to the taxpayers,” Soucy said. “The remaining selectmen have the power to appoint a replacement, as long as it is a member of the same party as the departing member.”

Soucy continued that process is “exactly” what took place when he was appointed last month.

The new selectman even pointed out he was approached at the Marlborough transfer station just two days following his appointment. He said he was asked to sign a petition that would fill the role he had just been appointed to. This caused Soucy to attend the DTC meeting on Dec. 23, he said.

“After some discussion with the [DTC] members present, and answering all of their questions, I was told that they were angry with me for not asking their permission to fill the vacancy,” Soucy recalled. “I apologized and told them I was not aware I needed their permission in order to apply.”

## Marlborough Police News

12/30: State Police said Joaquin Rincon, 28, of 190 East High St., Apt. 1, East Hampton, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain lane on a multiple-lane highway.

1/1: State Police said Matthew Quistorff, 22, of 145 Stockade Rd., South Glastonbury, was charged with DUI, possession of drug paraphernalia with the intent to use, possession of less than a half ounce of cannabis and reckless driving.

1/1: State Police said Christopher Barreto, 24, of 1088 Capital Ave., Hartford, was charged with third-degree criminal mischief.

## Hebron Police News

1/3: State Police said Jared A. Vanburen, 24, of 81 Jan Dr., was charged with DUI, interfering with an officer and disorderly conduct.

# Colchester Residents See *Peanuts* Display Destroyed – Again

by Melissa Roberto

There's nothing quite like that ear-to-ear grin a child sports around the holidays.

For Bill Daugherty and Mark Pappalardo, it's a sight they look forward to each year when putting up their Christmas decorations. The two live on Boretz Road in Colchester, where their larger-than-life holiday displays frequently cause passersby to stop in their tracks for a minute or two. The displays are usually bright in color, and merry in spirit.

But this year, Daugherty and Pappalardo's tradition was cut short, literally. The couple's Christmas scene, complete with inflatables of Santa Claus, Frosty the Snowman, and a new, \$300 display of the gang from the *Peanuts* comic strip, fell victim to an act of vandalism.

On the morning of Dec. 30, Pappalardo discovered the *Peanuts* inflatable, what Daugherty estimated was 10 feet long in length and six feet high, was slashed to pieces. Daugherty said just the night before Charlie Brown and his friends were lit up for all to see, as the display played Christmas music. It didn't take long for the homeowners to realize there was no way the *Peanuts* inflatable could be restored.

"Someone maliciously took a razor blade to it," said Daugherty. "It wasn't slashed a couple times. It was slashed to shreds."

However, Daugherty confirmed the Santa and Frosty displays remained untouched.

Interestingly, Daugherty said about "three or four" years ago a similar display featuring Charlie Brown and his pals was also destroyed.

That one "was a Christmas clock probably five by four feet," Daugherty explained, "And in the same exact place as this year's. It was lit up 24/7 and literally counted down the days, minutes and seconds until Christmas."

Daugherty recalled waking up to the sight of the inflatable clock "kicked and broken and just shredded" to the point where it, too, could not be fixed.

Daugherty said he finds the similarity of the two incidents "a bit peculiar."

"It seems to be these *Peanuts* things get destroyed when the other inflatables are well within reach," he said. "If you have time to go and slice something 50 times, you easily have time to take three more steps and slash the others."

Daugherty said he and Pappalardo are frustrated with the incident, not only because of the monetary loss but also because the joy the couple's holiday displays brought to children was cut short.

"We do it for the kids in the neighborhood," Daugherty said of the displays. "Our neighbors are always asking when we're going to put our decorations out."

Daugherty said this year's act of vandalism was reported to the Colchester Police, as the homeowners had done a few years back. However, Daugherty said it's unlikely the culprits will be found, because there were no witnesses.

According to Daugherty, the police said no other acts of vandalism in the neighborhood were reported that night. Daugherty assumed it may have been "teenage kids who thought it would be funny to go around and destroy things."

He said the two do not suspect it could have been done by neighbors, who Daugherty said also admire the decorations.

"We are very friendly with all of our neighbors that are directly around us so it would absolutely not be an issue," he said. "I know if they had a problem with any of this they would



Bill Daugherty and Mark Pappalardo's inflatable *Peanuts* holiday display is seen here during happier times – before it was slashed by vandals last week. The deflated, destroyed display can be seen on the cover of this week's *Rivereast*.

say something."

After the *Peanuts* characters were destroyed, Daugherty and Pappalardo took down all of their Christmas displays as a precautionary measure.

Daugherty said he personally feels the incident was "extremely cruel."

"It's very thoughtless, and I don't think they realize that there are little children that look forward to these things," he said.

If anyone has information about the incident, they are asked to contact the Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.

# Colchester Public Hearing Held on Possible Zoning Changes

by Melissa Roberto

Residents gathered at the meeting room at Town Hall Wednesday for the continuation of a public hearing on the Colchester Planning and Zoning Commission's proposed revisions to its zoning regulations – a revision process that's been in the works for at least two years.

At the hearing, citizens weighed in on the proposed regulations; some were in support of the revisions, while others offered some suggestions for the commission to consider.

Members of the public also voiced appreciation for the hearing process continuing into this month; the first hearing was held on Dec. 4. The hearing began with Town Planner Adam Turner responding to questions raised at the December hearing. The floor was then opened to the public for commentary.

