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Signs urging taxpayers to vote 'no' to the Colchester town operations and Board of Education budgets lined the entrance to Town Hall last Thursday, May 29. Both budgets ultimately failed.

Strike Two for Colchester Budget

by Melissa Roberto

Colchester voters spoke again. While the number of voters casting ballots went up, the majority response was still 'no' for the town operations and Board of Education budgets that went before voters at a referendum last Thursday, May 29.

Thus, the boards of finance, education and selectmen went back to the drawing board this week. The budgets, which totaled \$53.37 million, will now head before voters a third time later this month - and they'll be \$377,000 lighter.

The third version of the town operations budget totals \$13,334,082, and the Board of Education's new bottom line is \$39,661,795. Combined, the budgets total \$53 million, and represent an increase of 1.47 percent, or \$769,973, over the current fiscal year.

Cuts made this week to the school budget total \$272,000 and cuts to the town operations budget total \$105,000. The Board of Finance asked the school board and town to reduce their operating budgets to achieve a combined 1.5 percent increase. Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov explained why the school board features more cuts than the town.

"The school gets more because their budget is about \$40 million and the town is only about \$13 million," Tarlov said. "Because the school is about three times as big, proportionately you're looking at cuts that arrive at the same."

The condensed spending packages will head before voters at a town meeting scheduled for

Tuesday, June 17, 7 p.m. at Town Hall, and a third referendum, scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Town Hall.

Although both budgets last week were defeated by over 300 votes (the town budget fell 1,108-1,428; the education budget fell 1,104-1,437), the meeting room where Wednesday's Board of Finance meeting was held was filled with parents requesting money to be put back into the school budget. One man labeled the cuts to the school budget "disgusting."

Additional cuts to certified teachers and classified teachers were made this week, thus creating a total of 14.1 FTE having been reduced since the budget was first proposed.

Other large cuts proposed this week included the elimination of all freshman sports at Bacon Academy, a reduction of \$40,000 from capital requests, and the elimination of the district paying for a portion of AP tests, meaning the students would have to pay 100 percent of the costs.

What seemed to be the cut frustrating parents the most Wednesday night was the recent cut of freshman sports, as well as one that was included in the last budget proposal as well: the elimination of funding for middle school sports.

One parent said she felt students need to be well-rounded when applying for colleges. "Whether it is sports, the band, whatever our kids are involved in, it all matters," she said.

Another woman spoke up. "I'm all for aca-

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Belltown Budget Also Fails Again

by Elizabeth Bowling

In East Hampton Tuesday, the second verse was - almost exactly - same as the first.

The proposed 2014-15 town budget was shot down, with 1,140 'no' votes outweighing 839 'yes' votes. The numbers were very similar to the May 6 referendum, in which voters rejected the budget by a 1,180-839 tally.

The proposed budget totaled \$40,550,320 and drew 1,974 voters to the polls Tuesday, with an additional five voters submitting absentee ballots.

Voter Allan Wick said as he exited the polls Tuesday that he voted 'yes' in order to cross a few items off of East Hampton's to-do list. Though, he added, he wasn't fully on board with the way funds were distributed in this proposed budget.

"I wasn't particularly happy with some of the moving around of the money," he said, but "they need some help with the police department," for example.

Amy Frost also voted 'yes' at Tuesday's referendum. Frost said she has three daughters plus

her husband is an educator in town so she wants to see the education budget pass before it gets cut any further.

"I feel like we're going to lose teachers and money for education," she said, adding that education is "important to this town."

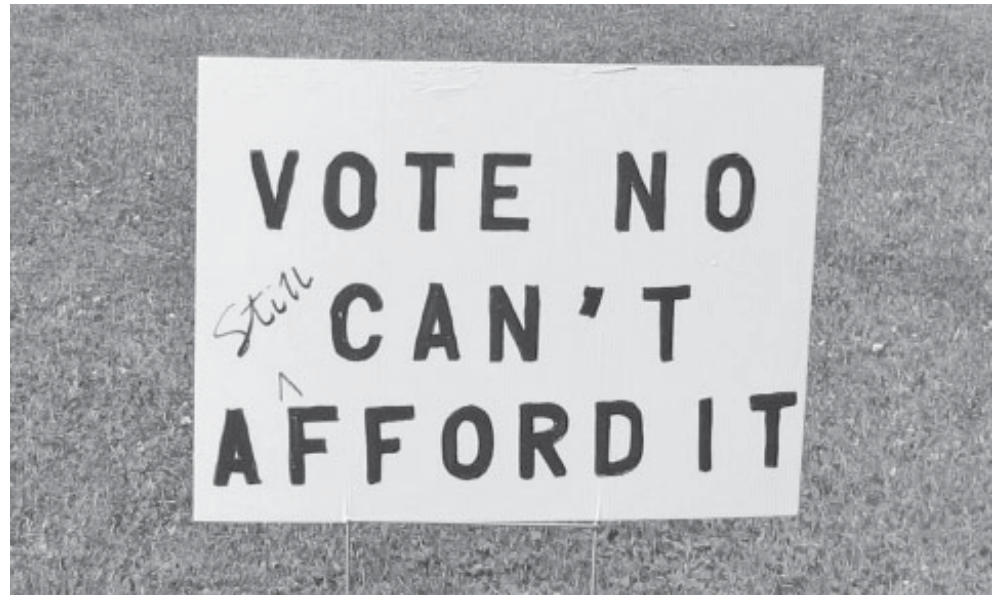
Another voter, who said she wished to remain anonymous, voted 'no' for one simple reason. She said, "I just think it's too high. I think they can make more cuts to the Board of Education [budget]."

Similarly, resident Bob Schempp took to the polls alongside his wife and voted 'no.'

"We're retired," he said of their financial situation. "We don't get raises every year and we're going to reach the tipping point where we can't live here anymore."

The budget rejected Tuesday was down \$322,355 from the \$40.87 million spending package that was rejected May 6. It called for a mill rate of 27.38, a .75 mill - or 2.82 percent - increase from the current year.

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This sign outside East Hampton High School Tuesday encouraged voters to reject the proposed \$40.55 million 2014-15 budget - and they did, by a 1,140-839 tally.

Strike Two cont. from Front Page

demics. I mean, that's what our kids are there for. But I do think that the sports and such are a very important part of the whole experience in schools."

One woman said that besides teachers, she felt "one of the worst areas to cut" is counseling.

