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Richmond Memorial Library in Marlborough is turning 90 this year – and to celebrate, a spate of events is planned for the next nine months, starting with an open house tonight. Also on tap for the future is a *Great Gatsby* book discussion, an organized bike ride through Marlborough and other neighboring towns, and more.

Marlborough Library Celebrates 90 Years

by Melissa Roberto

Start lighting those birthday candles, Marlborough book-lovers.

Richmond Memorial Library, a staple in this quaint town that has provided residents with good reads for decades, has turned 90.

And what better way to celebrate than with events at the library for the next nine months? In honor of the 90th anniversary, Richmond Memorial Library staff members have planned festivities for each of the nine decades through October, with its first event kicking off tonight, Jan. 24. From 7-9 p.m., the library will hold an open house with entertainment by the Henderschedt Duo, consisting of father and daughter Jim and Emma Henderschedt, along with refreshments.

Of course, as it goes for any birthday celebration, it's fun to take a look back at how life has evolved over the years. Indeed, the library has seen much change – from its location to its resources – since it was founded in the 1920s.

The library was established in 1924, thanks to a group of six citizens passionate about bringing a library to Marlborough. The group discussed the idea in August of that year, and two months later, on Oct. 10, the library was formally established in a room within an unused Methodist church, formerly located in the center of town.

The six individuals responsible for the es-

tablishment also became the first officers of the library. Those citizens were Honorary President Mary Hall – whose name also adorns the Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School in town – President W. O. Keirstead, Vice President C.S. Bolles, Secretary Allan Blish, Treasurer Henry Cordes and Librarian Helen Peter.

The library was named after former Marlborough resident William Richmond.

One year later, in 1925, the town voted to spend \$100 for library supplies. Current Library Director Nancy let out a subtle laugh this week, stating, "How times have changed."

Over time, the church housed both the library and Town Hall. According to an article that appeared in the *Hartford Courant* in 1935, the building stood at New London Turnpike, now known as North Main Street. The building has since been torn down.

Today, the library is located in a stand-alone building on 15 School Dr. The building was constructed in 1987, right down the road from Marlborough Elementary School and adjacent to the senior center. Ann Grybko, a former assistant director at the library, had the opportunity to work in both the former and current buildings. She explained the former library was housed in the church basement.

The construction of the current building on

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Narrowed Charge for WJJMS Committee

by Elizabeth Bowling

Approximately 40 Colchester residents attended a town meeting last Thursday night, Jan. 16, where they passed an amendment that essentially separates a possible William J. Johnston Middle School renovation project from any work involving a new senior center.

A motion was passed in June 2011 to establish a seven-member building committee for a possible renovation project of WJJMS and the senior center. According to the language of the original motion, the committee was "for the construction of a combined middle school and senior center at the site of the existing William J. Johnston Middle School." The motion added that the project "is also to include allocation of space for general town use."

The resulting WJJMS/ Senior Center/Community Center proposal was the subject of much discussion for the ensuing two years; voters shot down a \$57.26 million project by a hefty 1,993-693 tally last October. Since that defeat, town officials have discussed how to proceed in the future – particularly at WJJMS, which, town and school officials have said, is in dire need of repair.

A key step came at last week's meeting, where residents voted to narrow the committee's scope. The new, amended charge for the building committee now calls for "the construction of a middle school at the site of the existing William J. Johnston Middle School,"

and adds that the project "may also include allocation of space for general town use."

Several residents questioned the language of the motion.

Among them was Jim Kelly, who questioned the following line: "Said project may also include allocation of space for general town use, as determined appropriate and available by said building committee."

First Selectman Gregg Schuster called the wording "enabling language." He added, "The language is designed to be a little bit broad so that we have options."

For example, Schuster said, down the line the town may want to put in a ball field, or an office for social services, but for now, the space for general town use is simply an option.

Schuster furthered, "I think it's very important that we have a building committee that has these options available to them."

Kelly also asked about the line that authorizes the school board "to prepare schematic drawings and specifications for the school portion of said project."

Board of Education Chairman Ronald Goldstein affirmed, "That's standard language."

Resident Kurt Frantzen asked about the jargon in the motion that authorizes the school board "to file a grant application with the State of Connecticut for the school portion of said project."

Schuster explained that if the project is approved at the town's referendum, then a grant request would be submitted to the state.

But Goldstein clarified that there is no proposal on the table yet; rather, the amendment to the motion simply re-establishes the building committee to re-evaluate the needs and wants of the school and the town to come up with a new proposal.

"This will be a new look," he said. "The proposal is yet to be developed. It will be coming before the voters. We'll be talking about it over an extended period of time."

Other questions arose regarding the overall project, not just related to the amendments at hand.

Resident Merja Lehtinen asked, "If we were just to repair the building that exists, would we need a building committee?"

Schuster said, "It depends on the type of repairs that you're talking about. If we're talking a renovation, it would likely need a building committee; if you're talking maintenance-type repairs, the answer is no, you probably don't need a building committee."

Resident Richard LeMay, chairman of the town's Sewer and Water Commission, added that if the town is going to seek state reimbursement for repairs or renovations, it is required by state statute to have a building committee.

Lehtinen then asked the Board of Selectmen

if it had asked the general public whether the town should "renovate or repair" the building – noting the sound defeat the WJJMS/Senior Center/Community Center project experienced last fall.

"I think the community was very clear in saying they weren't happy with the proposal that came before us last time," Lehtinen furthered. "I believe the public spoke very loudly 3-1 on the last proposal."

Lehtinen said that whatever comes of WJJMS is "a vision for the town for the future" so the plan should be "innovative."

Steve Wells, former chairman of the town's Energy Commission, identified himself as a professional in building renovation, and said he has toured WJJMS many times.

"The school is a mess," he said. "And to invest more money to try to repair a mess is throwing bad money at a bad situation. We should address it properly. It's an improper environment for kids to attend school. I have kids who attend school – I want my kids to be in a good environment. Establishing a building committee is the way to go."

Lehtinen said if the school is such a mess then, "Why is the school open today?"

Goldstein affirmed that there are no building or school codes that are in violation at WJJMS and the school is "a safe environment for learn-

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Possibly the biggest draw at Richmond Memorial Library is its wide collection of books, which surpasses 50,000. At left, resident Susan Jacobs browses the stacks. The library often sees familiar faces from Marlborough and welcomes anyone outside of town. At right, First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski stands with Richmond Memorial Library board member Diane Walsh.

Library cont. from Front Page

School Drive was prompted by two things, she said. The first was a considerable amount of money left to the library by the Buell sisters, who lived in town at the time. The second was a radiator that had fallen from the ceiling. Grybko, who left the library in 2009, said she feels it's "quite an accomplishment" the library has been alive for 90 years.

"I think it's really taken off and grown tremendously," she said.

In terms of that growth, the library today is buzzing with activity. Wood, who has served as the library director for 20 years, said she's witnessed several changes in the last two decades alone.

"When I started in 1993, there was only one computer," said Wood. "There was no Internet access."

Wood continued technological advancements are always changing, and the library has certainly had to keep up with that.

"Oh gosh, I think we have nine computers for the public and six for the staff now," Wood said. "We have our own server and a wi-fi (wireless) network free and open to the public."

Wood also let out a chuckle when referencing the old card catalog, a piece of furniture that used to be a fixture in every library. The catalog held a card for each item in the library and to look one up, she said, "You'd have to know how to spell; there was no spell check!"

Additionally, in 1992, the library joined a consortium of other libraries in the greater Hartford area, known as Library Connection. This allows staff to use a database to look up materials not only within the Marlborough library but 30 others in its network, as well as others throughout the state, Wood explained.

"We've seen our ability to find materials for people become much easier through the use of computers," Wood said.

Similarly, the number of offerings at the li-

brary has also been enhanced. A variety of programs run year-round at the library "for all ages," Wood said. One of the most popular, according to the director, is a program that runs once a month on Fridays called "Not Too Old for Story Time." The program is for kindergarten- through second-graders, who walk down from the elementary school for story time, crafts and a snack.

Other popular programs that bring citizens to the library are its genealogy program as well as "anything about dogs," said Wood. Richmond Memorial also hosts a number of computer classes which give those without computers an opportunity to learn how to use one.

But more than just a facility of educational resources, Richmond Memorial Library is also known as an inviting place for families. Among these is the Tyler family; mom Logan Tyler – a self-described "exuberant patron" – visits the library with her daughters Brooklynn, 4, and Jacklynn, 2, four to five times a week. The Tylers moved to town five years ago.

"For a small town, I'm very impressed," Tyler said of the library. "The staff is ridiculously awesome. My kids know all the librarians' names and they're very good about recommending."

Tyler said each visit is "quite a nice experience." The mother of two furthered her young ones particularly enjoy the "Story Time" program, a weekly program designed for Marlborough's youngest citizens. She also noted the library's full stock of DVD rentals suiting people of all ages.

To Tyler, walking into Richmond Memorial has become a routine – and she said it is a trip anyone could enjoy.

"It's worth checking out no matter what your passion or your forte is, because they really have great programming and events," she said.

The library has so many resources that it

seems its collection has surpassed its capacity. Wood said that back when the library opened its doors in 1987 the building was designed to hold 26,000 items. Today, the number of items has doubled to over 50,000.

"We're really crowded with computers and just the collection of books," said Wood.

The director furthered this has actually been the library's downfall, causing crowding and the need to sacrifice seating in order to house the collection. As a short-term solution, Wood said this year's budget discussion could feature talk about a possible one-room expansion on the first floor.

This wouldn't be the first time an expansion would be discussed, Wood said. In 2006 an expansion proposal that would have nearly tripled the size of the library was put forward to voters but failed at referendum. Then about two years ago, when Bill Black was first selectman, Wood said the town applied for a grant that would have funded an expansion to the second floor. The town did not receive the money.

Wood said the one-room expansion is only in the beginning stage of being discussed, but feels it "would be economical and give us some sorely needed space."

But, expansion or not, there's always room to celebrate at the library. For Wood, the past two decades have led to countless memories – and she's hopeful this year's events will create countless more for Marlborough residents.

In addition to tonight's open house, the library will host a local celebration of "Take Your Child to the Library Day" on Feb. 1. The event is a national initiative, which actually began in Connecticut. At Richmond Memorial that day, children will enjoy a special story time, crafts and from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. a balloon artist from Twisty Balloons will be on-site making balloon creations.

Two days later, on Feb. 4, Glastonbury High School teacher Mark Dursin will lead a book discussion at 7 p.m. titled "What's So Great About Gatsby?"

The next nine months are also filled with fun events, including an organized bike ride Wood hinted at which would be 25-50 miles long and extend into Marlborough's neighboring towns.

For a list of future events in the coming months be sure to check out the library's website richmondlibrary.info for more details or you could always venture down to 15 School Dr. to pay the 90-year-old establishment a visit.