Some amendments were suggested by residents. One woman, a resident of Pleasant Street, made a suggestion regarding a regulation about unit size. She was concerned the regulation states that a residential complex, such as a 55-year-and-up facility, limits the percentage of properties allowed to have three bedrooms to 10 percent. For example, she said, in a complex with 10 units, only one would be able to have three bedrooms. The resident said she would like to see that percentage go up, especially in elderly facilities where those "aging in place in their homes" may have a need for multiple bedrooms such as housing a spouse and an additional caregiver.

Citizen Jim Ford, former selectman as well as a former chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission chairman, offered up some advice to the commission.

"You need to really consider unintended consequences," Ford told the members. "If it is your intention to encourage retail development, then

say that."

Ford expanded on this in a phone interview Thursday morning. "In zoning," he said, "it's always best to be as detailed as you need to be, to inform applicants and others of what the commission's intent is."

Also at Wednesday's hearing, Ford positively weighed in on the village center regulations regarding the center of Colchester (noted in the regulations as "TC" for Town Center), which he said would allow for more commercial and residential development. He added he'd like to see the same amount of attention given to the Westchester village center (noted as "WC" in the regulations).

"I think the [TC] village center regulations which you have are fantastic," he told the commission. "I think it's really going to enable us to do some things in Colchester that would be cutting-edge and really, over time, help us retain the hub status that we had when I moved here 20 years ago."

Ford added Thursday the new town center regulations allow for "street level retail" in the heart of town, with residential housing to be located above those retail stores.

"That allows more people to live in the center of town," Ford said, "and it allows a better mix of retail to be developed."

Also at Wednesday's meeting, a woman who resides on Middletown Road had some reservations in regards to the permit uses the regulations allow in Westchester. She referenced the "four corners" of route 16 and route 149. She said she was concerned more development at the intersection would occur and cause a traffic problem.

"We'd like to keep Westchester a little village, not known for its gas station and pizza

[restaurants]," she said. "I don't think making major developments in Westchester on those corners is a good idea for people who have children."

Another resident of Parum Road introduced herself as a "brand new" citizen of Colchester, having moved from a "grossly-overpopulated urban" area on the west coast. She said Colchester's open space is a reason that she moved with her family and she hoped the town's character wouldn't change.

"One of the reasons people like us come here – and why I chose to move my family farm here – is because Colchester is a town that grows but it doesn't change," she said.

This comment prompted Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Joseph Mathieu to explain what the commission's intentions were when drafting the regulations.

"These regulation changes are very much about trying to balance both residential and commercial [growth], and preserving the overall character of the town," he explained.

With much feedback communicated Wednesday night, citizen Joe Broder, seated in the audience, spoke highly of the public engagement he witnessed. He recalled sitting in a similar hearing several years ago and pointed out that the dynamic had changed.

"I went to meetings like this on zoning regulations over the past 20 years and in this very room there were twice as many people at some of the meeting years ago," Broder said, "and a majority of them were either developers or contractors. In the room today it seems we have mostly people who are interested in preserving the character of the town."

By the end of the meeting, Turner explained the commission would take the recommendations and comments into consideration.

"I think that we'll take a look at those unintended consequences. I think we've done a good job."

Turner continued, "All of the comments that have come in I think the commission will reflect upon and make some decisions."

Turner furthered it's an "exciting time" in Colchester regarding planning and zoning. He referenced the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), which is also being revised.

Mathieu, too, left the public with some comments about the future of the regulations. He coined the next step the "deliberation phase," to which citizens seemed confused about. Mathieu explained the discussions to follow would not take place at a public hearing where there is a dialogue between the public and the commission. Instead, the commission will discuss the regulations and possibly take action on them at regular meetings in the future, he said.

Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle, however, said she would have liked to see the public hearing continue to a later date. She told Mathieu she didn't understand why the process was being "rushed."

Mathieu informed citizens the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Bacon Academy media room/library, for discussion of the POCD.

The draft of the proposed revisions to the zoning regulations can be viewed at the town website, located at [colchesterct.gov](http://colchesterct.gov).

# Andover School Board Approves \$4.25 Million Budget

by Geeta Schrayter

On Wednesday, Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia presented, and the Board of Education unanimously approved, a \$4.25 million budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year – an \$80,000 decrease from the current year, and a spending package that, Maneggia cautioned, allows very little room for error.

As he began his presentation, Maneggia explained the budget was based on a number of assumptions – such as that student enrollment was projected to decrease, that federal and state grants will be used to offset certain expenses, the costs for heating oil, diesel and gas won't exceed the estimate, and there will be no unbudgeted additional expenses.

Maneggia stressed "it's very, very important" for the boards of finance, selectmen and education to all understand that "if unforeseen things come up, we don't have a reservoir for unanticipated major expenses."

That being said, Maneggia added if the town provided the funds the budget requests, he felt the school "will be able to carry out our educational programs."

"The proposed budget will provide all the necessary resources to maintain a quality educational program for our students, will allow the Board to meet its financial obligations, and will comply with all state mandates and contractual obligations," he wrote in a memo to the school board.

Overall, the budget, which totals \$4,252,044, stays relatively the same as the current year. But in a few accounts some significant decreases can be seen.

In the Object 100 account – the largest account in the budget which includes salaries, wages and contracts - there is a decrease of \$13,228, to \$2,719,657. Maneggia explained this was due to a reduction of two teaching positions in response to declining enrollment. At a previous meeting, Maneggia mentioned the possibility of reducing three positions. However he explained during his presentation he felt more comfortable with a reduction of two taking into consideration the curriculum demands

imposed on the school by the state.