In response to the overwhelming opposition to the elimination of sports at the middle and high schools, the Board of Education – which has the authority to decide where cuts will come from in its budget – conveyed its number one priority would be to restore them.

"Sports are a source of pride for people," Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein told the crowd. "We understand that. We hear you loud and clear."

Due to a surplus in the town's health insurance fund, finance board members said a restoration would be possible. After the meeting, school board chairman Ron Goldstein said that, if the budget passes, the district would utilize the surplus to bring the sports back.

There was not as much public controversy in regards to additional cuts made to the town budget. In fact, only one member of the public Wednesday, Deputy Fire Chief Don Lee, pointed out to the crowd that there were cuts made to the town budget, too. He asked for board members to communicate those.

"We've cut about half of a million dollars on the town side," Tarlov explained.

Cuts made to town operations include: a \$24,000 reduction to the ambulance incentive program, items within the fire department, a reduction of overtime in third shift police coverage during the summer months, as well as hours cut from the library, the elimination of all non-union raises, and what Tarlov said was a "slight" – \$23,000 – reduction to road maintenance.

Additionally, temporary seasonal grounds maintenance payroll was eliminated. "Service cuts will be very visible," Soby said in that regard. "There was no other choice."

However, the first selectman pointed out there haven't been any reductions too detrimental to the town as of yet.

"What we really tried to do on the town side was find places where we could continue to provide services for the most part with some impacts," Soby said.

* * *

Ultimately, at the end of Wednesday's budget discussions, members of the public still petitioned for more restoration to the school budget. Citizen Vincent Rose coined the school cuts "critical," while resident Sarah Clarke argued "what we're doing to education is really shameful."

Others like Jim Kelly said his vote has changed from a 'no' to a 'yes.'

"Do not vote no," Kelly said. "This is the budget you want to get passed."

In the end, finance members unanimously voted to move forward each with the cuts as

presented. Finance board member James McNair III said what's "scary" to him is that former interested voters have stopped voting.

"Seven out of 10 of your neighbors chose not to vote," he said passionately, furthering he does not favor putting money back into the budgets. "I can't see adding in 'cause I don't want to slam the hornet's nest."

"I hate to stay this, but people don't care about the cuts; they don't care about the increases," McNair said. "They are now looking at their total taxes and asking themselves 'Relatively speaking, where does this stand in my budget?'"

"What scares me is if we add money back to this it increases the odds of this going down again," McNair continued. "If this goes down I'm going to be look at zero [percent of an increase]. That's a scary consequence to me."

Finance board vice chairman Rob Esteve said it was meetings like Wednesday's – full of "thoughtful and passionate" public comments – that remind him why he serves on the board.

"Everyone can argue that we should pay for something because it's a good idea. No one comes here and tells us what to cut. They tell us what not to cut," Esteve said, adding the boards try to make the "best and most conscientious" decisions. "While I am respectful of put[ting] some money back in I think the right decision in my mind is to keep the number that we decided on."

Tarlov coined budget votes "a gamble." He said he thinks the board of education and the town "have done their best to figure out where will be the least impact in these cuts."

Tarlov furthered the total number of cuts made since both budgets were first presented to the finance board a few months ago total \$1,250,000. "It's a very difficult decision to come up with that amount when nobody really knows what amount is low or too high," he said.

Thus, Tarlov said the "impact of going to zero" – what members hinted at would be a possibility if the third referendum fails – would raise concerns.

"You start looking at closing a facility for two days whether it's a library or a senior center or whatever it is," he said of a zero percent increase.

Should the lesser budget packages pass on June 24, the mill rate would climb .29 mills, from the current mill rate of 30.28 to 30.57. Tarlov said if a home's market value is assessed at \$230,000, "this tax increase is about 47 dollars, or about four dollars a month."

"If you have a house that's worth \$350,000 you're looking at a \$71 dollar increase," Tarlov furthered.

Of the newly-trimmed budgets, Tarlov concluded, "We've got to get this thing passed. My fear is if we go higher [by putting money back in] than what we run the risk of it failing and have to make much, much deeper cuts that really have an impact."

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Some sad news to pass along about AJ Pollock. As I wrote last week, the 2006 RHAM High School graduate, and 2009 first-round draft pick for the Arizona Diamondbacks, had really been having a fantastic season. In fact, he was named the National League Player of the Week for the week ending June 1, having batted .522 with four RBI, nine runs scored, six doubles and a 1.000 slugging percentage. It was the second time this season he'd collected that honor.

Unfortunately, on Monday, the day Major League Baseball announced the award, Pollock was having his hand operated on. He was hit by a pitch Saturday night, fracturing a bone in his right hand. Surgery was needed, to install a plate and pins.

Pollock won't resume any baseball activities for the next six to eight weeks, which means that, realistically speaking, he's probably out until mid-August, as he'll no doubt need a rehab assignment to get back into playing condition.

This isn't Pollock's first brush with injury – in spring training 2010, Pollock broke his elbow and wound up missing the entire season – but he was having such a terrific year, it's quite the blow. In his last 23 games, he was hitting a terrific .371, with nine doubles, three triples, three home runs, 10 RBI – and eight consecutive stolen bases. Simply put, he had become the hottest player on the Diamondbacks' team.

But now, all that is unfortunately put on hold. Pollock has enjoyed plenty of success on the baseball diamond, from RHAM to Notre Dame to the minors to Chase Field in Phoenix, so there's no reason to believe he won't bounce right back from this – and hopefully hit a few more taters before the season draws to a close in September. It just stinks that his dynamite year is being interrupted.

Get well soon, AJ.

* * *

Speaking of baseball, rumors started swirling Monday, which only gained steam Tuesday, and on Wednesday it seemed like a done deal: the New Britain Rock Cats will leave the Hardware City after the 2015 season, for a fancy new stadium in Hartford (provided, of course, that Hartford pays for the new digs).

I think moving would be a mistake.

It's a classic case of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." The Rock Cats have been one of minor league baseball's great success stories. The team sets attendance records year after year. In fact, just last weekend, when the Binghamton Mets were in town, the team had a total of more than 22,000 fans for the three games – a record for the Rock Cats. Just last

July, the stadium hosted the Eastern League All-Star Game, a nice feather in the cap.

The team is a hit with families too. I've been to several games there over the years, and there's lots of in-between-innings stuff to keep the kids entertained – plenty of games and contests, and everybody, young and old, seems to have a great time.