Narrowed Charge cont. from Front Page

ing." However, he added, "Certainly there are deficiencies and things that need to be improved and repaired or perhaps replaced."

Tom Tyler, chairman of the previous version of the building committee, commented this week on the procedural process of revising the committee's charge.

"I think procedurally they did what they needed to do to revise the committee," Tyler

said. "That sets it up to move forward."

Tyler explained that, by default, all members of the committee have the opportunity to continue sitting on the revised committee, but it would be up to each one whether they would do so. Tyler said he believed Schuster will be reaching out to each member via a letter to gauge their interest in continuing on, and the Board of Selectmen would handle filling any vacancies.

Crash Shuts Down Route 85 in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

A three-car crash shut down a portion of Route 85 in Hebron for "about an hour" last Thursday, according to Fire Chief Nick Wallick.

The call came in to the Hebron Fire Department at 2:59 p.m. Jan. 16 for a crash at the intersection of Route 85 and Niles Road.

State Police said John Kozlowski, 43, of 67 Brookview Circle, Manchester, failed to grant right of way to the operator of another vehicle, Justin R. Beauchamp, 23, of 77 Ballard Dr., West Hartford, who was traveling north on Route 85.

Police said Kozlowski struck Beauchamp's

vehicle, causing it to strike another car operated by Cheryl A. Spada, 55, of 143 Wall St., Hebron.

Beauchamp and Spada each sustained injuries in the crash and were transported to Windham Hospital and Hartford Hospital, respectively. Of the injuries, Wallick said this week, "nothing seemed to be life-threatening." Both have since been discharged from the hospital.

Police said Kozlowski was found at fault and issued an infraction for failing to grant right of way at an intersection.

Hebron Selectmen Make Wallick Official Fire Chief

by Geeta Schrayter

There's a new fire chief in town – sort of. Interim Fire Chief Nick Wallick was appointed to the position at the Jan. 16 Hebron Board of Selectmen meeting, meaning the fire department finally has a permanent chief, but the face isn't unfamiliar.

Wallick has been with the department since 1999 and stepped into the interim position after the retirement of Fred Speno last August. In the years prior he made his way up through the ranks and has held the position of engineer, second lieutenant, first lieutenant, assistant chief, deputy chief and now, fire chief.

He said this week he joined the department for community service purposes, and decided to try for the fire chief position so he could apply everything he'd learned over the years.

"Typically in fire service the more time you're in, the more education you get and the more you're apt to apply that information," he said. "So as I served my community I took officer roles; I served every officer position in the department."

And now, becoming fire chief was a "great opportunity" to continue that, he said.

"I retired two years ago from a full-time job and it's a good opportunity for the town and myself to continue to serve in the capacity that I'm educated and trained to," he explained.

At the meeting, Wallick's appointment was unanimously approved by the selectmen who offered their congratulations. In return, Wallick thanked the board for their confidence.

"Thank you for giving me your confidence and better days are ahead" he said, adding "I've been looking forward to this for quite some time."

Wallick said he was going to look to "continuously improve the department" as chief.

He said this week he didn't have any major changes in mind, but planned to focus on the involvement of current members, as well as recruitment and retention.

Recruitment and retention, he said, is "a nationwide problem in the fire service and it exists right here [in Hebron] so we're going to focus on that."

Currently the department has 68 members – Wallick said he'd like to see that number increase to around 90.

At the meeting, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said Wallick "has my full support."

"He makes all the decisions for the fire department [now] along with the captains and other chief officers and my hope is the Board of Selectmen will support him and the membership will support him," Tierney stated.

This week, Tierney furthered those sentiments: he explained Wallick was a long time resident who came up through the ranks of the department and as such, it made sense for him to become chief.

"Normally that's what happens in fire service – he served his time," Tierney said, and called Wallick "even-keeled and soft spoken."

"I think it's going to be good for morale. He's already hit the ground running and is interviewing for his chief officers," Tierney said. "I think it's going to be great."

Including Wallick, five applicants put in for the position. Tierney said one withdrew because they couldn't commit to the time requirement and the remaining four were interviewed by a panel that included two out-of-town fire chiefs and one member of the Hebron Fire Department. Two were chosen from that initial interview, after which a second interview was con-

ducted with Tierney and Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan. After the second interview, the decision was made to go with Wallick.

As chief, Wallick will earn a part-time salary of \$21,000 and will need to be available for a minimum of 16 hours per week, in addition to emergencies or disasters.

Wallick's term runs through Nov. 30, 2016.

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Also at the Jan. 16 meeting, Tierney discussed a situation with the town's previous insurance company, the Municipal Interlocal Risk Management Agency (MIRMA), which is now defunct. The town was originally with the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA), but switched to MIRMA for a savings of around \$29,000 in 2005. The town remained with MIRMA for five years, returning to CIRMA in 2010.

However, even though the town is no longer a part of MIRMA, Hebron and all of the other towns involved (Tierney said there were approximately 59) are still responsible for claims filed during their time with the agency.

While the initial thought was that the cost of these claims would eventually "sunset," Tierney explained this week that hasn't proven to be the case, due to some claims requiring long-term care.

"We have to continue to pay on those claims so each town that was involved was assessed a certain amount," he said.

For Hebron, that means \$4-5,000 a year.

Tierney explained the town could leave things as they are, continue to pay that amount and hope the number doesn't increase down the road, or vote in favor of accepting a buyout of-

fer from another company who would take on all of the obligations acquired through MIRMA.

The cost of the latter option would be approximately \$30,000 for Hebron (each town involved would again have to pay an assessed amount), and would allow the town "to be done with MIRMA forever," Tierney said.

At the meeting he furthered those thoughts, and said accepting the buyout would provide "piece of mind."

"We can get that off our back and learn from the experience," he said.

A regional meeting to decide which route the towns want to take was scheduled for Jan. 22 but canceled due to the weather. As of Wednesday, Tierney said a future date had not yet been planned.

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Also related to insurance, Tierney shared at the meeting he'd been to a meeting that day and there was some "bad news" regarding the insurance rate for the upcoming budget year. Although the projected increase for the 2014-15 year had previously been listed at 4 percent, the new number, he said, is 7.1 percent.

Board of Education Chairwoman Maryanne Leichter was present in the audience and said at the Board of Education meeting held earlier that night, the increase had also been discussed and was going to change the proposed education budget from a .59 percent increase to .77 percent.

Last year's insurance increase was 13 percent.

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The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hebron Town Office building.

East Hampton Gears Up For 'Little Free Libraries'

by Elizabeth Bowling

Come springtime, East Hampton residents and book enthusiasts will welcome five "Little Free Libraries" that will be scattered around town.

According to Little Free Library's website, "In its most basic form, a Little Free Library is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share."

Also according to the website, the first Little Free Library was built in 2009 and by 2010 the idea took off. As of this month, there are more than 10,000 registered Little Free Libraries in the world and thousands more are being built.

The mission of the Little Free Libraries project is "to promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide" and "to build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations."

Town Council Chairwoman Barbara Moore expressed her support of the little libraries project at last week's council meeting.

"They're all over the country and they work out very well," Moore said. "It's been talked about [in East Hampton] for a while by various groups."

She furthered, "Now we're lucky enough to have some people that are willing to build these for us."

She affirmed the town's Public Works Department would not build the little libraries. In fact, the project requires no town funding at all. Rather, Mimi Perrotti, owner of Lakeside Signs/MIMI Design, will provide supplies and labor to construct and decorate each library.

Regarding her interest in kick starting the Little Free Libraries in East Hampton, Perrotti said, "This project actually...has been bopping around through different organizations. I keep hearing it and I thought this could be the year that we do it."

She said she initially learned about the project through Town Council Vice Chairman Kevin Reich and decided to "just do it." She said some of her motivation came from the new Town Council, which she said is "very energetic about getting things done for the community."

With that motivation, Perrotti affirmed that everything involved in this project is and will be done by volunteers.

She said, "I have a plan in place to actually get committees together to check on them for maintenance. My company will fund them. We

will make sure they're weatherproof. If there's any wear and tear we'll have somebody monitoring them monthly to replace the books and/or if they need any repair I would take care of that."

So far, Perrotti and other volunteers have already gotten to work on their first of five little libraries.

The Town Council approved four of the five locations already. They are: Sears Park, the Airline Trail in the Village Center, the Airline Trail at Cranberry Bog and the Memorial School playscape. The Town Council will determine the fifth location at one of its upcoming meetings.

"We would position them in different places in the town, of course with Town Council recommendation," Perrotti said. "The idea is we build these little libraries, position them in a strategic place where there's a lot of traffic and maybe somebody grabs a book, they bring another book on their way back and we recycle these books and do something for the community and share knowledge and do something positive for this town."

Each of the five little libraries is going to be unique to its location in town and will be un-

veiled individually come springtime, Perrotti said.

Another way the libraries will be unique to town is local residents will stock them.

"We would fill these libraries with books that were donated by people in the community that want to 'take a book, bring a book,'" Perrotti said, referencing the organization's motto, "take a book, return a book."

Perrotti said each little library will be 24 by 24 by 18 inches and have a constantly-changing collection of 20 to 30 books.

MIMI Design will house books until they are ready to go into circulation through the libraries in the spring.

Perrotti said she is hopeful the idea will catch on and residents would build their own little libraries in front of their homes, for example, thus not limiting the town to only five.

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For more information on the Little Free Libraries project, visit littlefreelibrary.org/.

To donate a book, drop by MIMI Designs at 21 West High St. Donated books should be in good condition.

To volunteer your time to this project, email Perrotti at mimi-design@sbcglobal.net.

East Hampton Town Council Discusses Dispatch Service, Police

by Elizabeth Bowling

At the Town Council meeting held last Tuesday, Jan. 14, council members and the town manager discussed a slew of issues ranging from the town's dispatch service to the town's cleaning service.

Regarding the dispatch service Town Manager Mike Maniscalco said, "We've been going round and round with KX [Colchester Emergency Communications], our dispatch service, for probably close to seven months, eight months now."

The chief of police, at the town manager's direction, gave KX an ultimatum: to complete the digital bridge between the dispatch service and the East Hampton Police Department – which was started about three or four years ago – by Jan. 6, Maniscalco said.

"Unfortunately, Jan. 6 came and went and it still was not done," Maniscalco reported to the council.

Since Jan. 6, Maniscalco informed KX's other member towns – Colchester, East Haddam, Marlborough and Haddam Neck – that East Hampton may be looking to go out to bid for a new dispatch service.

"I've heard from a couple different dispatch centers in the area that are very interested in East Hampton if we are going to go out to bid," Maniscalco said.

He said having a dependable 911 service is "essential to our community."

That's why the town of East Hampton has put \$30,000 into the digital bridge – and KX put in an additional \$5,000 about three months ago, Maniscalco said.