The second-largest account is Object 200, which includes insurance, unemployment and retirement and clocks in at \$743,947 in the proposed budget, a reduction of \$54,374. Maneggia said this was due to the projected insurance increase of 4 percent – compared to 20 percent at the same time last year – and changes made to the insurance plans.

"At this particular point in time we've projected our cost to be 4 percent more than this year," Maneggia said, "and as you recall, in negotiations we changed the [insurance] plans for the paraprofessionals, custodial staff and also modified plans for teachers."

The changes to the insurance plan, which will kick in with the start of the new fiscal year on July 1, include higher co-pays and a higher premium share, he explained.

"When all is factored in and we apply the 4 percent increase, these are the numbers we're looking at," Maneggia stated.

Another decrease can be found in the Object 500 account which totals \$285,986 and includes transportation, special education and magnet school tuition. There are a few increases: regular transportation which includes students traveling to the elementary school and the RHAM middle and high schools increased \$6,101; there was a \$200 increase in bus liability premiums; money for field trips increased \$500 to \$6,000, which Maneggia said was divided among the grades and covered a portion of field trip costs; and money in the telephone line increased \$200 to \$3,500. However, the overall account decreased \$23,999, which Maneggia explained was due to one less student outplacement.

The proposed amounts for the Object 300, 400 and 600 accounts are all increases over the current year while Objects 700 and 800 remained the same.

The Object 300 account totals \$121,399 and includes contracted services, legal fees, septic system maintenance and a special education consultant. The \$7,387 increase in the account is for an additional one percent overall charge

for AHM Youth and Family Services as well as the cost of an additional half-day for the school social worker, making them available a day and a half each week.

Items such as electricity, roof repairs and contracted maintenance services, which Maneggia said are each difficult to predict, are included in the Object 400 account which is listed as increasing \$3,890 to \$139,750.

The increase is spread throughout the account and includes money set aside for furnace repairs (\$2,000 compared to \$1,600 in the current budget) and plumbing (\$5,000 compared to \$3,000).

Maneggia explained those amounts are "paltry" when compared to the cost of repairs. For example, he said around Christmas break a drinking fountain needed to be replaced and some work had to be done on some urinals. The bill for that work was \$2,900.

"When you look at expenditures of \$2,900 in one visit from the plumber, \$5,000 is a paltry amount, but we'll see what happens," he stated.

The Object 600 account, which includes instructional supplies, textbooks, heating oil, diesel and gas, was listed at \$220,700.

Instructional supplies remain the same at \$35,000 which Maneggia said works because there are grants that help offset teaching supply costs.

"We spend quite a bit more than \$35,000 during the course of the year but we get the rest of the money through grants," he said.

Money for textbooks increased \$2,000 to \$3,000. Maneggia said this wouldn't be enough if the school needed to buy new books, such as reading kits aligned with the Common Core curriculum, but he added those books haven't been written yet so at this point there was nothing to buy.

Heating oil was calculated at 33,000 gallons at an estimated cost of \$3.25 a gallon for a total of \$107,250 – up from \$104,000 in the current year. Gasoline, meanwhile, came in at \$4,000 compared to \$8,000 in the current year due to

the use of one van in the coming year instead of two.

The rest of the items remained the same, and overall the changes in the Object 600 account came to a slight \$250 increase over the current year.

The Object 700 account, which includes equipment for students, staff and funding for the technology plan remained the same at \$13,700 as did the Object 800 account which includes professional dues and funds for staff meetings and conferences at \$8,905.

All in all, those individual amounts came to the proposed \$4.2 million budget for the coming school year, an amount that brought praise from the school board.

Board of Education Chairman Jay Lindy thanked Maneggia, school staff and administration for their "hard work," while board members Sharyn Keeney and Whiney Covell called the budget "wonderful."

"I think Andy's done a great job on this," added member Kim Hawes. Fellow member Christina Tamburro also praised his work on the budget, saying he'd done a "good job."

"I can guarantee you're not going to see other school districts like this," Lindy asserted, and confirmed what Maneggia had said at the beginning:

"Of course, being [a lower budget]," Lindy said, "at many times I went over with Andy if students or staff were taking any hits. We're not taking anything away from anybody [with this budget] and we never do. We're being fair to the taxpayers."

And at the end of the meeting the hard work, proposed numbers and praise culminated with unanimous approval of the proposed \$4,252,044 budget for the 2014-15 school year, a decrease of \$80,074 or 1.85 percent from the current budget of \$4,334,118.

A public hearing will now be scheduled for residents to learn more about the budget and ask any questions before it's sent to the Board of Finance for approval and, ultimately, the taxpayers at the next budget referendum in May.

## Fire Leaves Colchester Home Uninhabitable

by Melissa Roberto

A chimney fire last Thursday afternoon left a residence on Lakeview Drive uninhabitable, according to the Colchester Hayward Fire Department.

Deputy Chief Don Lee said the department received a call at 12:08 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 2, regarding smoke coming from the rear of a one-story ranch at 51 Lakeview Dr. Lee said the caller was a delivery man who had been making a delivery at a house next door.

Lee said the CHFD received mutual aid from the East Hampton, East Haddam and Marlborough fire departments, and Hebron's fire department provided station coverage in Colchester while CHFD was out at the scene,

he said.

Lee said four tankers, four engines and an ambulance were on scene but not much water was needed to put the fire out. He continued the fire was controlled "very quickly," but firefighters remained on scene for two and a half hours for overhaul purposes.