Given Hartford's reputation – and I'm not here to debate its reputation; I'm simply noting it has a reputation – I can't see families flocking to the city to catch the game. In fact, in news stories that have appeared in various local outlets the past few days, people have already indicated they don't want to go there for the game.

Also, traffic would be brutal. There's not a whole lot going on in New Britain, which may not be good for New Britain, but it makes getting to a Rock Cats a pretty painless affair. Hartford, meanwhile, has more attractions and activity. Getting to the new stadium – located at the corner of Main and Trumbull streets – could be enough of a headache under normal circumstances; what if there was also something going on that night at the XL Center? Or a concert at the Comcast/Toyota/Just-Don't-Call-Me-The-Meadows Theatre? Suddenly throwing in another 8,000 people for a minor league game might not be a great idea.

Oh, there would be some benefits to the move. I haven't been to a Rock Cats game the last couple of seasons, but from what I hear the stadium could use some renovations. So a new stadium at least would be, well, a new stadium.

And, as a Mets fan, I went to well over 100 games at Shea Stadium, where there was, to be honest, nothing to do after the game. No bars. No restaurants. Not even a simple movie theater or shopping plaza. So, if you're in almost-downtown Hartford (the stadium would be just north of downtown), at least there would be things to do – places to eat, shop, take in a show.

But, that's an ideal scenario. Realistically, as I said before, I just don't see families coming to take in a game in Hartford like they are in New Britain. And I just don't see the point in the move. If this were a failing franchise, and the team had trouble drawing fans, sure. But the Rock Cats have enjoyed far more success than any AA affiliate of a club located halfway across the country should ever hope to enjoy.

Again: If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

* * *

See you next week.

Belltown Budget cont. from Front Page

For this second go-around, the Board of Education budget was reduced by an additional \$227,463, bringing it to \$28.37 million, a 3.06 percent increase from current year spending. Additionally, \$10,019 was reduced from the town manager's budget, \$40,000 was reduced from contingency, and \$15,000 was cut from the employee wellness program.

The town operations budget included the debated police captain position, which would have started Jan. 1, and had a 2014-15 budget impact of \$59,747. For 2015-16, the position would have been full-year, at an estimated cost of \$119,474.

Immediately following the announcement of the voting results Tuesday night, Democrat Barbara Moore, chairwoman of the Town Council, said, "I'm disappointed of course, and sorry that the town won't really move forward at all now."

She furthered, "It seems people are caught up in the process of the high school renovation and can't look beyond that."

Republican council member Ted Hintz, said, "The people have now spoken twice – almost identically. It saddens me that the current [Democratic] majority of the Town Council and

Board of Finance refuse to listen to the taxpayers of East Hampton."

Democrat Ted Turner, the chairman of the Board of Finance, also expressed disappointment.

"I am disappointed," he said. "I wish that the voters had more information about our town departments that need capital funds."

Turner affirmed that the Board of Finance would meet Thursday evening, after press time, to address the budget and make further cuts to send along to the Town Council, which would then either approve the changes or make further cuts before sending the budget to a third referendum.

Speaking for himself only, and not representing the finance board, Turner told the *Rivereast* his thoughts going into Thursday's board meeting. "I personally cannot cut the Board of Education [budget] anymore," he said.

Turner anticipated Tuesday the Board of Finance would come to a consensus on budget cuts at its meeting Thursday (yesterday).

* * *

The next regularly scheduled East Hampton Town Council meeting is Tuesday, June 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

East Hampton Community Gathers for Ribbon-Tying Ceremony

by Elizabeth Bowling

Only a week after Belltown commemorated its fallen veterans with a Memorial Day parade and ceremony, the community held another patriotic ceremony – this time, a Yellow Ribbon-Tying Ceremony.

The East Hampton Welcome Home Veterans/Yellow Ribbon Committee held the ceremony Tuesday evening at the Yellow Ribbon Tree in the Village Center, to honor U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Jacob Beebe, who was deployed to Afghanistan at the beginning of April.

The 20-year-old Marine is a 2012 East Hampton High School graduate and former varsity soccer player.

Town Council Chairwoman Barbara Moore provided a brief biography of the Belltown resident at Tuesday's ceremony: Beebe became a Marine in July 2013. After that, he was stationed in Paris Island, where he earned his marksmanship medal for shooting expert on the rifle range.

Moore added that Beebe was stationed at Marine Corps base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina with the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, which is a mobile assault clearance company. The East Hampton native was recently promoted from his private first class title to one of lance corporal.

Beebe received his pre-deployment training at 29 Palms in California, Moore said, and is currently deployed in Afghanistan, where his company is responsible for route IED (Improvised Explosive Devices) clearance.

Moore then thanked Beebe's parents for raising their son to be "the man he is today" and concluded, "We're all very proud to have him serving for us."

The weather Tuesday evening looked and felt like it was waiting to pour, but just as the ceremony began, the skies cleared.

A great turnout lined the sidewalks of the Village Center, including the Ladies Auxiliary Color Guard and VFW Post 595.

Town Manager Mike Maniscalco took a few

minutes Tuesday to share a few words.

"It's nice to see everybody," he said of the turnout, but then noted the rather somber occasion for which all were present.

"It's kind of sad to think we're sending another East Hampton resident overseas," he said "We can only hope he comes back okay."

Regarding the return trip home, Maniscalco noted that Beebe's will be one of the last remaining ribbons to be taken down from the tree.

"We've got almost all the ribbons back," Maniscalco concluded. "I look forward to the day he comes back and we get to take the ribbon off the tree."

Maniscalco then addressed Beebe's mother. "You've got a community here that's behind you," he said, calling the Belltown community the Beebe's "extended family."

State Rep. Melissa Ziobron then went on to thank the Beebe family and the honoree, noting his life-long passion to serve his country.

"To hear that he grew up knowing he wanted to be Marine is so overwhelming to me," she said. "I'm so full of gratitude for his service, for his dedication, and the family behind him."

The Beebe family – with a little help from incoming Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander Roger Anderson – then tied a yellow ribbon representing their loved one to the tree.

Following the ceremony, the family expressed their appreciation of the event, and their community.

Beebe's mother, Susan, said of the ceremony, "I'm so impressed."

"It was so touching. I started crying," she furthered, recalling her walk toward the tree. "But what would you expect from the town of East Hampton? Good things come in small packages."