Town Council Vice Chairman Kevin Reich echoed Maniscalco's frustration.

"It's been three months; we've gone nowhere, we're going nowhere," he said. "I think we have to seriously consider what we can do to take care of this issue."

Maniscalco continued, "The town of East Hampton puts in \$122,000 into our dispatch service every year, which is matched dollar for dollar by the state, so basically that means we're a quarter of a million dollar customer and I can't get a small bridge taken care of between our department and KX."

He went on, "My hope is that KX gets the digital bridge taken care of. My hope is that we can stay. That being said, if we have to go down the road of going out to bid that's what we'll do because it's too important a service to our police department and it's too important a service for our residents in the community and too much money has been put into this project to just let it go by the wayside."

But Maniscalco said he's less concerned about money and more concerned about quality service.

He said, "I'm not interested in leaving KX for financial reasons; it would be service reasons only. I don't mind paying for dispatch service." He then quipped, "I rather like the idea that someone will be on the other end of the phone when I dial 911."

However, KX has demonstrated some "budgetary issues" since Hebron dropped out as a member community a couple years ago and took its business to a dispatch service in Tolland, Maniscalco said. He said he would be concerned if no one picked up when he dialed 911 because "they won't be making their bills and the lights won't be on."

Due to those budgetary issues, KX is suggesting a two-year agreement with its member towns, which states that if a town backed out of the agreement early, there would be a "financial penalty," Maniscalco said.

Regarding the two-year agreement, Maniscalco said, "Because we're the biggest entity in KX, all the other communities won't enter that agreement until we enter."

Maniscalco agreed to keep the council informed about happenings, or lack thereof, with the dispatch service.

* * *

Also at last week's meeting, council member Ted Hintz told the council he thought last week's police chase through town – in which an erratic driver struck four other vehicles, each time evading the scene, before losing control of his own car – was "troubling."

Hintz said he was concerned with the police department's vehicle pursuit policy and that the pursuit took place at 2:30 p.m., a time when schools were getting out, thus perhaps putting young students in danger. The incident reminded Hintz of a similar pursuit that took place in 1978, which resulted in a man being killed and the town getting sued.

Maniscalco defended the actions of the East Hampton Police. He read aloud the department's pursuit policy, which states, "It is often necessary for sworn members of the East Hampton Police Department to engage in high-risk pursuit. This order is intended to provide guidelines for personnel faced with these dangerous situations. An established speed beyond which an officer will not go is an open invitation to the violator to extend his speed beyond that point. This would not be in the best public interest."

Maniscalco said confidently, "Our police department acted in the best public interest."

"I don't think it's fair to look back and second guess the actions that they made," he furthered. "I think it is inappropriate."

He added officers acted heroically in intervening to save human life.

Also regarding East Hampton Police, the council voted unanimously last week to replace one of the Police Department's eight patrol vehicles for approximately \$28,000 using the police capital funds.

The new patrol vehicle will be a 2014 Ford Utility Interceptor, consisting of all-wheel drive, a single person prisoner compartment, a rear sensor system, a black and white vinyl wrap and an aluminum push bar for moving disabled vehicles.

Also regarding the local police, Hintz said he recently went on a tour of the Police Department and "quite frankly, it's pretty dirty."

He said Police Chief Sean Cox mops the floors himself. This led to a discussion on the town's lack of a cleaning service – a problem that has faced East Hampton's municipal buildings since July.

Hintz also noted the wastebaskets in the Town Hall were full.

Maniscalco said the reason the town is yet to hire a cleaning service is "nobody wants to bid on our town" because East Hampton had gone out to bid on a cleaning service multiple times in the past but never took action.

For now, Maniscalco said, the town is paying someone part-time to come in at night and empty the wastebaskets and clean the bathrooms at municipal buildings but is seeking something more efficient for the future.

* * *

The council's legal review sub-committee met last month to discuss the performance of Town Attorney Halloran & Sage. The sub-committee determined that the town would complete its two-year contract with the attorney.

Council Chairwoman Barbara Moore reminded the council that the town has had its attorney for a year and only has one more year remaining in the two-year contract.

Hintz expressed concern in completing the two years. He recalled the lawsuit brought against the town clerk in September by the Chatham Party when its appearance on the November election ballots was in question.

Hintz said that, in his opinion, the town attorney didn't act in the best interest of the town clerk, whom it was hired to defend.

Regarding Hintz's concerns, Moore said, "Sometimes a decision might be made that we don't – we can't know everything. We might not know all the background of the reason that the attorney made that decision. And I feel, in my mind, that that attorney had been protecting the town. Really I just feel like they've done an okay job."

Reich agreed. He said, "In the end, I think what occurred was really truly for the best of the community."

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Some new ideas were also brought forward at last week's Town Council meeting. For example, Moore suggested an informal meeting of the town's local clergy and pastors, calling them "the backbone of most of our community."

Reich said, "I think they could be extremely helpful to us."

Another new idea came in the form of a resident's request. An East Hampton resident reported to Public Works that his mailbox and its post were "knocked down during a snow-storm earlier in 2013."

The resident, Christopher LaBonia, asked the council to reconsider its \$25 reimbursement policy, as he spent a total of approximately \$130 to replace his mailbox and post.

He wrote in a letter to the town manager, "Though I understand that accidents happen, I also don't feel it's fair for me to be out of pocket at all for this situation."

Council member George Pfaffenbach said, "I don't think it's the town's responsibility to take care of anyone's mailbox."

"It's a shame that it happens," he furthered, "but you're responsible for your own mailbox."

The council agreed to leave its mailbox reimbursement policy as it is, at \$25.

The council also took no action regarding the adoption of the Clean Energy Task Force Mission and long and short-term goals. Instead, the council requested that the task force prepare a presentation for an upcoming Town Council meeting.

Reich said he wanted more guidance from the task force and understanding of the goals before passing them.

One example of the task force's short-term goals is to increase the purchase of renewable energy by 17 percent from July 1, 2014, to June 20, 2015.

"I don't want to fool the community into thinking we're going to meet this goal. In fact I have no idea if it's even achievable," Reich said. "I just wonder how reasonable this is."

The council also discussed the town map sign at the Century 21 parking lot off Route 66.

Moore said it should be brought to the attention of the Economic Development Commission first. She suggested two options: "either fix it or get rid of it."

Hintz said his main concern is that it doesn't cost the town anything. He said, "I can't see putting money into something that is not being utilized."

* * *

The next regularly scheduled East Hampton Town Council meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

East Hampton's Goff House Under New Long-Term Lease

by Elizabeth Bowling

Over the years, the Joseph N. Goff House has served East Hampton in many capacities: as a museum and cultural center, as a meeting place, and just as an overall landmark of the town.

The building has long been overseen by a volunteer board of directors. However, the board recently entered into a long-term lease agreement with a private company, to relieve itself of some of the burden of ownership. The directors said they can now focus on bettering the museum portion of the building, rather than operating the entire building.

According to Dean Markham, former president of the board of directors, the Goff House dates back to 1843, and was originally owned by Joseph N. Goff, whom Markham described as a "town industrialist." Additionally, the Goff family was descended from one of the original settlers of East Hampton, thus furthering the house's rich town history, according to the records of the Goff House Board of Directors.

Originally, the Goff House was located on East High Street, where McDonald's is now. When the fast-food giant came into the picture in 1981, Chuck Wiltsie was technically the owner of the home, but the Goff House had already been abandoned for 10 years and was scheduled to be demolished. Cue Alan Battit, a restoration carpenter, who bought the house off of Wiltsie. (Battit only bought the house itself off Wiltsie; McDonald's then purchased the land off Wiltsie.)

Battit "dismantled" the house and stored it in a barn, Markham said. Battit's plan was to rebuild the house in a different location and live in it himself, but he died before he got a chance to see his plan to fruition.

The Chatham Historical Society "had no interest in the project," Markham said, because "it was beyond what they could handle." So in 1997, the Goff House Board of Directors, a not-for-profit corporation that operates off grants and donations, was established, and Battit's wife donated the house.

The board raised about \$240,000 – and had a lot of volunteers who donated time and expertise – to cover the expense of rebuilding. It wasn't until 1999 that the dismantled parts of the house were brought back to form by the board. The Goff House's official opening was in 2004.

Today, the house retains its historic feel, but has modern features. Its interior was designed to include a typically finished room of the Greek revival period and to showcase the post and beam construction technique, Markham explained.

The town gifted the property at 2 Barton Hill Rd. – which had been "an eyesore in the [Village] Center" – to Joseph N. Goff House Inc., and that's where the 1999 reconstruction took place and where the Goff House stands today, Markham said.

But the gifted land came with stipulations that could cause the plot to "revert back to the town," Markham explained. One of those stipulations, for example, is that the Goff House must remain not-for-profit and must contain a museum.

In 2010, the town expressed an interest in taking over the Goff House. But the deal "never proceeded," Markham said, due to what he described as "political entanglements with" Jef-

frey O'Keefe, who was town manager at the time.

With that setback, the Goff House board continued to bear the burden of the building.

Terry Concannon, a former president of the Goff House Board of Directors, said the all-volunteer board was "very time-consuming and the responsibility fell on the shoulders of a few people."

For example, Concannon recalled being on vacation in Ecuador a year ago and getting a text message that the Goff House toilet was blocked up.

"That was the ultimate," she said.

After Concannon's vacation disruption, Markham came up with the idea to do a long-term lease on the building – so the board would still have ownership, but wouldn't deal with maintenance, operations or rentals, thus leaving the board of directors to only maintain the museum portion of the building.

The board first offered the long-term lease to the town a little less than a year ago, Markham said. But this time around, the town was no longer interested.

"It didn't fit in their long-term plans," Markham said.

So the Board of Directors moved forward with finding a private company to take over the Goff House for years to come.

"We didn't put it on the open market," Markham explained. "We put some communications out to several people that we thought might be interested."

Ultimately, it was R&S East Hampton Village LLC, a private company that invests in real estate, that officially took over the Goff House last month on a 99-year lease, according to Markham, who did not wish to disclose what R&S is paying to lease the building.

R&S owners Rick Roth and Rob Schoetz also own the apartments across the street from the Goff House at 82 Main St. Markham said the duo was interested in the Goff House for several reasons.

"It complemented their business," he said. "They have a strong presence in the downtown East Hampton area."

Additionally, "it complemented the project they did next door," he said, referencing R&S' work in renovating and upgrading the apartments at the commercial property at 82 Main St., which the company purchased in October 2012.

"They saw that maintaining this and keeping this building in good standing would complement what they're doing here," he concluded.

Roth said this week that the "2 Barton Hill Rd. and 82 Main St. properties complement each other very well, based on both of their apartment and commercial uses, parking and their adjacent locations."