The damage of the home was made to the rear wall of the house, Fire Marshal Reed Gustafson said. He confirmed the cause was a chimney fire.

Gustafson confirmed the property owners, James and Carol Thompson, were not home at the time of the fire. He continued that there were no injuries on scene. Red Cross was called to assist the property owners.

## Fire on West Road in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

No one was injured in a house fire that broke out at a West Road home last Saturday, Jan. 4.

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department received a report of a fire at 252 West Rd. at 11:13 a.m.

Fire Marshal Joe Asklar said firefighters made it to the scene within five minutes of the call and, upon arrival, firefighters saw "heavy smoke coming out of the second floor of the house."

Asklar confirmed the homeowners, Robert and Vern Schadle, and children, were home at the time of the fire, but no one sus-

tained any injuries.

Marlborough's fire department received mutual aid from the fire departments of Hebron, East Hampton and Colchester. Asklar said it took 27 minutes to put out the fire.

The fire had been contained to the upper portion of the house, which now has "extensive" damage, Asklar said.

Asklar, who investigated the cause of the fire, reported the official cause was "an accident caused by human hands."

The marshal said the residents are not currently living in the home, adding the second story of the home is uninhabitable.

## Four Charged with Stealing Signs in Portland

Four teens were arrested last week after police spotted them taking signs from a local park, Portland Police said.

Benjamin Emory, 18, of 3 Overlook Ct.; Liam Murphy, 18, of 4 Linda Ct., Northford; Peter Strom, 18, of 71 Carlson Dr.; and Mayweu Tulimieri, 18, of 114 Breezy Corner Rd. were each arrested Dec. 29 and charged with sixth-degree larceny, police said.

According to Portland Police Sgt. Scott Cunningham, an officer spotted two cars at

Rose Hill Park after midnight. Upon investigation, the officer found the four in the process of removing stop signs from their posts, Cunningham said.

Cunningham said the foursome were in the process of putting together a "man cave," and decided to fill it with various signs.

According to the state judicial website, the four were each released on promises to appear, and are each due in court Jan. 14.

## East Hampton Police News

12/26: Martin Winiarski, 50, of 63 Bellevue St., Willimantic, was arrested for driving under the influence, East Hampton Police said.

12/26: Joanna Blyler, 40, of 11 Starr Pl., East Hampton, was arrested for failure to drive right, driving under the influence and failure to maintain insurance, police said.

12/28: Aaron M. Aitken, 20, of 34 Plains Rd., Moodus, was issued a ticket for failure to have headlights lit, possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana and failure to carry driver's license.

12/28: William Rand, 23, of 85 No. Main St., was issued a summons for speeding (70 miles per hour in a 50 miles per hour zone), possession less than half an ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

12/30: Jessica Barber, 24, of 125 Cheney Rd., Marlborough, was arrested for fifth-degree larceny, police said.

12/31: Deborah Taylor, 60, of 208 Main St., Portland, was arrested for violating a protective order, police said.

## Colchester Police News

12/30: Colchester Police said Jolene L. Emmerson, 39, of 12 Boulder Rd., was arrested on an active arrest warrant for two counts of second-degree criminal trespass and two counts of use of a motor vehicle without permission.

12/30: State Police said William M. Carrier, 21, of 27 Coco Dr., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

1/1: Colchester Police said Henry A. Lindert, 70, of 90 North Pond Rd., Amston, was charged with DUI.

1/2: State Police said at approximately 6:30 p.m. a larceny occurred at Stop & Shop. Police said a wallet was stolen from a carriage in the store. The case is under investigation.

1/3: Colchester Police said Mathew Arthur Orange, 36, of 52 Standish Rd., was arrested on an outstanding arrest warrant for sixth-degree larceny. Police said the arrest is the result of a shoplifting incident that occurred at the Stop & Shop in Colchester on Nov. 22, 2013.

1/3: State Police said Kevin Ferreira, 19 of

163 Dara Dr., was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of marijuana with the intent to sell.

1/3: Colchester Police responded to Alfred Drive for a disturbance. Police said a 15-year-old juvenile was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia with the intent to use, possession of less than a half ounce of cannabis, disorderly conduct and threatening.

1/3: State Police said Mathew Ryan Vik, 25, of 23 Hayward Ave., Apt. 1, was arrested subsequent to a domestic violence investigation and charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct, interfering with an emergency call, second-degree strangulation, threatening, second-degree unlawful restraint and violation of a protective order.

1/6: State Police said Scudder Evans, 20, of 17 Fairview Run, Marlborough, turned himself into Troop K on two outstanding arrest warrants, one for first-degree failure to appear and another for disorderly conduct.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### David L. Cooper

David L. Cooper, 73, of Colchester, beloved husband of Leonora "Lee" (Valenti) Cooper, passed away Thursday (Jan. 2, 2014) at the Marlborough Health Care Center. Born Oct. 18, 1940, in Decatur, Ill., he was a son of the late Wallace and Margaret (Vaughn) Cooper.

He was a 1959 graduate of Collinsville (Ill.) High School and went directly into the U.S. Navy proudly serving for 10 years as Submariner. He then earned his associate's degree from Hartford State Technical College and furthered his education, earning his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Hartford in 1976 and then a master's degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic in 1978.