Beebe's twin sister Megan added, "It was really nice. I'm really happy that everyone cares."

"He would be horrified," older sister Caitlin



The East Hampton community gathered Tuesday evening for a Yellow Ribbon-Tying Ceremony honoring U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Jacob Beebe. Pictured from left are Beebe's sisters, mother and father – Megan, Caitlin, Susan and Jeffrey Beebe – in front of the Yellow Ribbon Tree.

laughed, explaining that her brother is very modest and wouldn't like all the attention.

Susan explained that her son "wanted to be a Marine since he was about 4 years old." She thought it might have been a phase, but then as a senior in high school "he went ahead and signed up and my heart sank," she said. But Susan was quick to add, "I'm incredibly proud," and ultimately concluded she has "mixed feelings" regarding her son's career choice.

Susan said the soonest her son would come home is November.

Beebe's father, Jeffrey, summed it up: "I can't

wait for him to come home."

But until Beebe does return, his family plans to continue keeping in touch with him about twice a week via Facebook.

Caitlin said the family has been in communication with their favorite Marine "more often than I thought we would," though they haven't gotten a phone call from him yet. Even so, the power of social media has given the family peace of mind.

And hopefully, come November, peace of mind will be fully restored with the homecoming of a beloved Bellringer.

East Hampton Resident Running for State Representative

by Elizabeth Bowling

Belltown resident and business owner Mimi Perrotti was unanimously endorsed as the Democratic candidate to run this fall for state representative of the 34th District, which includes East Hampton, East Haddam, and a section of Colchester.

Perrotti was officially endorsed at the Democratic convention for the 34th District, held May 20 at Angelico's Lake House in East Hampton. Barbara Moore made the first nomination speech, and Kevin Reich and Mary Ellen Klink made additional nomination speeches.

Perrotti will face Republican Melissa Ziobron of East Haddam, who is seeking to win a second term in office.

"I'm really excited about the upcoming campaign," Ziobron said earlier this week. "Regardless of who my opponent is, I'm going to work just as hard, maybe even harder, than two years ago."

She added her strength is "talking with people and listening to their concerns."

Perrotti said this week she, too, looks forward to vying for a seat on the State House of Representatives.

She called the 34th District, which she hopes to represent, "all small towns" similar to her hometown of East Hampton.

The Democrat moved to East Hampton about five years ago and is the proud owner of Mimi Design/Lakeside Signs, a business she started around the same time.

"I think I'm in a good position to represent well," Perrotti said, noting that as a business owner she's in touch with many groups and organizations and in communication with a lot of people.

She furthered she brings in her own customers "so I'm out in the public a lot," she said, calling hers a "customer service-oriented business."

Regarding her graphic design and signage business, she said, "I service a variety of customers, from contractors to schools to municipalities, [and] even people at home."

That service includes designing signs for interior and exterior use, as well as business cards and T-shirts, for example.

Perrotti said she's been on her own in the graphic design and signage business since 1993. Over time, her work has developed to now include the fabrication of the signs she creates.

She called herself "all self-taught" when it comes to computers, though she went to school for graphic design and architecture.

In connecting her business to her work in the community at large, Perrotti explained Mimi Design/Lakeside Signs participates in the Kuhn program, which is an alternative program for students to learn a skill or trade while in school. She currently has two students working for her via the program.

Perrotti is involved in other aspects of the community, too.

She is the current secretary and the incoming vice president of the Rotary Club. Through the Rotary Club, she said she is involved in other programs, too, like the Amber Alert program. She explained that she is often out at community functions to solicit more people to join the program.

Also through the Rotary Club, Perrotti has initiated "Change for Change," a fundraising project that helps raise money to eradicate polio from the two countries that still suffer from the disease. Since its start up about two years ago, the campaign collects spare change from people about once a month and so far has raised about \$4,000 for the cause.

Perrotti also serves on the Economic Development Commission, is a member of the Community Emergency Response Team, and is vice chairman of the East Hampton Democratic

Town Committee. She raises money and participates in the Turkey Plunge annually, and sponsors the annual Gazebo Summer Concert Series. She is also active in St. Patrick's Church.

This is Perrotti's first time running for state representative. She said most of her background in government and politics trace back to her mom, who worked with the mayor of New Haven for several years helping him campaign.

"Watching her, helping her, is all the experience I have," Perrotti said.

But despite her limited experience, Perrotti said she'd be a great representative because "I'm a go-getter and I know how to represent."

She added that owning her own business has played a big part in helping her prepare her for the role of state representative.

But her go-getter personality dates back to well before she came to East Hampton. She recalled her family owned a supermarket and garden center in New Haven when she was growing up. The business was called Perrotti's Market and Garden Center, and Perrotti said she started working there when she was 2.

With a lifetime in business, Perrotti said she's ready to tackle a new challenge.

"This is not a last-minute decision," Perrotti said of her choosing to run for state representative. "I've been thinking about this for a couple of years. I'm a small businesses owner...so I have an interest seeing our district develop and grow."

"If I am elected, what I'd like to do is service the public the best way that I can," she said. "Right now I'm putting together a very rigorous and focused campaign," which would include reaching out to the community.

"It's not about what I want," she added. "It's about what the district wants."

Regarding her vision to encourage small business growth in the district if elected, Perrotti



Mimi Perrotti

said, "I'd love to represent self-employed small businesses and see them grow."

Another focus for Perrotti would be education.

"Education is very important," she said, and listed off a few issues in particular: "The growth of our schools, technology, trying to maintain children within our own district instead of moving out of the district."

Other issues Perrotti said she would address if elected are "social and health services of our veterans" as well as employment ops and "social services for our seniors."

However, Perrotti said her focus right now is to get the signatures and contributions necessary for her to qualify for public funding.

Election Day is Nov. 4.



Two of Andover's canines were recently recognized as a result of the annual Top Dog Contest. Bella, a 6-year-old white German Shepherd, took home the Top Dog title after receiving 52 votes, while Bailey-Hershey, a 2.5-year-old cocker spaniel was named Deputy Dog for earning 33. Votes cost \$1 each and were cast throughout May. The proceeds, which totaled \$138 this year, will be given to the Andover Food Pantry.

Bella Grabs 'Top Dog' Crown in Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

Bella Russell's got it good. For the most part, she lives a life of leisure. She loves swimming, relaxing on the porch, walking around her family's Christmas tree farm in Andover – and, according to her mom Evelyn, "The social life."