Concannon also said R&S may have seen potential in the basement, "which has all the necessary utilities but hasn't been finished," she said. "We didn't have enough capital to do that ourselves."

Markham expressed relief with the long-term lease because, he said, "It was getting [to be] too much for too few people."

R&S has taken over all the operations, functions and expenses of the Goff House including heating, plumbing and any unexpected issues (like a leaky roof, for example) that may



The Joseph N. Goff House, located at 2 Barton Hill Rd., was taken over by a private company last month, thus relieving the volunteer board of directors of the burden of building operations and management, and leaving them responsible for the non-profit museum portion of the Goff House.

come up, Markham said, leaving the board to concentrate solely on programming.

Because R&S has taken on all expenses, the private company is entitled to collecting the rents that come from the rest of the building, Markham said.

That means R&S also retains money from renting out the facilities and an upstairs apartment.

From now on, the money the board of directors earns from fundraisers will go toward programs – such as insurance for an art exhibit – rather than "back into the building," Markham said.

In bettering the programming, Markham said the Goff House will become "an attraction for tourism and the town."

Concannon noted it would help rejuvenate the Village Center.

In a concluding statement, Markham called his dedication and the dedication of his fellow volunteers "a labor of love."

Markham, a lifelong resident of East Hampton, was the Goff House Board of Directors' first president when it formed in 1997. His presidency lasted from 1997 to 2008, when Concannon, a member of the board since 2004, became president. Concannon served as president for five years, with Debi Rotteck assuming the role last month.

The Goff House Board of Directors currently has eight members, though in the past it has operated with 12 to 14.

"We're always looking for new members," Markham said, laughing that now more people may be interested in volunteering since snow removal and toilet-unclogging are no longer part of the job description.

The mission of the Goff House is "to interpret and display the artistic and historical heritage of our area and to provide a place where

people of all ages can experience and celebrate the arts and humanities."

And so it does. The museum portion of the Goff House pays homage to former Gov. William O'Neill, a longtime East Hampton resident, as well as Old Home Days past and present. Additionally, the directors are currently working on unveiling a new exhibit that will focus on the cultural and artistic aspect of East Hampton.

In addition to the museum, the Goff House is home to a reception hall called the "Great Hall," as well as an upstairs apartment and unfinished basement.

"There's no other space like the Great Hall in East Hampton," Concannon said. "It really serves a whole gamut of interests and activities."

The Great Hall is rented out by people for a plethora of occasions, from weddings and Sweet-16 parties, to exercise classes and concerts, Concannon said.

Concannon said some of the Great Hall's use includes Board of Education meetings and continuing education programs, Chamber of Commerce meetings, church groups on Sundays, and exercise classes like yoga, Zumba and jazzercise several times a day.

Additionally, for a handful of years, the Great Hall has recognized East Hampton High School's top 10 graduating seniors with a reception. Then, for the entire following year, the 10 graduates' yearbook photos remain on display. The tradition will continue under R&S, Concannon affirmed.

Though its operators have changed, the staples that make the Goff House so special to East Hampton will remain the same.

For more information on R&S East Hampton Village LLC, visit villageat82main.com.

Take a Spin at New Cycling Studio in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

A New Year often jump-starts New Year resolutions, and for those who have made the commitment to start living or maintaining an active lifestyle, the center of Marlborough has a new business that just might be your next pit stop.

In the heart of town, at 31C North Main St., a new indoor cycling and strength studio, ReVive Cycling, LLC, has just opened.

Inside the studio, located above the Law Offices of Joe La Bella and Reale Hair, is a room filled with eight stationary bikes. This is where co-owner Julie Jones leads cycling classes meant for people of all ages and skill levels.

"That's what makes it so fun," said Jones. "Anybody can ride a bike."

Jones explained cycling is a "low impact" activity that beginner to elite riders, even individuals with an injury, can participate in.

Jones and co-owner Torin Lee-Lewis teamed up with the idea to open the studio last spring. The two met while working at Oneida Holistic Health Center, which Lee-Lewis owns, and where Jones operates her private psychotherapy practice. It was there the pair realized they shared a love of cycling.

In addition to being avid cyclists, the co-owners each have a full plate of accolades. Lee-Lewis is a professional life coach, healer, author and motivational speaker. Jones is also a certified health coach, personal trainer, cycling instructor and TRX body suspension trainer. Together, the two have the skills to help their clients remain active while also providing nutritional guidance and health coaching.

Jones, an East Hampton resident, and Lee-Lewis, of Marlborough, were interested in opening a studio in either one of their hometowns. Jones said the two felt there was a need in the area. For example, before ReVive opened, Jones said she'd travel nearly a half hour away four times a week in order to get a similar workout.

Now, smack dab in the center of town, ReVive welcomes everyone. Jones dished that cycling is known as a "cross trainer" activity, or an alternative to exercising that doesn't necessarily involve high intensity on joints like running. Instead, cycling has a "low impact" on joints, allowing even elders to partake in the activity. After all, Jones pointed out, a client determines his or her own workout—at the speed or intensity they wish to go.

"It's a personalized experience," said Jones. "Nobody knows what you're doing but you."

A cycling session is also a cardio workout, along with strengthening leg and core muscles.

"It is a great strength-based workout," Jones explained. "You are working all the muscle groups in your legs so you're toning and conditioning some pretty major muscles of the body."

Because the activity is fitting for just about anyone, the ReVive studio offers three types of cycling classes. A total of 11 are held each week on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at varying times. The drop-in rate per class is \$15; a 10-class card is available for \$130, and a 20-class card for \$200. Clients may also choose to pay an unlimited monthly option of \$98 per month. However, the first class is always free.

The first type of class, Complete Cycling, is a "multi-level" class, Jones explained. In this type of class clients will ride flats, climb hills, or do sprints and intervals to work on strength and endurance. The second, The Climb, is what Jones described as a "more strength-based, power workout" with a higher intensity. However, the owner said even beginners sometimes opt to take The Climb, because it can still be individualized.

The third, First Ride, is a class appealing for beginners. Clients in this class will be given an introduction to cycling including a demonstration of how to use the equipment. The co-owners are also already in talks of adding a cycling class solely for seniors.

Although cycling is an individualized sport to begin with, at ReVive, the personalized experience may be heightened due to its small class size, which cannot exceed seven due to the number of bikes. Additionally, Jones said she likes to get to know her clients, which means she'll often meet with them before or after class for health coaching.

The owner also likes to remind her clients cycling is a "mind-body" experience. This is achieved through visualization, she said.

"Whether it's a mountainous terrain or a beach ride," Jones explained, "I try to do a lot of cueing in order for clients to feel that mind-body experience."

And it seems clients will also truly get a chance to revive at the ReVive studio. Jones described the studio atmosphere as "fun and energizing" and that's achieved in more ways than just the hints of orange on the walls. For example, ReVive's Facebook page features weekly posts of what type of music will be played in class.

"Tonight's is 80s hair-metal bands," Jones



Marlborough is now home to an indoor cycling and strength studio, ReVive Cycling, LLC. The studio features a room of stationary bikes where riders of all ages and skill levels can attend any of the 11 classes held each week. The classes feature music, are sometimes themed, and co-owner Julie Jones says each one of them offers a "fun and energetic" experience.

said Wednesday with excitement. "Every week I try and pick a different playlist, something fun for people to look forward to."

Another element available at ReVive studio is TRX body suspension training. This is done through private sessions only. This is primarily used for people with injuries or in post-rehabilitation, and focuses on strength development and flexibility through the use of one piece of equipment, Jones said.

"This is awesome for flexibility and a range of motion," said Jones.

Each 30-minute TRX session is \$40.

The facility also holds a line of nutritional snacks and supplements from the popular lines Team Beach Body and Vega. These offerings include protein shakes, meal replacements, supplements and bars and snacks.

So whether you're just getting over an injury, still suffering from one, looking to tone your muscles, or even just want to get that heart rate up, ReVive Cycling could be your next destination. Though Jones forewarns all, "It's highly addicting."

To see what ReVive Cycling is all about read-

ers are encouraged to attend the studio's upcoming events. The first, Cycle for Life, will be held tomorrow, Saturday, Jan. 25, 8:30a.m.-noon. The event will feature free cycling up to three hours long, along with a speaker who will speak about a personal experience with suicide. Donations are encouraged, which will all go to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Another event, The Spin-A-Thon Ride Against Cancer, will be held Saturday, Feb. 15, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The day will feature raffles, food, and rides of 25, 50, 75 miles for \$25, or attendees may challenge themselves to a full century ride (100 miles) for \$50. Team century rides are also available at \$25 per person.

For more information on the upcoming events, or to stop by ReVive Cycling to take a spin, readers can call the business at 860-373-7503 or visit the website at revivecycling.com. Be sure to also log on to the studio's Facebook page to learn more about its events, at facebook.com/revivecycling.

Colchester Board of Selectmen Discuss Security Upgrades

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Board of Selectmen discussed upcoming security upgrades for town and school buildings at its meeting last Thursday night, Jan. 16.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said the security for the town buildings would cost \$25,000 and the security for the school buildings would cost \$85,000. He affirmed that those funds would come out of an "off budget account, which was mandated by the state and operates under LoCIP [or Local Capital Improvement Plan] rules."

A municipality can request LoCIP funds from the state so long as the town's project falls under a LoCIP category. According to LoCIP's guidelines, the state grant "provides financial assistance to municipalities for eligible projects in the form of entitlement grants funded with State general obligation bonds." The guidelines furthered, "Once a municipality expends funds for an authorized LoCIP project, it may apply for reimbursement."

Maggie Cosgrove, chief financial officer of Colchester schools' finance department, said LoCIP regulations were expanded about a year ago to allow LoCIP funds to be spent on security, including school security.

Schuster listed the following security measures to a combination of both municipal and

school buildings as part of the upgrades: cameras, doors, swipe cards to activate doors, a service contract and the software necessary to manage those upgrades.

Additionally, upgrades will be made to the Bacon Academy public address system, which include the initial engineering work and the actual implementation of the system.

Schuster also suggested adding external cameras at the library to the list depending on cost "because we have had incidents in the parking lot," he said, reassuring the board, "We don't have to do that."

The board did not take any action on the security upgrade last Thursday. It decided to wait to inform the Board of Finance before moving forward with the approval of the upgrades.

* * *

During the first selectman's report, Schuster informed the board that the town's blight ordinance task force held its first meeting last week. Currently, Colchester does not have a blight ordinance.

Schuster also reported last Thursday that the week prior he held a roundtable discussion with the public on drugs in the Colchester community.

One suggestion that came out of the round-

table discussion was to set up some "community values" regarding drugs, Schuster said.

He clarified, "All communities have these kinds of issues," adding that Colchester is no different.