In addition to his loving wife of 46 years, he leaves two brothers, Donald Cooper and his wife, Sue of Venice, Fla., Larry Cooper and his wife, Julie of Collinsville, Ill., and two sisters, Nancy Burcham, of Collinsville, Ill., and Sharon and Bob Cook of Belleville, Ill. He also leaves a brother-in-law, Richard Valenti and his wife, Ruth and a sister-in-law, Helen Valenti, all of New Britain, and numerous, nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by a two brother-in-laws, Norm Burcham and Wendell Davis of Collinsville, Ill., as well as a brother-in-law, Nicholas Valenti of New Britain, and a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Harry and Dorothy Bregonzio of Enfield.

Friends called Tuesday, Jan. 7, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, with a chapel service that morning. Graveside services with military honors were observed that afternoon in the State Veterans Cemetery Chapel, 317 Bow Ln., Middletown.

Donations in his memory may be made to "Making Memories" at the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Portland

### Louise F. Anthony

Louise F. Anthony, 93, of Portland, formerly of Plymouth, Pa., passed into eternal rest Wednesday, Jan. 1. Born July 17, 1920, in Plymouth, Pa., she was the daughter of the late Michael J. and Kathryn Kokocka Anthony. She was a graduate of Plymouth High School and a member of All Saints Parish, Plymouth.

Upon her high school graduation, she was engaged with retail sales throughout the Plymouth, Pa., area. Later, she attended nursing school in New York and was employed at the Bushwick Hospital. She also attended Columbia University, where she received additional nursing certifications to further her career.

Before moving to Connecticut, Louise provided nursing services in upper New Jersey for medical treatment facilities. She then moved to Connecticut, where she spent in excess of 50 years of her life. She became the Chief Nurse at Elmcrest Manor Hospital in Portland for many years, and then had been employed by several psychiatric physicians throughout the Portland area, before her retirement. She was involved with Soroptimists, as well as other organizations throughout her community.

In addition to her parents, Louise was preceded in death by brothers, Michael and his wife, Eleanor Anthony and Edward and his wife, Marie Anthony; and a sister, Rose Anthony, with whom she resided for many years.

Surviving are a brother, Leonard, of Florida; nephew, Michael Anthony, a Wilkes Barre, Pa. Area attorney; niece, Donna Anthony, a physician in the White Plains, N.Y., area; great-niece and great-nephews.

The funeral was held Tuesday, Jan. 7, from the S.J. Grontkowski Funeral Home, 530 West Main St., Plymouth, Pa., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 in All Saints Parish, 66 Willow St., Plymouth, Pa. Interment was in St. Mary's Nativity Cemetery, Plymouth Township, Pa. Friends called Monday, Jan. 6.

Visit [sjgrontkowskifuneralhome.com](http://sjgrontkowskifuneralhome.com) to submit online condolences.



## Marlborough

### Barbara J. Gagne

Barbara J. (Olander) Gagne, 84, of Marlborough, passed away Saturday, Jan. 4, at the Marlborough Health Care Center. Born Nov. 24, 1929, in Louisville, Ky., she was a daughter of the late John F. and Alice Swanie (Nall) Olander.

Gagne had worked as a nursing assistant and therapeutic recreation director for many years before her retirement.

She leaves seven children, Mary Wroblenski of San Bernardino, Calif., Joseph and wife Denise of Clay, N.Y., John and wife Jian of East Brunswick, N.J., Julianna Lennox and husband Michael of Mico, Texas, William and wife Kathryn of East Hartford, Andrew and wife Patricia of Colchester, and Rebekah Gagne of Auburn, N.Y.; 13 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; her dear friend, Tony Turner of Auburn, N.Y.; and numerous extended family members and friends.

The family received guests Tuesday, Jan. 7, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service was observed that evening. Burial in the Marlborough Cemetery will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Marlborough HCC Recreation Dept., Stage Harbor Road, Marlborough, CT 06447.

For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Marlborough

### John W. Gates Jr.

John W. Gates Jr., "Bill," 48, of Lafayette Road, Marlborough, passed away Friday, Jan. 3, at Hartford Hospital. Bill was born Sept. 21, 1965, in Hartford, the son of John and Louise Gates.

Bill loved all sports. He was an excellent baseball and soccer player. He was also an avid Red Sox and Giants fan and a great friend to all who knew him. He will be especially missed by his beloved dog, Zoey.

He is survived by his mother Louise Gates, his sister Marcia Watterlond and her husband Jeffrey of Oakdale; his nephew John Watterlond and niece Alyssa Peckham and husband Gordon; his daughter Rhiannon Gates and the love of his life, his fiancée Keri Shipman.

He was predeceased by his father, John W. Gates Sr.

His family received relatives and friends Tuesday, Jan. 7, at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. (Route 195), Willimantic. His funeral Mass was celebrated Wednesday, Jan. 8, at St. Joseph Church, 99 Jackson St., Willimantic. Interment followed that morning at 11:45 a.m. in St. Mary Cemetery, New London.

In lieu of flowers, his family suggests donations to Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675, [woundedwarriorproject.org](http://woundedwarriorproject.org).

For an online memorial guestbook, visit [potterfuneralhome.com](http://potterfuneralhome.com).

## East Hampton

### Sabatine Grace Dube

Sabatine "Sabby" Grace Dube, 86, of East Hampton, died Monday, Dec. 30, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Oct. 5, 1927, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Tillie (Chicano) Formica.

She had lived in South Windsor prior to moving to East Hampton 15 years ago. She was a volunteer at the East Hampton Senior Center and had recently been attending Chestelm Adult Day Care Center.

She was the widow of both John Yetishefsky and Joseph Dube.