In addition, Bella's done quite a bit of traveling, visiting such destinations as Canada, the Carolinas, Virginia, Louisiana, Georgia, Florida and all of New England.

It's the kind of life many people dream of – and it all belongs to a dog.

It's true: the above lifestyle is that of Bella, the 6-year-old white German Shepherd owned by Bob and Evelyn Russell.

This week, Bob explained when he and his wife travel, Bella goes with them.

"So she's been to quite a few states," he said. "She loves to go 'bye.'"

But things at home aren't exactly rough either.

"She's got the run of the house," Bob stated. "She's got her own bed, and she likes looking out the windows if she can't go outside, and she likes chasing squirrels."

Yet despite the squirrel-chasing, he furthered "she's got manners."

"When she eats she has to go ahead and sit down and shake hands – she can't eat until she

goes through the paces," he said.

Evelyn added Bella was also known as "the social greeter of Andover."

"She loves to meet and greet people at Christmastime when they come to pick out their tree," said Evelyn, who, with Bob, own Scott's Tree Farm.

Evelyn added, "She loves children – she thinks they're lollipops meant to be licked!"

Evelyn said Bella also likes to go swimming and fetch sticks, but "she's getting to the age where she likes to sit on the porch and survey the world."

Bob added Bella was "a smart dog," who wandered around the farm as she pleased but always stayed on the property.

"Once in a while she'll disappear, go to the river for a swim if it's real hot or go out to the fields and check out the help – but she doesn't go on the highway which is fortunate," he shared, adding "she's got a good life."

Indeed, it's the kind of life any canine would go crazy for, and this week, she added some recognition to that paw-fect life when she was named Andover's Top Dog for 2014.

Each May, the town clerk's office runs the Andover Top Dog Contest to raise money for a local cause while simultaneously reminding

residents June is dog licensing month. Residents can enter their dog into the competition, and throughout the month, people can purchase votes for their preferred pooch for \$1 each.

Then, at the end of the month, the dog with the most votes receives the Top Dog honor. This year, the contest brought in \$138 for the Andover Food Pantry, and \$52 worth of votes were for Bella, putting her on top.

As the winner, Bella was given the No. 1 dog license, a "Top Dog" bandana and a certificate from the Board of Selectmen. In addition, she's scheduled to ride in next year's Memorial Day parade, where she can proudly display her spoils.

* * *

After Bella, the dog with the most votes was Bailey-Hershey Scagliola, a 2.5-year-old cocker spaniel owned by Dottie Scagliola.

With 33 votes, Bailey earned the title of Deputy Dog, and like Bella, she received a certificate from the selectmen.

This week, Scagliola shared some of her canine companion's traits. Bailey, she said, "has her own personality" and likes to get what she wants.

"When she wants something, she normally will go get it, and it's funny because we taught

her how to trade," Scagliola said.

If Bailey grabs something she's not supposed to have, "she'll run right in front of us, show us she has it – she knows she's not supposed to – and I'll say 'let's trade,' and she'll bring it to us but expect a treat in trade."

But if Bailey's ignored, beware: Scagliola said if someone sees she's got something but doesn't acknowledge it, "she'll shred it."

Scagliola added Bailey loves people, and in her submission to the Top Dog Contest she furthered, "Sometimes we think she thinks she's a little girl and not a dog. She expects to eat when we do, go when we leave the house, and if we aren't ready for bed when it's time... she heads up to bed by herself."

Scagliola furthered, "She loves chuck-it, balls, her buddy Sophie and the girls next door."

Bailey is also said to enjoy taking dump runs with the family so she can see Vice First Selectman Jay Linddy, who Scagliola said "spoils her rotten."

* * *

It's clear Bella and Bailey live lives with nothing to be desired. So for both of them, coming out as this year's head canines in the Top Dog Contest was the icing on some very sweet cake – or, that is, dog bone.

Glastonbury Resident Seeking Senate Seat

by Geeta Schrayter

Come November, Glastonbury resident and Republican Whit Osgood will be looking to take the state senate seat from Democrat Steve Cassano, who currently represents the 4th District, which covers Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury and Manchester.

Osgood has lived in Glastonbury since 1986 and raised his three children in town alongside his wife Patricia. He's been on the Glastonbury Town Council – where he's currently vice chairman – for 12 years, and has also spent three years on the town's Planning and Zoning Commission.

In addition, Osgood worked in corporate America for 18 years, and has spent the past nine providing commercial mortgage finance, consulting, and commercial real estate brokerage through his business, Osgood & Associates.

Speaking on why he felt he was qualified to now step into the senate role, Osgood said this week his background was a "strong point."

"I know what's involved with running a business," he stated. "I have a very good understanding of finance and I think our state has been lacking in the way they've been approaching their budgets and having a good financial perspective."

In addition, Osgood mentioned Glastonbury's success as a sign of his abilities.

"Glastonbury has done a very good job of controlling our expenditures and trying to maintain a balance between what people can afford to pay and what special-interest groups may have for pet projects," he stated. "We have to keep tax increases in line with increases in income; otherwise it gets out of balance."

If elected, Osgood said there are a number of areas he would focus on improving in Connecticut – a state he said has "some major issues."

For example, he said the state pension system isn't being adequately funded, and bonding is "out of control."

"Just recently, I heard [the state is] now bonding for paving roads, which should be an operating cost, not a long-term capital cost," he stated.

Furthermore, Osgood said he'd work to create a more business friendly environment, which would help those in need of work – while helping to keep down tax increases.

Citing Glastonbury again, Osgood explained tax increases are lower than they would be if the town's tax base weren't increasing as well.

"We've been able to keep our tax increases to a minimum because we're increasing the tax base through new developments such as the medical complex out on Eastern and Western boulevard[s]," he stated. "If you're not expanding your tax base through new businesses coming to the area and building new buildings, it's a smaller pie; what we really need to do is to increase the size of the pie."

He added, "Again, I think we do that by creating a more friendly business climate."

Other focus areas for Osgood include reducing the state tax burden on individuals and businesses, increasing state government transparency, and reducing the state's per capita indebtedness.

And when it comes to addressing these issues, Osgood said the bottom line is "you have to control state spending."

"You have to do a better job at prioritizing

state spending, and you have to fund the must-haves and take a pass on the nice-to-haves," he stated, adding many people are being forced to retire in other states because of the cost of living in Connecticut.