"I think it was a very good step to addressing an issue of drugs in this community. I'd like to have more conversations in the future," he said. "It's a very complicated complex issue. There's no one person or group that owns this; it's not the school, it's not the police, it's not the parents – it really is a community issue."

Schuster added that he looks forward to having further dialogue with the community regarding how to keep drugs out of Colchester.

* * *

Dorothy Mrowka, the town's Democrat registrar of voters, spoke during the public comment portion of last Thursday's meeting on behalf of herself and Republican registrar of voters Diana Giles.

Mrowka asked the board to consider new technology; specifically, an "electronic voter checklist," an online program that keeps track of who voted.

Eight towns in Connecticut already use an electronic voter checklist, Mrowka said, and it

has proven to be a time-saver. After polls close, unofficial checkers go by hand through the list of people who voted and make sure it matches up with the number of ballots cast. An electronic voter checklist eliminates the need for this – and thus those eight towns can release the voting results within just two minutes of the polls closing.

The cost for the new technology would be about \$7,000, she said.

An additional perk is there would be no need for unofficial checkers, Mrowka affirmed.

She said, "I was really quite impressed with it and I hope we can get a go-ahead to look into this and maybe do something in the fall with this."

The selectmen showed interest, too.

Selectman Stan Soby said, "We'd love to look at that," and selectwoman Rosemary Coyle agreed, saying, "It sounds a lot better than paper."

The board asked Mrowka to prepare a presentation for a future meeting.

* * *

The next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting is Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Colchester Selectmen, Finance Boards Approve Fire Appropriation

by Melissa Roberto

It's been almost a year since the Colchester Hayward Fire Department began its ambulance incentive program, which implemented pay incentives so the department could maintain and add to its network of volunteers.

And according to Fire Chief Walter Cox, the program is working, which seems to be why the boards of selectmen and finance ultimately approved an appropriation for a fourth time to fund it until the end of the current fiscal year, or until June 30.

However, the approval did not come without some reservations from the Board of Finance. The appropriation, of \$42,500, will be taken out of the general unassigned fund balance and transferred into the fire department payroll. The appropriation was made after an initial request of \$48,000 from the fire department in December.

The appropriation is meant to pay volunteers a \$50 flat fee of each six-hour shift worked as well as \$15 to volunteers who respond to a second call. This \$50 flat fee changed from the incentives that had originally begun last March. When the program began, volunteers were paid \$15 per six-hour shift worked and an additional \$15 per call. The change in the way the money was spent was a decision made by the fire department, which was still in need of volunteers. The switch to a \$50 flat fee went into effect in August, and numbers prove the flat fee has been a success, Cox has told both boards.

"Every shift got filled," Cox told finance

members last week. "There [were] no empty slots [on the schedule]."

The first two appropriations, one made last March and another last July, were for \$32,000 each – which made the finance board wonder why the third came in at \$48,000.

On Dec. 5, Cox and other members of the department explained to the selectmen how successful the program has become. That night, the selectmen approved the \$48,000 appropriation. It was then up to the Board of Finance to approve it on Dec. 18. However, the finance board had questions about the increase from \$32,000 to \$48,000, Tarlov said, and because members of the fire department were absent from the meeting to answer the questions, the board opted not to approve the \$48,000.

Instead, finance board members approved an appropriation of \$5,500 on Dec. 18, which would fund the program through the month of January. The decision to extend the funding was tabled to last Wednesday's meeting. The selectmen also reacted to this vote by rescinding its original approval of the \$48,000 from Dec. 5, and voted to appropriate \$42,500 – the difference between the \$48,000 request and the \$5,500 approved by the Board of Finance on Dec. 18.

The \$42,500 appropriation still had to be approved by the Board of Finance before it could go into effect. Cox and other members of the department attended the Board of Finance meeting last Wednesday, Jan. 15. Cox high-

lighted the benefits of the program, while also showing charts and schedules proving a spike in volunteers that occurred after August.

In addition to relieving the burden of finding volunteers, Cox said the program also shortened the department's reaction time of responding to a call. Additionally, he said, the number of calls to mutual aid, or outside assistance from other fire departments, has also decreased.

The number of volunteers from March to July, during the initial five months of the incentive program, was 19, said Cox. Currently, that number is at 29. Cox said this is one of the reasons the appropriation request has gone up. Additionally, Cox explained the second incentive, the \$15 per second call a volunteer responds to, also amounts to the increase.

"These figures are based on the \$50 flat-fee program since August," Cox said of the appropriation request.

Finance members questioned the increase, but at the same time pointed out they understood the need for the incentives.

"I recognize when you deal with public safety it's a very difficult subject," finance chairman Rob Tarlov admitted. "Fire and ambulance is particularly difficult because it's volunteers – people getting up in the middle of the night, leaving birthday parties, leaving Super Bowl games, leaving reunions, to make that call. ... And then some people get up an hour or two later to get to work."

"Plus you've got people's health and lives [in your hands]," Tarlov furthered.

The finance board ultimately voted unanimously to approve the remaining \$42,500 though Tarlov explained there was some hesitation.

"The volunteers do a great job, but we believe that this program needs more analysis and review to be sure it is the best use of taxpayer dollars and how the program fits with the future direction of the department," Tarlov said in a statement to the *Rivereast* this week.

Of the finance board's approval, Tarlov continued, "We approved the appropriation but stated there would be serious discussion before it would be included in next year's budget."

Tarlov furthered a strategic plan is in the process of being completed by the fire department showing its shifts and incentive pay. The chairman said the finance board will request a deadline of when they'd like that to be completed. Additionally, the incentive program will be discussed in the finance board's February meetings, he said. Tarlov also said himself and fellow finance member James McNair will meet with Cox "several times in February to review the data and to gain understanding of the logistics of the work they do."

The next Board of Finance meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

Colchester Officials Get Raises – Schuster Opts Out

by Melissa Roberto

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted in its special meeting Jan. 13 to give four elected officials a 2.5 percent increase in their salaries – though one of the intended recipients, First Selectman Gregg Schuster, opted not to accept his.

The selectmen voted 4-0 (with Schuster refusing himself and Stan Soby acting as chair in his stead) to give raises to Schuster, Town Clerk Nancy Bray, and both registrars of voters, Republican counterpart Diana Giles and Democratic registrar Dorothy Mrowka.

The 2.5 percent increase bumps Bray's salary from \$59,191 to \$60,670.78; the registrars, who each receive \$12,375 for the year, will now receive \$12,684.38. Had Schuster accepted his raise, his salary would have climbed from \$70,019 to \$71,769.48.

The increases are retroactive to the start of the 2013-14 fiscal year on July 1, 2013.

Discussion of salary increases for elected officials has been on the selectmen's meeting agendas in recent months. Selectman Mike Caplet, who was elected to the board last No-

vember, had prompted the discussion.

Town officials have previously said officials haven't received a raise in a few years. Schuster could not pinpoint the exact year of his last raise, but said he believed it occurred in the 2011-12 fiscal year. Bray, who also couldn't specify the exact year, said it had been a "few years" since she received one. The two confirmed the previous raise was also for 2.5 percent.

Schuster confirmed this week any official at any point this year could have received a raise. Last year, during the budget development process Schuster explained the Board of Finance set aside a pool of money to give increases both to non-union employees as well as elected officials. It's the finance board's authority to set the pool of money aside, Schuster said, and the Board of Selectmen's responsibility to determine who gets a raise, and for how much.

At last week's special meeting, as in the previous discussions on the topic, Schuster recused himself from the discussion, since it involved his salary. The board had previously reviewed

cost of living and Consumer Price Index (CPI) documents.

"That's how we decided on it," selectwoman Rosemary Coyle said this week.

Coyle further explained the boards of finance and selectmen are looking to create a policy or formula in terms of distributing pay increases based on the positions.

"The idea is even if they don't take the raise the position itself needs to remain competitive," said Coyle.

Coyle said the board this year recognized "elected officials get lost in the mix of everything" and revisited the topic, since it had not been done in a few years.

But whether Schuster was given a pay raise or not, he had already decided he was not going to accept it. He first decided this when the money was set aside last year and repeated this intention to his fellow selectmen last month – and stuck to his word last week when the selectmen agreed to the pay increases.

"I just felt that I'm trying to set a good example by keeping costs down as much as pos-

sible," said Schuster. "Granted, the increase I passed up in this year doesn't really impact the budget substantially, but I'd like to show the town that both myself and all town employees have at various times taken reduced compensation or made concessions to help relieve the burden on the taxpayer."

Schuster said Monday that, to his knowledge, the remaining three officials would accept their raise.

Town Clerk Nancy Bray said this week she is "very pleased" to have received the pay increase. It will be the second 2.5 percent salary increase she's received in the last five years. Bray has worked for the town for a total of 20 years.

"I'm very pleased with their decision to acknowledge that I've done a good job and have continued to run my office in an efficient manner," said Bray.

Discussion of a policy on distributing pay increases is anticipated to begin in upcoming months by both the boards of selectmen and finance.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

The Winter Olympics are just around the corner, as was the case four years ago at this time.

Also as was the case four years ago at this time, NBC is getting ready for a new host of *The Tonight Show*.

I was fascinated by all the goings-on at the Peacock Network four years ago; Conan O'Brien, the longtime host of NBC's 12:35 a.m. show, moved up to take over *The Tonight Show* from Jay Leno in June 2009. Leno, however, wasn't leaving NBC; no, that was the initial plan, but at the last minute the network decided to keep him around, and gave him a show that was very, very similar to his *Tonight Show*, only it aired weeknights at 10 p.m.

It was an experiment by NBC – no network had tried a prime-time, five-nights-a-week talk show before. NBC had been doing poorly with its dramas in that timeslot, and Leno's show came relatively cheap, so network executives apparently felt, why not?

Alas, things did not go as the NBC brass planned. After launching well in September 2009, the hour-long *Jay Leno Show* quickly sank in the ratings. Though its numbers stank, NBC probably still would've stuck with the show – which, after all, was still cheaper to make than a drama – if not for its local affiliates, who had seen ratings for their highly-lucrative 11 p.m. newscasts plummet following the lousy Leno lead-in. The affiliates began to loudly complain, and NBC – which, being a broadcast network, depends on affiliate channels to carry its offerings – listened to them.

In January 2010, NBC announced it would shorten *Leno* to half an hour and move him to 11:35, bumping O'Brien's *Tonight Show* to 12:05 a.m. and the new *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* to 1:05 a.m. The move would restore Leno back to the slot where he had seen the most success at, and it would also – hopefully – help NBC in the time period, as O'Brien's *Tonight* was performing softly in the ratings, losing to David Letterman on CBS on a regular basis.

O'Brien cried foul, though, and understandably so. After all, bumping his show half an hour and making him follow Leno again – well, hadn't he been there, done that? Moreover, how could NBC seriously say *The Tonight Show* was the crown jewel in its late-night lineup if it wasn't even allowed to kick-off late night anymore?