She is survived by her son, Mark Yetishefsky of South Windsor; her daughter, Christine Dube of East Hampton; her three grandchildren, Jessica, Sara, Mark; her three beloved great-grandchildren; and her daughter-in-law, Jennifer Yetishefsky.

She was predeceased by her son, John Yetishefsky, and her granddaughter, Holly Yetishefsky.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial followed in St. Patrick Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the Middlesex Hospice staff for their care and kindness. "We love you Mama."

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).



## Portland

### Philip Gildersleeve Jr.

Philip "Chris" Gildersleeve Jr., 70, of Old Saybrook, formerly of Portland, beloved brother, father and friend, passed away Saturday, Jan. 4, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the son of the late Philip Sr. and Florence (Ball) Gildersleeve.

Born Oct. 12, 1943, in Middletown, he grew up and lived in Portland for 50 years before living in Westbrook, Old Lyme and residing in Old Saybrook for the past 10 years. He worked as a mortgage broker for New England Alliance for many years until retiring.

He was a member of the Glastonbury Hills Country Club, the Westbrook Elks Club, he was an avid golfer, played tennis, coached his daughters soccer and softball games and loved the Boston Red Sox. He was also a U.S. Army veteran where he served as an MP.

He leaves Marabeth (Carlson) Gildersleeve of Portland; daughters Deborah Gildersleeve of Stamford, Jill Taradeina and her husband Toby of Portland and Sara Gildersleeve of Cromwell; a brother, William Gildersleeve of Portland; sisters, Elizabeth Gustafson of Napa, Calif., and Barbara Tripoli of Middlefield; and four nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 8, directly at Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., Portland. Burial will be private. Relatives and friends called Tuesday, Jan. 7, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation ([TheMMRF.org](http://TheMMRF.org)) or to [Dana-Farber.org](http://Dana-Farber.org).

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Hebron

### Wesley Edward Purks Jr.

Wesley (Wes) Edward Purks, Jr., 86, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Jan. 2, at his home in Hebron. Born Nov. 9, 1927, in Richmond, Va., to Wesley Sr. and Mary Purks, Wes moved to Connecticut after serving in the United States Air Force during the Korean War.

He made his career as the proud owner and operator of multiple service stations in the Manchester area, where he formed many lasting relationships with employees and customers alike. While not working, Wes most enjoyed spending time with family, tending to his garden, and tinkering around the house. His many achievements and unwavering determination were made that much more extraordinary as he progressively lost his vision over the last 40 years of his life.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Martha (Thompson) Purks; his children and their spouses, Arlene and William Ullmar of Glastonbury, Mary Jane Saucier of Vernon, Roxanne Strickland of Middletown, Wesley III and Stacey Purks of Rhode Island, Scott M. Purks of Hebron; a sister, Belle Stanley of VA; a son-in-law, Jeff Rombach of Va.; 14 grandchildren, Tina, Dawn, David, Michael, James, Ashley, Kelly, Brian, Justin, Wesley IV, Cody, Katrin, Alfred, Grace; and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by two daughters, Benita Petruck and Tammi Rombach; a grandson, Joseph Sieverts; a brother, Charles Purks; and a sister, Dorothy Stopko.

Funeral service was Tuesday, Jan. 7, at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Burial will be in Gilead Hill Cemetery, Hebron, in the spring. Friends called at the funeral home Monday, Jan. 6.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Lions Low Vision Center of Eastern CT, P.O. Box 43, Colchester, CT 06415.

To share a memory, visit [mulryanfh.com](http://mulryanfh.com).



## East Hampton

### Sheila Ann Wall

Sheila Ann (Connell) Wall, 77, of East Hampton, wife of the late Philip Wall, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Jan. 6, at Middlesex Medical Center in Marlborough. Born March 7, 1936, in Rutland, Vt., she was the daughter of the late Edward and Ruth (Desmarais) Connell.

Sheila lived in Colchester before moving to East Hampton in 1960. She was a faithful communicant of St. Patrick Church and was active in the Adoration Hour and the Prayer Club, she was a volunteer at My Father's House in Moodus for many years and a former member of the East Hampton Board of Education. Her childhood passion was horses she enjoyed riding and caring for them.

She loved her cabin in Vermont, and spending time with her family, taking care of the kids, Wednesday dinners with family, sledding down her hill in the winter, Christmas dinners, Easter egg hunts, watching her grandchildren's sporting events and driving.

She is survived by her four sons and their wives, Michael and Mary Jean Wall of St. Johnsville, N.Y., Stephen and Betsy Wall of Colchester, Peter and Robin Wall of East Hampton, and Kevin and Alea Wall of East Hampton; a brother, Joseph Connell of Illinois; and nine grandchildren, Alexis, Geoffrey, James, Ashley, Nicholas, Daniel, Conner, Brianna and Dalton.

She was predeceased by a sister, Frances Perkins.

Friends are invited to call at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, today, Jan. 10, from 4-8 p.m. A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, Jan. 11, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will follow in the family plot in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Church, P.O. Box 177, East Hampton, CT 06424 or to My Father's House 39 North Moodus Rd. Moodus, CT 06469.

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## East Hampton

### Jane Taylor

Jane Taylor, 77, of East Hampton and formerly Colchester, passed away early Tuesday morning, Dec. 31, at the Middlesex Hospital Hospice with her family by her side. Born April 7, 1936, in Essex, she was a daughter of the late James and Myrtle (Trowbridge) Everitt.