"We need to figure out what we can do to change that so people who are born here, and raised children here, can stay in the area," he stated.

On his political palm card, Osgood added, "We need to restore Connecticut's status as an attractive place for residents to live and work, an ideal location to raise and educate children, and an affordable choice for retirement."

Osgood said that, if someone were to ask him why they should vote for him, he'd say it's for the same reason he decided to run – because "I was getting frustrated with the direction I saw that the state was headed in and with the overwhelming control [of Democrats] in the state legislature," he said.

Osgood declared, "I am running to bring common sense and balance back to our state government."

"If you're not satisfied with the way the current state legislature and senate are operating, vote for change," he said. "We really do need to have, I think, more balance in both the house and the senate."

If elected, Osgood said he "absolutely" planned to spend time in all four towns – including the smaller communities of Andover and Bolton – and stressed that every resident counted, no matter the town's size.

"Although there may be fewer voters in Andover than Glastonbury, every vote's important," he said. "Representing all of the residents of the district is what you're supposed to do as



Whit Osgood

their representative."

* * *

The next steps for Osgood involve qualifying for the Citizen's Election Program, which involves acquiring 300 campaign contributions. "Then it's getting out and talking to people about what they see as issues facing the state, and making sure they understand I'm there to represent them," he concluded.

For more information or to contribute to Osgood's campaign, go to osgoodforct.com. He can also be reached via phone at 860-655-3330.

FOIC Finds Gaudinski at Fault in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski has been asked to provide a copy of the legal opinion she received last year that states the first budget vote was flawed – and it’s the Freedom of Information Commission that’s doing the asking.

The FOIC made the recommendation May 28, in response to an FOI complaint filed by Board of Finance alternate member Lauren Cragg last July. In the complaint, Cragg argued Gaudinski failed to provide her with copies of documents she requested last spring.

The documents Cragg requested pertained to the budget vote taken at the May 13, 2013, town budget meeting, where then-Board of Finance member Beth Petroni stunned the crowd and pitched an amended budget to voters. Petroni’s budget was passed that night by a vote of 61-56.

Three days following that budget vote, Gaudinski informed the board that budget approval was “flawed,” based on legal opinions she received from the town attorney and bond counsel. A new budget was delivered to voters and ultimately passed.

This prompted Cragg to send a written request to Gaudinski seeking copies of “any and all statements/opinions” from both the Town

Attorney James Bradley and the town’s bond counsel regarding the amended budget vote, as well as billing records for all attorneys working from the town from Jan.1-May 22, 2013, and all emails sent between Gaudinski and Board of Finance Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout during that same time frame.

In July, Cragg filed a complaint to the FOIC, alleging that Gaudinski “violated the FOI Act by failing to provide [Cragg] with all records responsive to her records request,” according to the FOIC’s May 28 decision.

According to that document, Gaudinski complied with the request for copies of legal bills from attorneys working for the town, some of which were redacted, as well as copies of emails between her and Godbout. However, when it came to the legal opinions Cragg requested, the document said Gaudinski “asserted that the legal opinions themselves are privileged communications exempt from disclosure” under state statute 1-210.

Gaudinski and Cragg argued their cases in January before an FOI hearing officer, Commissioner Matthew Streeter. On April 23, Streeter concluded that Gaudinski should provide Cragg with a copy of the legal opinion because it “is not exempt from disclosure.”

Streeter’s decision then went before the FOIC last Wednesday, May 28, and the commission upheld Streeter’s findings.

The document explains Gaudinski “waived the attorney-client privilege” of disclosing a legal opinion when she read aloud portions of a legal opinion provided to her at a Board of Finance meeting held on May 16, 2013.

At that meeting, the FOIC wrote, Gaudinski “referred to and discussed the legal opinion provided by, and her conversations with, legal counsel pertaining to the approval of the budget vote...”

The commission added that Gaudinski “at times, paraphrased the advice that was provided to her by counsel, and at other times, used the exact language written by counsel in the legal opinion.”

However, while Gaudinski was found to be at fault for failing to provide a copy of the letter to Cragg, the commission did agree with the argument she made pertaining to redacted bills she gave to Cragg.

The document states the commission “concluded that [Gaudinski] did not violate the FOI Act by disclosing the billing records to [Cragg] in redacted form.”

The document concludes that the FOIC rec-

ommends Gaudinski “shall provide [Cragg] with copies of the legal opinion.”

Cragg – who stressed she was commenting “as a taxpayer” – told the *Rivereast* that while she was “thrilled at the outcome, it is sad that I had to go to such lengths to get a copy of this letter.”

Cragg said that, once she receives the letter from Gaudinski, she is “looking forward to sharing it with the Marlborough taxpayer community, and figuring out how it may affect the budget which the taxpayers approved on May 13, 2013.”

Cragg added, “I’m confident that the town selectmen are being held to a proper level of transparency at a cost of taxpayer dollars. I’m hopeful that this FOI decision will set a precedent for providing information to taxpayers in the future.”

Reached for comment this week, Gaudinski said that she was unable to attend last Wednesday’s hearing, and did not wish to talk about it until she read through the commission’s final decision.

Cragg said last week’s FOI hearing regarding Gaudinski’s letter will air on the Community Voice Channel on June 13, at 6:30 p.m.; June 17, at 10 a.m.; and June 24, at 7 p.m.

Marlborough Selectmen Discuss Possible KX Dispatch Consolidation

by Melissa Roberto

The Board of Selectmen Tuesday received an update on the consolidation efforts of Colchester Emergency Communications, also known as KX Dispatch.

The update was delivered by two members of the KX Dispatch Board of Directors, Doug Knowlton and Sam Totodo, who are both of Marlborough. The board of directors is made up of members from each of the towns who utilize KX Dispatch: Marlborough, Colchester, East Hampton, East Haddam, Bozrah, Haddam, Lebanon and Salem.

Knowlton caught the selectmen up to speed with the status of KX Dispatch, which has undergone change in the last two years. That change – which prompted concerns for the KX towns – was caused by the town of Hebron withdrawing from KX and joining Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service Inc. in 2012. Knowlton reminded the board Tuesday what that meant for the remaining KX towns.

Hebron’s pulling out left “approximately \$100,000 to be absorbed by the remaining towns,” he said. Half of that money was due to a loss of state funding. Knowlton continued, and the other half was the “direct assessment to Hebron.”