O'Brien chose to walk, and his final *Tonight Show* aired Jan. 22, 2010. Repeats and then the Olympics took over the timeslot until March of that year, when Leno started up as the host of *The Tonight Show*. O'Brien eventually landed at TBS, where his nightly talk show *Conan* has been airing since November 2010.

All this month, NBC has been talking up Leno's farewell from *The Tonight Show*, celebrating his more than 20 years at the helm of the show – and conveniently omitting the eight months when he didn't host the show. It makes sense, of course, since Leno's *Tonight Show* never really went away; even when O'Brien was hosting, Leno was still doing his typical *Tonight* stuff at 10 p.m.

So, starting after the Olympics, *The Tonight Show* will once again have a new host, and once again NBC will be promoting from within, moving Jimmy Fallon from the *Late Night* show he's hosted since 2009. I'm guessing the second attempt to replace Leno on *The Tonight Show* will be more successful – for a couple of reasons.

For starters, Fallon's keeping *The Tonight Show* in New York. The show works well in New York, as O'Brien's did. There was a certain energy to *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* that was lost when O'Brien moved to Los Angeles and took over *The Tonight Show*. It will allow New York-based guests to continue to appear on a regular basis, and Fallon's house band, the delightful Roots, will also be a part of the show, which I'm not sure would've been the case had Fallon followed O'Brien's lead and moved to California.

But also, Fallon's only hosted *Late Night* for five years – which is a good thing. He's still the hot hand. His ratings are still doing

quite nicely, routinely topping both *Nightline* on ABC and *The Late, Late Show* on CBS. NBC seems to have learned from before: now is the time for a changing of the guard. Don't wait five years.

In a book I read last year all about the O'Brien-Leno *Tonight Show* controversy, an interesting point was made that I hadn't considered four years ago, when the whole mess went down. In 2004, NBC was so desperate to keep O'Brien that the network promised him *The Tonight Show* – five years in the future. During that period, O'Brien sort of took on a lame duck status. He wasn't really a star on the rise, like Fallon is. His star had risen; it was just being forced to wait an incredibly long time to fully shine.

Another point in Fallon's favor? This time Leno's really leaving! O'Brien's camp argued at the time the poor ratings of *The Jay Leno Show* in the fall of 2009 negatively impacted O'Brien's *Tonight* ratings. While the facts don't exactly bear that out – *Tonight*'s numbers began to drop during the summer, before Leno's new show had even debuted – Leno's continued presence certainly didn't help matters. The ratings fell further, but moreover, there was just this feeling that O'Brien still wasn't NBC's crown jewel for late night. He was playing second-fiddle to Leno, as he had since 1993. The timeslots had shifted a bit, and O'Brien had shifted coasts, but the relationship had largely remained the same. O'Brien could never really crawl out of Leno's shadow.

But, as I said, Leno's out. Hopefully this means if Fallon's ratings stumble a bit out of the gate (which they almost certainly will; Leno's still got the top-rated show in late night, and it will likely be tough for Fallon to measure up, at least at first), he'll be given time to grow, because there won't be a *Jay Leno Show* ready to slide into his timeslot. In 2009, O'Brien was never really given the time to grow that Leno himself was given some 15 years earlier; after David Letterman moved over to CBS in the fall of 1993 and directly faced Leno, he routinely trounced Leno until 1995, when Leno gained an edge thanks to a fortuitously-timed interview with Hugh Grant (who had been arrested two weeks before allegedly engaging in lewd conduct with a prostitute, generating huge headlines; Grant opted to still go on his already-booked interview with Leno, leading to a Q&A that millions watched) and never looked back.

I'm rooting for Fallon; I prefer his comedy to Leno's, and find his show to be wildly inventive and just very entertaining. I hope he keeps that same off-the-wall-ness when he moves up to 11:35.

At the same time, I can't help but feel bad for O'Brien. His show is succeeding on TBS, but with numbers much lower than any he had seen at NBC. I can't help but wonder if he'd stuck around at NBC, agreed to move to that 12:05 a.m. timeslot, if he knew that Leno would be leaving four short years later. Hindsight's, of course, 20-20 – as my dad once told me, all you can do as a person is make the decision you feel at the time is the best possible one to make – and there's no guarantee things would've played out the way they did if he'd stayed. And besides, even if he were able to move back to 11:35, would he be viewed as damaged goods? Somebody who couldn't cut it there before?

While the "what if?" question can be an unfortunately-tempting one to ask, hopefully O'Brien isn't bogged down too much with it. Publicly, at any rate, O'Brien's saying all the right things, saying on his show when the switch was announced last April, "I want to congratulate Jimmy; that is a really fun gig. Jimmy is the perfect guy to do it. He's going to do a fantastic job."

Fallon's first *Tonight Show* will debut on NBC Feb. 17. Leno's final *Tonight Show* – which, interestingly, will feature as a guest Billy Crystal, who was Leno's very first guest on the show back in 1992 – airs Feb. 6.

It's a passing of the torch that I'm sure NBC – and certainly Fallon – hopes goes much more smoothly this time.

* * *

See you next week.

East Hampton Police News

1/8: Eric Daniel Cook, 28, of 7 Old Coach Rd., was arrested for sixth-degree larceny (shoplifting), East Hampton Police said.

1/9: Wigberto Laboy Jr., 33, of 17 Old Coach Rd., was arrested for disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

1/11: Steven C. Lycke, 56, of 130 Colchester Ave., was arrested for second-degree failure to appear, pursuant to an active PRAWN warrant, police said.

1/11: Michael DeFranzo, 47, of 16 Lake-

wood Dr., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle under suspension, police said.

1/12: Amanda Silveria, 21, of 56 Barton Hill Rd., was issued a ticket for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

1/15: Two juveniles of East Hampton were each arrested for third-degree burglary, third-degree criminal mischief and sixth-degree larceny, police said.

Colchester Police News

1/14: State Police said Charles S. Mauro, 60, of 108 Brookside Ln., Unit 15, Pawcatuck, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in the right lane.

1/14: State Police said Lynette St. Pierce, 28, of 72 Hartford Rd., Simsbury, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

1/16: Colchester Police said James Gigliotti, 32, of 41 Rita Dr., Lebanon, was charged with DUI, narcotics kept only in an original container, possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia.

1/16: State Police said Samuel Maldonado, 49, of 466 Long Hill Rd., Groton, was taken into custody for first-degree criminal trespassing, second-degree breach of peace, disorderly conduct and sixth-degree larceny. Police said later that day Maldonado was also arrested on five PRAWN warrants, two of which were counts of second-degree failure to appear and three counts that were for first-degree failure to appear.

1/16: State Police said Frank Minor, 41, of 16 Highland View Dr., Windham, was charged with disorderly conduct and two counts of third-degree assault.

Hebron Police News

1/16: State Police said Marshelle Fafard and James Lomba, both 41, both of 162 Wall St., Apt. B4, were each charged with disorderly conduct and risk of injury to a child.

1/16: State Police said Shane M. Dolan, 40, of 380 Burnt Hill Rd., was charged with failure to report a lost assault weapon.

1/16: State Police said a three-car crash occurred at the intersection of route 85 and Niles Road. Police said John Kozlowski, 43, of 67 Brookview Circle, Manchester, failed to grant right of way to the operator of another vehicle,

Marlborough Police News

1/13: State Police said sometime during the daytime hours of 6 a.m.-4:30 p.m. an unknown person cut the exhaust pipes off of a person's vehicle in the commuter lot of exit 12 on Route 2. Police said there was an apparent attempt to steal the catalytic converter from the vehicle. Any witnesses to this incident are asked to contact Trooper Joshua McElroy at 860-465-5400 ext. 4066.

1/18: State Police said Mallory Reynolds, 27, of 84 Saner Rd., was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

1/19: State Police said Monica Piette, 29, of 164 Norwich Ave., was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

1/20: State Police said Daniel J. Drum, 24, of 90 Stage Harbor Rd., was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

Obituaries

Gilead

Douglas Hills Porter

Family and dear friends are celebrating the life of Douglas Hills Porter, 92, of Gilead, born Sept. 4, 1921, in Hartford Hospital and died Sunday, Jan. 5, at home, with his devoted and loving wife Mary by his side.

Douglas was predeceased by his parents, Winthrop Strong Porter and Ethel Hills Porter of Hebron. He is survived by two brothers, Wilbur Porter of Hebron and Henry Porter of Holiday, Fla., and a sister, Beatrice Anderson of East Hampton.

Douglas, a retired dairy farmer, showed interest in agriculture at an early age. He was a 4-H member, winning many blue ribbons at the Eastern States exposition in Massachusetts. He attended Windham High School, taking agriculture classes for four years. He couldn't wait to apply his knowledge and energy to the family farm, which resulted in abandoning the conventional stanchion barn and building the first free-stall milking parlor and loose-housing pole barn in the area.

He belonged to, served on and supported many agricultural committees and related organizations.

In 1949 he was chief of the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department and was designated by the Town of Hebron as an honorary chairperson of the Antique Fire Truck Restoration Committee.

Doug was one of the founding partners of Blackledge Country Club.

He undertook the moving and major restoration of the 1789 Blacksmith Shop, which has been designated a historic property and has been his home for over 30 years and is known as the gathering place for family and friends.

He was a past active member for many years of the Gilead Congregational Church, serving as a deacon, chaired the first chicken barbecue and was instrumental in the planning and fruition of the first addition, which housed the Sunday school, general meeting room and kitchen.

He was a member of the Sons of American Legion Post 95 of Hebron.

Later in life, because of health reasons, he couldn't be as active in farming and spent the winters in Florida, where he utilized his many talents aiding elderly neighbors, dabbled in real estate and enjoyed a new found interest in gemstones.

Above all else, family was most important. He leaves the love of his life, his wife of 70 years, Mary Hooker Porter, who also grew up in Gilead; his three children, Janice Tarbell and her husband Gardner, Judy Porter and her significant other John Roy, and Mike Porter and his wife Donna-Lee, all of which reside in Gilead, close to the family home; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a circle of dear friends that are considered part of the family.

Our family wishes to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the nurses and aides of Hospice who showed their genuine caring in so many ways.

Douglas Hills Porter, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend, will be greatly missed.

The Porter family has entrusted his final care to Abbey Cremation Services in Rocky Hill. There are no services planned at this time.

East Hampton

Victoria Kay Tyler

Victoria Kay Tyler, 49, of East Hampton, passed away Thursday, Jan. 16, at Middlesex Hospital, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born April 4, 1964, in Hartford she was the daughter of Vincent Lopez and the late Beryle (Hendricks) Lopez.

Vicki worked her whole life and was a van driver for Eastconn until her illness. She was a devoted mother and grandmother and a huge dog lover owning four golden retrievers.