Jane retired in 1999 after 25 years, working as a certified nurse's aide at the former Colchester Convalescent Home. She will be sadly missed but always remembered by her family as a devoted mother and grandmother.

Survivors include five children, Charles Taylor and Linda Renfro of Colchester, Robert and Phyllis Taylor of Bozrah, William Taylor and Pauline White of East Hampton, Beth and Robert Moran of Colchester, Chris and Amanda Taylor of East Hampton; a brother, James Everitt of Westbrooke; a sister, Virginia Allen of Old Saybrook; 12 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a brother, Robert Trowbridge, and two sisters, Delores Lane and Betty Baxter.

Calling hours were Sunday, Jan. 5, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service followed that afternoon at the funeral home. Burial will be held privately.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Middlesex Cancer Center, 540 Saybrook Rd., Suite 280, Middletown, CT 06457.

For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).





## Andover

### Victoria L. Wallace

Victoria L. (Kolokoski) Wallace, 66, of Andover, passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 29.

Those left to treasure her memory include her former husband, Michael F. Wallace of Andover; two children, Jessica (Wallace) and her husband, James Tremblay, of Bedford, N.H., and Bryce Wallace and his wife, Christa (Jobs), of Easthampton, Mass.; and two grandchildren, Alexa Wallace Tremblay and Jackson Saunders Tremblay, of Bedford, N.H. Vicki is also survived by her three siblings, Susan Briggs, and Edward Collins both of Michigan, and Rick Kolmin of Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Ethel Kolokoski of Michigan.

Born July 18, 1947 in Detroit, Mich., Vicki attended high school in Royal Oak and graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in elementary education. Moving to Connecticut in 1970, she pursued her passion for working with young people and taught elementary and preschool for a combined 26 years in Columbia, Andover and Coventry. Vicki's students often referred to her as "Mrs. Green," because she loved the color green and wore it head to toe every day (except for Saint Patrick's Day).

Vicki always believed that actions speak louder than words and she was not happy unless she was doing her part to make the world a better place. Over the years she poured her heart and soul into programs such as the Andover Library Board, Andover Economic Development Commission, Community Organized and Operated Latchkey Program (COOL), Brownies, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Playgroup, Andover Library Story Hour, Andover Playschool and the Andover Beautification Committee, to name a few.

Andover residents may recall running into Vicki at the town transfer station where she collected recyclables for CART (Collecting Andover's Returnable Treasures) or at the Andover Historical Society's museum at the Old Town Hall where she served as a docent (dressed in Colonial wear) and helped to paint a sixty foot mural depicting the history of Andover.

Her most ardent work included her many contributions to Andover, Hebron and Marlborough Youth and Family Services (AHM). She served on the Executive Committee for ten years and on several subcommittees, including the Juvenile Review Board and Project Graduation, of which she was the general chairperson for three consecutive years. She was particularly fond of her work with the Family Resource Center that brought activities to parents of newborns throughout Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough. In 1997, Vicki received AHM's Friend of Youth Award, an honor bestowed upon one of the region's most outstanding citizens.

Vicki was a truly unique and passionate woman, a loving and caring friend, and someone who always brought out the best in others. She greatly cherished time with her children and grandchildren, all of whom she nurtured with unconditional love and support.

A memorial to celebrate her life will be held at 11 a.m. today, Jan. 10, at the First Congregational Church of Andover, 359 Route 6, Andover.

Memorial donations may be made in lieu of flowers to AHM Youth Services, 25 Pendleton Dr., Hebron, CT 06248.

## East Hampton

### Marie Lang

Marie Lang, 76, formerly of East Hampton, passed away Monday, Jan. 6, at her home in Danville, Vt., surrounded by her family. She was born in St. Johnsbury on June 29, 1937, the daughter of the late Alfred and Lea (Laramée) Daniel.

Marie was a strong but gentle woman. She was a person of great faith, one who loved her family to the fullest. This amazing woman will never be forgotten. Marie, you will be missed in the hearts of many. We will remember you as sure as the sun rises and sets in the days ahead. The love of your family will be never ending.

She graduated from Mt. Saint Joseph Academy and attended Staten Island College for several years. Marie moved to East Hampton with her husband and soulmate Malcom. She worked for many years for the U.S. Postal Service as postmaster in Middle Haddam and later in South Ryegate, Vt., after Marie and Malcolm relocated to Danville, Vt., and their "dream house."

In her free time, Marie was an avid shopper, who loved going to the ocean, especially Cape Cod and Myrtle Beach. Marie was very involved in the Catholic Church. She loved family gatherings, Thanksgiving and Christmas in particular. Known for her green thumb with plants, Marie especially enjoyed African violets and orchids.

Marie is survived by her husband Malcolm of 47 years; four children, Chris and Deborah Sutkaitis and their children, Jared, Sonja and Noajh, Keith and Kim Sutkaitis and daughter Meghan, Diana and Roger Cote and children, Alyssa, Daniel and his wife Ashley, Becky Lang and daughter Rachel; two great-grandchildren, Tessa Lynne and Kameron, sister Irene Webber of Rochester, N.Y. and son James, and a brother, Robert Daniels of Lyndonville, Vt., and his two sons Nick and Tom.

She was predeceased by her parents and two sisters, Louise Daniels and Claire Gagner.

Visiting hours will be held Sunday, Jan. 12, from noon-2 p.m., at Sayles Funeral Home in St. Johnsbury, Vt. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Monday, Jan. 13, at 11 a.m., at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Danville, Vt., with the Rev. Luke Austin officiating. Burial will be at the Danville Green Cemetery in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Covenant House, 461 8th Ave., New York, NY 10001 or The American Cancer Society, P O Box 3333, Montpelier, VT 05601-3333.