Thus, representatives from each of the KX remaining towns formed a committee to work towards a consolidation with other municipalities. Knowlton, project manager of the consolidation efforts, said the committee went through a request for proposal (RFP) process. The most recent update is that KX has been discussing a merge with the Town of Montville, a town that already has a “brand new, state-of-the-art” safety building including a dispatch center.

Knowlton explained both entities have “had to tackle such things as to how can we connect the towers that Montville uses between the towers that KX uses.” Other technicalities pertaining to costs, backing up information and even making sure it’s possible to retain all existing dispatch employees have been discussed, he said.

“We think we have a solution to every one of these issues,” Knowlton told the selectmen.

Knowlton further explained what the merge with Montville would entail.

“Montville will become the applicant for the transition grant. From a legal point of view, they’ll be joining the KX regional dispatch center,” he informed the board.

He added that if for varying reasons – such as towns opting to pull out of the pact, as Hebron did – “this falls apart within the first two years, Montville has to pay it all back to the state. If the consolidated dispatch center falls apart within five years, then between the two to five years, Montville can’t apply for any more money and can’t go anywhere else.”

He concluded, “Montville is looking for a five-year commitment from all municipalities involved, which is something the municipalities haven’t given to KX.”

Selectman Dick Shea questioned what the risks of signing on to a five year contract would be.

Knowlton said “there will be some typical costs and some increases—by how much, I don’t know.”

He added, “One of the risks is that the other towns will pull out.” Totodo agreed with that. “That’s the real risk,” Totodo said.

Knowlton pointed out not moving forward in the consolidation would likely mean “KX will have to dissolve.” Additionally, “the assets will be sold.”

“Keep in mind, we’ve been around for over 40 years,” he said. “KX started basically when 911 went into the state of Connecticut – and incidentally, Marlborough was one of the founders of the whole process.”

Totodo concluded that the risks of not signing a five-year contract are greater than the risks of entering into it.

“If nothing else, this core of KX has to be together,” Totodo said. “There could be some more costs but it’ll be worse if the KX core members at least don’t stay together.”

Gaudinski echoed that. “It will be more problematic if we don’t stay together,” she said.

Knowlton explained the next steps involve the entities proceeding with the transition grant

application, as well as estimating the future operating budget.

Knowlton explained if a contract is finalized it would then go to the town managers or first selectmen of each of the towns involved for signatures. Gaudinski informed the board that would mean the selectmen would vote on whether or not to allow Gaudinski to sign the document.

The discussion was meant for the purpose of updating the board and no action was taken. However, Gaudinski shared her appreciation for both Knowlton and Totodo’s work.

“I would say that we’re very fortunate that Doug is our project manager and Sam represents us on the Board of Directors,” she said.

A majority of Tuesday’s Board of Selectmen discussion also focused on technology. The board welcomed two representatives from the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (CCAT), who delivered a quick presentation on consulting services they’d offer to the town for its computer systems.

Gaudinski explained this week in a phone interview why the town is in need of consulting services for its technology.

“The reason I want to engage in some services is because we do not currently have managed network administrator services,” she said, adding the town only has an on-call service for repairs and troubleshooting. “We’re experiencing some difficulties here with our technology.”

Gaudinski explained one difficulty was prompted by the recent change involving Microsoft no longer supporting Windows XP operating system. That change has resulted in “more network security threats” and a need for a newer operating system, she explained.

CCAT Director Dan Salazar included a cost estimate of its services for one year totaling \$15,100. The plan included network configuration and optimization, installing and configuring PCs, as well as merging over to Exchange and Office 365, which are email systems that, he said, are more secure for users. Additionally, CCAT could also offer onsite support and

unrestricted troubleshooting that would be paid for monthly.

Gaudinski informed the selectmen that the town is in need of purchasing additional computers as well. She added Wednesday that a majority of the town’s computers – which exist at Town Hall, Public Works and the Police Department – were purchased between 2006-2008.

“We’re getting further behind as time goes on,” she said.

Gaudinski concluded costs for these services could reach \$40,000 when taking into account the estimate presented by CCAT as well as costs for additional computers.

No action was taken but Gaudinski said she would be making the Board of Finance aware of these needs at its meeting next Wednesday.

Lastly, Gaudinski informed the selectmen that the town has received a state grant of \$24,100 to be used to hook up to the CEN/Nutmeg Network, which is a broadband fiber network.

“This is a big enhancement for us,” Gaudinski said, and added Wednesday it would improve the speed of the Internet on the town’s computers.

“Right now in Town Hall, it’s not a very robust bandwidth,” she said. “It’s slow. We have a problem in terms of speed and processing our databases that are going online now.”

Gaudinski concluded she’s “very pleased” Marlborough has been awarded the grant. According to crocog.org, “CEN is required by legislation to connect all 169 municipalities to the public broadband fiber network over the next two years.” The website further states it is to be done on a “first come, first served basis.”

The “question now” is when the funds will be received by the town and what the process looks like in terms of installing it in the future, she said.

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

MES Community Remembers Teacher who ‘Touched Lives’

by Melissa Roberto

Many who knew Paula Netto – the longtime Marlborough Elementary School social worker, who passed away last month – said this week it’s hard to put into words just how much of a profound impact she had on the community. Although one response repeated over and over again was that “she touched lives.”

Netto joined the Marlborough district in 2000, as the elementary school’s very first social worker. She developed the entire program herself, colleagues said, and worked at the school up until two years ago, when she took a leave of absence due to a decline in her health caused by cancer. Netto lost her battle with cancer May 16, at the age of 58, but it’s clear her family, friends and students are cherishing the years they had with her.

Friend and former colleague Pam Farrington said she always referred to Netto as her “go-to girl.”

“She was that person you went to and when you left you knew you were going to feel better,” Farrington said.

As a social worker, this is also the affect Netto had on her students, many said. She was the adult in the school students would go to when dealing with friendship struggles, frustration, bullying, or if they had a hard time fitting in, Farrington said.

“She just really stressed how each child was unique and special in their own way,” Farrington furthered.

A bulletin board in the hallway of MES bears witness to all the good Netto did during her time there. It is filled with not only some of Netto’s popular sayings, but also paper butterflies inscribed with memories of her written by staff and students. Many describe the personality of their former social worker as “kind,” “caring,” “thoughtful,” and “soothing,” and almost all share how Netto made them a better person.

One butterfly written by a student reads, “Mrs. Netto, You taught me to love all.” Another says, “I remember how you would always make me feel calm.”