Besides her father, she is survived by her long-time companion, Douglas Bousquet of East Hampton; her daughter, Danielle Tyler of East Hampton; her two sons, Joshua Tyler of Middletown, Ryan Bousquet of Germany; two brothers, Brett Lopez of Florida, Leslie Lopez of Maine; a sister, Dana Lopez of Amston; and her beloved granddaughter Kaylin.

Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-91 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Colchester

Lillian E. Deyorio

Lillian (Lee) E. Deyorio, 88, of Colchester, beloved wife of the late Louis A. Deyorio, died peacefully Monday, Jan. 20. She was the daughter of the late John Badachuk and Sophie (Rozitsky) Badachuk.

Besides her husband and her parents, she was predeceased by her brother, Edward Badachuk.

Lillian was born in Manhattan, N.Y., and resided in Colchester for 85 years. She attended the one-room schoolhouse on Miller Road and was a graduate of Bacon Academy, Class of 1942, and a graduate of Morse Business College, Class of 1946. She was also a lifelong communicant of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Together with her husband, Lou, she retired from Pratt & Whitney in 1987 and traveled the world. She enjoyed fine dining, Sunday rides in the car, and getting together with friends. She was especially thankful for anything that anyone did for her after Lou passed. Her favorite enjoyment was entertaining and having company.

She is survived by her niece, Donna Palmes of Colchester; her nephew, Michael Deyorio and his wife, Donna, of Charlestown, R.I.; her grandnephew, Brian Palmes of Providence, R.I.; her grandniece, Danielle Deyorio and her husband, Carl Trant III, of Grafton, Mass.; her grandniece, Michelle Deyorio of Grafton, Mass.; her grandnephew, Devin Deyorio and his wife Megan and great-grandnephew, David, of Highspire, Pa.; numerous lifelong friends; and her precious little granddog, Rockstar, of Colchester.

Lillian's family wishes to thank her caretakers, Dariya Chartorysky, Nora Cantele, Kim Olbrias, Linda Palmer, Kaitlin Hatch, Tina Dreisch-Hatch, Keti Kuprashvili, Eileen Taylor and Maria Stefak, for their true compassion, understanding, and loving care that Lillian received in her home for the past four years. Additionally, we extend special thanks to Frank Spencer. We also want to thank the amazing medical team at Hartford Hospital.

Lillian's legacy was her complete dedication to her family. She devoted her lifetime to caring for them with unconditional love.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, Jan. 25, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by a noon service of Devine Liturgy at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church on Linwood Avenue, Colchester. Burial to follow in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Colchester Hayward Fire Department, 52 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

East Hampton

John William Piercey II

John William Piercey II, 77, of East Hampton, passed away unexpectedly at his home Sunday, Jan. 19. He was born in Plainfield, N.J., on June 6, 1936.

He leaves behind his wife of 52 years, Ruth J. (Flynn) Piercey; three children, daughters Shawn I. Piercey of East Hampton, Nancy E. Selavka and Timothy Anderegg of East Hampton, and son John W. Piercey III and his fiancée Shannon O'Keefe of Hartford; three grandchildren, Sarah L. Selavka, Philip P. Selavka and Brian M. Selavka, all of East Hampton; his sister-in-law, Joan Piercey of Granby; his brother-in-law, the Rev. Lawrence W. Flynn of New York; two nieces and a nephew, along with their families and two cousins.

John was a 21-year active duty veteran of the United States Army Signal Corp serving two tours in Vietnam. Upon retirement from military service in 1980, he became a certified public accountant in 1982 with offices in East Hampton and Simsbury. He served as an NRA instructor at Camp Perry, Ohio, for over 25 years. He was also an avid stamp collector, model train enthusiast and was treasurer of the Water Fowler Association.

John was predeceased by his parents, William E. Piercey, Alice I. (Nygren) Piercey, and his brother, Roy E. Piercey.

Calling hours were Wednesday, Jan. 22, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St. A funeral Mass was Thursday, Jan. 23, at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 47 East High St., East Hampton, with burial immediately following at Rock Landing Cemetery Haddam Neck.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Salvation Army, St. Patrick Catholic Church of East Hampton or the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers of Maryknoll, N.Y.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Cheryl L. Keser

Cheryl L. Keser, 60, of Portland, passed away Thursday, Jan. 16, at Middlesex Hospital. She was the daughter of the late Andrew and Mildred (Peterson) Moon.

Born July 24, 1953, in Middletown, she lived in Portland for most of her life. She enjoyed cooking, gardening and antiques. Cheryl lovingly spent most of her time caring for those around her, young and old, people and animals alike. She will be remembered for her sarcastic humor, compassion and sound advice. The family would like to express their heartfelt, sincere appreciation and gratitude to the nurses, staff and volunteers of Middlesex Hospital Hospice. Their loving care made a difficult time more bearable.

She leaves her daughters, Elise and Mary Keser, both of Portland; her adopted daughter, Kim Tyrseck of Portland; brothers, Andy Moon of North Carolina, John Moon of Moodus, James Moon of Colchester and Ray and Mark Moon both of East Hampton; sisters, Sandra Knowlton of Zephyr Hills, Fla., Barbara Noack of Ashland, N.H., Donna Carone of East Hampton, Marjorie Sorvillo of East Hampton and Karen Wilson of Sidney, Maine; many nieces and nephews and close friends, Gail Waters and Kathy Tierney both of Portland.

She was predeceased by her former husband, Charles Keser.

Services will be private and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

Colchester

Barbara Therese Hardy

Barbara Therese Hardy, "Tardy," 80, of Colchester, beloved wife of James for 58 years, passed away Sunday, Jan. 19. Born March 29, 1933, in Manchester, N.H., she was a daughter of the late Peter and Mary (D'Atri) Testa.

She was a 1955 graduate of Keene State University, earning her bachelor's degree in elementary education. Mrs. Hardy taught for the Groton school systems for many years. Following her retirement, she was a substitute teacher at the former Halls Hill Elementary School (later Jack Jacter Elementary) in Colchester for 15 years, and also offering GED tutoring to many at her home.

An active member of the Colchester community, Barbara volunteered with the Girl Scouts for nine years, as well as with the Colchester Literacy program and had been a Catechist at her parish, St. Andrew.

In addition to her loving husband, she leaves five children, Thomas and wife, Cindy and Tracy and wife, Betsy, all of Colchester, Terese Russi of Versailles, Tammy Wagendorf of Schertz, Texas, and Timothy and wife, Sara of Glen Allen, Va.; eight grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; two siblings, Irma Duval of Old Lyme and Peter Testa of Nashua, N.H.; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by a son-in-law, Thomas Russi, and a brother, Gilbert Testa.

The family will receive guests starting at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester, before a chapel service at 12:30 p.m. Burial will be private in St. Joseph Cemetery, Norwich.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the American Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601 or to the American Diabetes Assn., P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Lee Gregory Arnold

Lee Gregory Arnold, 85, born in Providence, R.I., and a resident of East Hampton for 40 years, passed away Thursday, Jan. 16.

At age 16, he joined the U.S. Navy and fought in World War II.

He is survived by second wife, Rita and children Regina, Laura, Jim, and Jaculin as well as first wife, Jeanette and their children Mark and Robin; nine grandchildren; and many family and friends.

A loving father, he was known as "quite a character." He will be remembered for his attention to time and his keen interest in meteorology.

A reception will be held today, Jan. 24, from 4:30-7:30 p.m., at the Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam.

In lieu of flowers, send contributions to the U.S. Veterans Administration.



Andover

Sandra E. Lane

Sandra E. Lane, 71, of Andover, passed away Thursday, Jan. 16. Born Jan. 1, 1943, in Hartford, daughter of the late Edward and Ruth (Gildner) Cook, she grew up in East Hartford and had lived in Andover for the past 20 years.

Sandra was employed by Travelers and by the State of Connecticut at the University of Connecticut Storrs campus as an assistant to the dean for over 20 years before retiring.

Sandra had a great love for all animals. She founded and owned Fairlane Farm where she bred and showed Crabbet Arabian horses, bred West Highland White Terriers, Golden Retrievers, and over the years fostered many stray dogs and cats. Sandra was very active with the ASPCA, she was a member of the Sierra Club and enjoyed traveling.

Sandra is survived by two daughters, Cheryl Lane-Caron and her husband, John Caron of Rochester, Mass., Karen Thornbloom and her husband, Mark, of Lebanon; by a son, Jonathan Lane of Manchester; two brothers, Edward W. Cook Ph.D. of Coventry, John W. Cook and his wife Hazel Ann of East Hartford; three grandchildren, Sarah and Joshua Thornbloom, Nathan Lane; a brother-in-law, Ronald Biercz of East Windsor; a longtime companion, Edward Biske of Bolton; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a sister, Barbara R. Biercz.

Her family will receive friends today, Jan. 24, from 10 a.m.-noon, at Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Rd., South Windsor, followed by services at noon at the funeral home. Burial will be in Center Cemetery, Old Main Street, South Windsor.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ASPCA, P.O. Box 96929, Washington, DC 20090-6929.

To leave online condolences, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Cornelius John Mullaney

Cornelius John Mullaney of Rocky Hill died Sunday, March 3, 2013, in Marlborough, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in East Albany, Vt., on July 13, 1924, the son of Thomas Patrick and Julia (Durkin) Mullaney.

He was the beloved husband for 65 years of Mary Lou (Cota) Mullaney, who predeceased him Aug. 11, 2011.

Cornelius is survived by his four children: Margaret O'Brien and her husband, Dan, of East Haddam, Jane LaChapelle and her husband, Ted, of Marlborough, Michael Mullaney and his wife, Joan, of Tolland, and Kathleen DeLillo and her husband, Joe, of Colchester. He had nine grandchildren: Kathleen Vendley, Daniel O'Brien, Jennifer Cassineri, Kristen Deptula, Erin Mullaney, Katharine Rataic, Joshua and Samantha DeLillo, and Patrick LaChapelle. He also leaves seven great-grandchildren: Maeve O'Brien, Nathaniel and Margot Vendley, Grace Cassineri, and Molly, Isabel and Abigail Deptula. He also leaves two special nieces, Carole Williams of Silver Spring, Md., and Betty Meyer of Anderson, Ind.

Cornelius was predeceased by his brother, Dr. Thomas P. Mullaney.

He grew up in Barton, Vt., and began his freshman year at St. Michael's College in 1942. He was drafted before the end of his first year, and served as a Technician 5th grade in the 386th Field Artillery Battalion, and was assigned to fire direction as a voice radio operator. Conny was very proud of his service in Major General Terry Allen's Timberwolves 104th Infantry Division where he served for 195 consecutive days in combat on the front line. He also participated in the liberation of the Nordhausen concentration camp in April 1945 and served witness to the atrocities.