A poem for a special wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend. I thought of you with love today. But that is nothing new. I thought about you yesterday and days before that too. I think of you in Silence, I often speak your name. All I have are memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is my keepsake, with which I'll never part. God has you in his keeping; I have you in my heart!!! -With love, forever and always. "Return to Sender"

## Hebron

### Leo Edward Bento

Leo Edward Bento, 84, of Hebron, formerly of Rocky Hill, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, Jan. 5. He was the beloved husband of the late Elaine (Bloise) Bento for nearly 50 years.

Leo was a loving husband, a devoted father and grandfather and cherished his family above all else. He was born to the late Manuel and Maria (Cordeiro) Bento on Oct. 11, 1929, in North Tiverton, R.I., and grew up in Fall River, Mass. As a young man growing up in Fall River, he was involved in various sporting activities, including baseball, basketball and soccer. A lifelong Red Sox, Celtics and Giants fan, his passion for playing sports continued into his 80s as he was a fixture in Rocky Hill's recreational volleyball league.

After graduation, Leo enlisted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War where he served proudly in the Army's Corps of Engineers. After being honorably discharged from the Army, he moved to Hartford where he met his beautiful wife Elaine. Leo and Elaine ultimately settled in Rocky Hill, where they lived together for over 50 years. During his time in Rocky Hill, he spent many years supporting youth athletics as a coach, and was a huge fan of Rocky Hill High School's athletic programs.

Leo was an avid gardener who loved to share his abundance of tomatoes with family and friends. Leo was a skilled machinist and supervisor for several manufacturing companies in the Hartford area.

Leo leaves behind his sons, Leo Bento Jr. and his wife Lisa, of Hebron, Michael and John Osgood of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; a daughter, Diane Boucher and her husband Jerry of Hebron; his grandchildren Adam, Gregory and Scott Bento, Dominick and Kenneth Boucher, Catherine Boucher Schaefer, Robin, Michael and Marni Osgood, Timothy and Jessica Osgood; four great-grandchildren, Jack, Benjamin, Michael and Alexandra; one sister, Rose Wilkinson of Somerset, Mass.; and many dear nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his son, William Osgood; his sisters, Mary Hodgson and Agnes Bento; and brothers, Joe, John, Manuel and Alfred Bento.

There was a funeral service Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm Street, Rocky Hill. Burial was in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford with military honors. Calling hours were Wednesday, Jan. 8, at the funeral home.

## Portland

### David D. Pawl

David D. Pawl, 77, formerly of Moodus, died Thursday, Dec. 30, in Tavares, Fla., at Osprey Lodge. He was born in Portland, son of the late Charles and Mary (Mosca) Pawelczyk.

David served with the United States Air Force. Prior to his retirement, he worked at Raymond Engineering.

He is survived by his sons, Richard Pawolczik (Robyn) of Leesburg, Fla., Gerald Pawolczik (Ana) of Garner, N.C., and daughter Laura Hill of Denver, Colo. He was predeceased by a daughter, Diane Pawolczik Shelton, and a son, Christopher Pawolczik.

David has five grandchildren, Craig Pawolczik of Leesburg, Fla., Justin Guyton of Wendell, N.C., Cameron Pawolczik of Garner, N.C., a granddaughter Amber Lucas and grandson Ryan Shelton of Leesburg, Fla., and a great-granddaughter Addisyn Shelton of Leesburg, Fla. David is also survived by a brother Lucas Pawelczyk (Mary) of Middletown, and a sister, Julia Pawelczyk Tuttle of Cromwell, and many nephews and nieces.

His funeral service and military honors will be held Saturday, Jan. 11, at 9 a.m., at the State Veterans' Cemetery Chapel.

Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. To share memories or express condolences online, visit [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to your local hospice organization, or Cornerstone Hospice of Lake and Sumter Counties in Florida.

## Marlborough

### Alexander Motyka

Alexander Motyka, 100, longtime resident of Glastonbury, passed away Thursday, Jan. 2, at Marlborough Health Care Center, after a brief illness. He was the beloved husband of Charlotte (Warner) since 1942.

Alexander was born Sept. 12, 1913, in Lebanon; a son of the late Adam and Anna Motyka. He attended Glastonbury High School, was self-employed for many years, ending his career as an assistant building inspector for the town of Glastonbury.

Alexander was a member of Gilead Congregational Church, Masonic Lodge of Manchester and John Tom Hill Community Club. He was a loving and devoted father, with strong family and work ethics, often working long days to support his family. Alexander enjoyed hunting, woodworking, gardening and spending time with family and friends, and later in life square dancing.

He will be remembered for building his homes in Glastonbury and Vermont, always responding to work emergencies, building furniture, clocks, chopping wood, volunteering at church, having a large garden and numerous fruit trees.

In addition to his wife Charlotte of 72 years, he is survived by his son, John Motyka and his wife Meredith of Coventry, grandson Philip Motyka, many nieces and nephews, dear friends and neighbors.

Alexander is predeceased by his parents, his son James Motyka and all of his siblings.

A memorial service is to be held Saturday, Jan. 11, at 11 a.m., at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248. There are no calling hours; burial is private and at the convenience of the family.

To leave an online condolence, visit [glastonburyfuneral.com](http://glastonburyfuneral.com).