Upon his return from service, Conny married his childhood sweetheart and soulmate, Mary Lou, on Sept. 1, 1946. In June 1949, Cornelius received his B.S. degree in chemistry and physics from St. Michael's College in Winooski Park, Vt. In 1950, Cornelius began his career at Pratt & Whitney and settled in Rocky Hill. He also taught chemistry part-time at Glastonbury High School in the early sixties. Conny retired from Pratt in 1988 as a metallurgist in the Materials Control Lab.

Cornelius was a wonderful son, brother, husband, dad and papa. He was famous in the family for his corny jokes, his jingling coins, and his unwavering support of the Boston Red Sox. As a natural teacher and expert on numerous topics, his guidance was sought on countless school projects and papers. He enjoyed politics and current events and loved a good impromptu round table on the day's news. We miss him dearly.

A memorial Mass was held Saturday, March 16, 2013, at St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough. Burial of the remains of both Mary Lou and Cornelius Mullaney took place Monday, Dec. 16, 2013, at Arlington National Cemetery, with military honors.

East Hampton

Donald J. Luke

Donald J. Luke of East Hampton, formerly of New Britain, loving husband of Patricia (Brenn) Luke, died peacefully Saturday, Jan. 18, at Hartford Hospital. He was born in New Britain Dec. 13, 1933, the son of Joseph J. Luke and Ann Michaels Luke.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, he graduated from Central Connecticut State University in 1955 and went on to his graduate studies at CCSU, the University of Notre Dame and the University of Virginia.

While an undergraduate at CCSU, he was an outstanding member of the track, cross country and football teams. He was the track team's top scorer and established a school record in the mile and also set a school record for points scored in the decathlon. He participated in the 1952 U.S. Olympic Trials in the decathlon. In 1955, he received the Frederick Gladstone Award for outstanding male student-athlete. He was inducted into the Central Connecticut State University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1988.

An outstanding teacher of chemistry and physics, he spent his entire career at Cromwell High School, where he also coached track and field.

He leaves to celebrate his life and mourn his passing his wife Patrica, his daughter, Melanie Luke and her husband Gary Barrett of St. Augustine, Fla.; his daughter, Ivy S. Luke of East Hampton; his son, Richard B. Luke of East Hampton; his granddaughter, Taylor E. Luke of East Hampton; step-grandsons; great-granddaughters; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

At Donald's request, there will be no calling hours and a private interment and graveside service will be held at the convenience of the family at Brooklyn (Conn.) South Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 10 Brookline Place West, 6th Floor, Brookline, MA 02445-7226 or the CCSU Foundation Inc, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050-4010 or to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, 230 East Ohio Street, Suite 304, Chicago, IL 60611.

The Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is assisting the family with arrangements. Share a memory or note of sympathy with Donald's family at carlsonfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Jason Ryan Girard

Jason Ryan Girard, 38, of Colchester and formerly of Salem, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Jan. 15. Born Jan. 13, 1976, in New Britain, he was the son of Dennis and Jeanette (Gil) Girard of Salem.

Jason was a graduate of East Lyme High School and went on to earn his bachelor's degree from ECSU. Most recently, he had been the owner/operator of Aztec Tanning Salons in Storrs and Norwich and was regional account representative for Sun Capsule Tanning Equipment.

Jason was an avid bodybuilder and overall physical fitness enthusiast. He loved being outdoors and especially enjoyed going on long hikes and fishing with his daughter, Soleil. Jason was a gregarious person that could start a conversation with anybody and children were always captivated by his engagement and antics. He would help anyone that needed assistance of any manner and would literally give the shirt off of his back to a stranger.

Jason will be remembered for his charisma and love that he shared with so many – he will be greatly missed.

He leaves a loving family, including his parents; his beloved daughter, Soleil Girard; Beth Demars (Soleil's mother and Jason's former wife) of East Lyme; his sister, Jennifer Newton and her husband, Jeffrey of Colchester; three nieces, Hailey, Molly and Emerson Newton; numerous extended family members; his girlfriend, Jessica Fernandez and her children, Aalianah and Michael Lebeau of Canterbury; as well as a host of friends.

Calling hours were observed Monday, Jan. 20, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated noon Tuesday, Jan. 21, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Soleil Girard Education Fund, c/o Liberty Bank, 219 So. Main St., Colchester, CT 06415.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit auroramccartyfuneralhome.com.



Marlborough

Rev. Mark Francis Flynn

Reverend Mark Francis Flynn, 68, of Bristol, formerly of Waterford, passed away suddenly Wednesday, Jan. 15, at home. Born in Hartford June 4, 1945, he was a beloved son of the late Edward J. Sr. and Anna Mae (Duncan) Flynn.

The Rev. Mark F. Flynn was ordained by the Most Rev. John F. Whealon, archbishop of Hartford, on May 27, 1972, in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford. He studied at Saint Thomas Seminary from 1963 to 1965, then at Saint Mary Seminary in Baltimore, Md., from 1966 through 1972.

Father Flynn served from 1972 through 1975 at Saint Francis Parish in Torrington. In 1975, Father Flynn became a chaplain at Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford, where he served until 1981. Father Flynn then served in Saint Margaret Mary Parish in South Windsor until 1984, when he became a member of the Team Ministry at Sacred Heart Parish in Southbury. In 1989, he became the administrator of Sacred Heart, Southbury, and then pastor later that year. He served at Sacred Heart Parish until 2003, when he was named pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Farmington.

On April 4, 2011, he was named a Priest in Residence at Saint John Fisher Parish in Marlborough. He then served from July 2012 at Saint Bridget and Saint Bartholomew parishes in Manchester until his health no longer provided him the strength to continue in full-time ministry.

Father Flynn was affectionately known as "Rev" to the many people whose lives he touched. Whether cooking, entertaining, home decorating or giving a homily, he will always be remembered as being a perfectionist in his attention to every last detail. He will be greatly missed by all his wonderful friends, too many to mention.

He is survived by his sister, MaryEllen Zukowski and her husband Victor of Bristol, with whom he lived since his illness. He also leaves his nephews, Christopher Zukowski and his wife Diane of Burlington, Matthew Zukowski and his wife Denise of Wallingford and a niece Elizabeth Bezanson and her husband Peter of Baltic; great nieces and nephews, Hannah, Sarah, Joshua Zukowski, Ethan, Connor and Andrew Zukowski and Brendan, Natalie and Patrick Bezanson. He was predeceased by his brother Edward J. Flynn Jr.

Friends called at St. Gregory the Great Church, 235 Maltby St., Bristol, on Sunday, Jan. 19, with a parish Mass taking place that evening. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by the Most Rev. Peter A. Rosazza on Monday, Jan. 20, in St. Gregory the Great Church. Interment followed in St. Joseph Cemetery in Bristol.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Francis Hospital Oncology Department, 94 Woodland St., Hartford, CT 06105.

Arrangements were in care of the Abriola Parkview Funeral Home, Trumbull. To light a virtual candle, visit abriola.com.

Colchester

Joann E. Olenick

Joann E. Olenick, 78, of Mechanic Street, Norwich, died from natural causes Tuesday morning at the Harrington Court Healthcare Center in Colchester. She was born in Hawaii Sept. 8, 1935, daughter of the late Clarence W. and Edna G. (Fisk) Bailey.

Joann moved to Connecticut at three years of age and attended Lebanon High School. On May 16, 1953 she was united in marriage to Michael Olenick, Jr. at the United Congregational Church in Norwich. Michael Olenick died April 17, 2007.

Joann worked as a cashier for many years in the area including Beit Bros and Big Y Supermarkets. She was an avid member of the Women of the Moose in Bozrah.

Joann Olenick is survived by two sons, Michael Olenick III of Waterford and William Olenick of Bozrah; five grandchildren, Sherri Lindo, Tanya Olenick, Kayla Olenick, Nicole Olenick and William Olenick Jr.; three great-grandchildren; and one brother, Robert Bailey of Seattle, Wash.

She is predeceased by one sister, Elizabeth Seifert.

A graveside service for later in the year is being planned.

To share a condolence or story of Joann, visit cummingssgagnefh.com.

East Hampton

Anthony F. Christian

Anthony F. "Babe" Christian, 98 passed away Wednesday, Jan. 22, in East Hampton.

He was born April 15, 1915, in Glastonbury, where he farmed his land in most part now known as "Great Pond Estates." He also was the original owner of the Glastonbury Marina, now known as "Sea Board Marina." He retired from New Britain Machine after 35 years of service in 1978 and moved to Cape Cod, Mass. Babe was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox.

After his wife, Cecelia "Sis" (Cardini) passed away Dec. 12, 1982, he married Ruth (Roots) and moved back to Glastonbury. After Ruth's passing in 1997 he moved to East Hampton, where he has lived ever since.

He leaves behind his son, Larry Christian and his wife Judy of Arlington, Texas; his daughter, Linda Christian Miller of Palm Beach, Fla.; his son, John Christian of New Haven; and his son, Joe Christian and his wife Raini of East Hampton. He was the proud grandfather of Cindy, Larry, Nicki, Ryan, Lauren and Troy and also had 10 great-grandchildren.

Calling hours will be from 5-7 p.m. today, Jan. 24, at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 25, with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. Augustine Church, 55 Hopewell Rd., South Glastonbury (everyone is asked to go directly to church). Burial will follow in St. Augustine Cemetery, Hopewell Road, South Glastonbury.

To extend online condolences or for further information, visit farleysullivan.com.

East Hampton

Donald E. Evans

Donald "Ed" E. Evans, born April 30, 1959 in Cornwall, N.Y., was taken from all of those who loved him way too early and suddenly Thursday, Dec. 26, after a short battle with cancer.

Ed was a resident of East Hampton for many years.

Ed was a father, grandfather, brother, uncle, son, nephew, cousin and friend. He was an avid Red Sox and Raiders fan. Sundays were football and calling family day, he was an avid fan of all college sports games and he loved being a grandfather and uncle.

Ed was predeceased by his parents, Donald C. Evans and Hope E. Terry Evans, as well as too many other relatives and friends.

He is survived by his sons, Matthew Evans of Colchester, Scott Evans and grandson Jordan of East Hampton; two sisters, Suzanne Bonola and her husband Joseph "Corky" of Moodus, Dawn Senesac and her husband Mike and two nephews Calvert and Damian of Colchester; best bro Dave Lanzi, his wife Nickki and three sons of East Hampton; as well as his "favorite" cousins, aunts, uncles and many, many friends.

The family would like to thank the Newfield Rest Home in Middletown staff and residents for their care, friendship and support for Ed all these years. He was hoping to come home.

Ed's family will be hosting a remembrance of life at the VFW in East Hampton on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 1 to 5 p.m. For family and friends who can stop in for a minute or more there will be some food and cash bar available.