Other sentiments read: “I learned to be happy

for who I am,” “Life smiled on me when I met you,” and “Mrs. Netto taught us to be ourselves and to stand up for others.”

Netto was born in Portsmouth, Va., but was a lifelong resident of Connecticut. She resided in Colchester since 2003. She leaves behind her husband Darrell Netto, who teaches sixth grade at MES, and her three children, Jeffrey, Michael and Elizabeth Dunshee.

Netto’s obituary described her as an “avid reader and swimmer,” “savvy bargain shopper,” “zealous Scrabble player” and an “experienced world traveler.”

But perhaps her greatest mark was left through what colleagues labeled her “incredible work” at MES. In 2009, the Connecticut Association of Schools recognized Netto with an award for her Peer Mediation and Playground Peacekeeper Program. The program involved older students mentoring students of the lower grades.

AHM Youth and Family Services Director Joel Rosenberg spoke highly of Netto.

“Paula was exemplary in her work,” Rosenberg said this week. “She had our highest respect and praise for everything that she did for the children and families in Marlborough.”

The social worker was also well known for her two dear friends, “Mr. Owl” and “The Turtle” – two puppets she often used to reach her younger students. She is also remembered for phrases she would often repeat, such as, “We’re unique and unrepeatable,” and “Is this a big deal or a little deal?” She also taught students to live out this phrase: “Treat others the way you want to be treated.”

Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz reflected on the impact Netto had on the MES community.

“The faculty and staff were not just colleagues to Paula, nor her to them,” Sklarz said. “She was a friend, confidant and role model. Her passing left a hole in the heart and soul of everyone from teachers, administration, students and me personally.”

Sklarz admitted it’s “difficult to find the right words to capture the respect and admiration



A bulletin board full of memories was created by students and staff at Marlborough Elementary School to honor Paula Netto, a former social worker at the school, who passed away last month.

everyone had for Paula,” but summarized that the community “will remember her kindness, passion and love for all those whose lives she touched.”

The district notified teachers of Netto’s passing on Friday, May 16. The school’s psychologists as well as counselors from AHM were available for staff members and students the following week, and still are. Farrington said the administration has been “very supportive” of teachers and students, and communicated that the faculty and staff “were able to come together.”

A memorial service has been scheduled in honor of Netto for Monday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the MES playground behind the school. The rain date is June 17. Farrington said the event, which is open to all, is a way for the community to celebrate Netto’s life.

“She touched so many parents and children, so it’s a way for them to tribute her,” Farrington said of the memorial service. “It’s a family-friendly event appropriate for children because that’s what she was all about: what was best for children.”

Interim Principal Paula Schwartz sent home

a letter to MES parents May 29. She explained ideas are currently being planned as a way to remember Netto, such as installing a bench or a garden at the school in her memory. Schwartz said the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and Marlborough Education Foundation (MEF) are partnering with the school to help collect contributions to be used towards a remembrance project.

If you would like to contribute toward these projects, the letter states individuals can send contributions to the school, 25 School Dr. Checks should be made out to the MES Cheer Fund, with “Netto Fund” in the subject line. The school asks donations to be submitted by Friday, June 13, though it states they are welcome any time. Individuals with ideas for a remembrance in Netto’s honor are asked to contact a member of the PTO or MEF.

While those who knew Netto say her passing has left a void, friends of hers, like Farrington, consider themselves lucky to have known her.

“We’re all better off here for the time that we’ve had with her,” Farrington said.



Dozens of the butterflies describe the woman Netto was. They describe her as “caring,” “thoughtful” and a woman who made students feel “calm,” “happy,” and who was “always there” to help during troubling times.

Goss Named CES Interim Principal in Colchester

by Melissa Roberto

The coming school year at Colchester Elementary School will begin with a new principal – although she’s a familiar face at the K-2 school.

The school’s assistant principal, Amity Goss, was recently named the school’s interim principal position; she starts July 1. Current principal Anne Watson told the district in April that she would not return for the 2014-15 school year in order to pursue her doctorate degree full-time.

Watson has “been a doctorate student for a while and like many doctorate students it’s hard to complete the task so she is going back full-time to be a doctorate student,” Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Mathieu said of Watson’s soon-to-be departure.

Watson has only been principal at the school a year, starting last July, following the retirement of longtime CES principal Jacqueline Somberg. But the recent turnover of administration at CES did not put any stress on the district, Mathieu hinted at last week. One of the reasons the school district didn’t advertise for an interim principal was because the district felt confident in Goss’s capabilities, Mathieu said.

“The timeline just didn’t make sense,” Mathieu said in regards to advertising the position. “The other part of that is we have such a wonderful person in-house that we’ve been able to watch over the years.”

Mathieu continued, “The fact that [Goss] is the interim is the ultimate job performance because she will prove herself throughout the entire school year. It was important for us to have leadership right away and not be waiting.”

Goss first joined the district in 2005, as the

literacy specialist at the former elementary school in town, which at the time was Jack Jackter. When CES was built, for the town’s K-2 students, Goss went there and continued as literacy specialist. In 2008, she was promoted to the position of assistant principal at CES. Prior to joining Colchester Public Schools, Goss worked for nine years at Old Saybrook Public Schools as a first-, second-, third- and fourth-grade teacher.

Goss holds an undergraduate degree in child development from Connecticut College, a master’s degree in reading and language arts from Central Connecticut State University and a sixth year in educational leadership from Sacred Heart University.

This week, Goss conveyed her enthusiasm of taking over as interim principal.

“I’m really, really excited to be principal because there are so many things we’ve begun now that I know we can continue,” she said this week. “I will be able to carry that momentum forward.”

Some examples of things she’d like to continue moving forward are the new math and writing programs at the school. The math program, Eureka Math, was written by mathematicians and teachers in New York to specifically address the Common Core State Standards curriculum, Goss explained.

“They really wrote it for addressing the Common Core State Standards,” said Goss. “It’s done that. Our children have done amazingly well with it this year.”

The writing program, called Writer’s Workshop, was also adopted at CES this year. Goss said it is a “wonderful fit” to the Common Core as well.

Goss reflected this week on what it’s like to work at CES.

“We call it the happiest place on Earth,” she quipped, adding, “Although I think somewhere else already goes by that.”

“I really feel it’s one of the few places where families and educators are all working together for the future of the kids,” Goss continued. “That allows us to do the most amazing things on behalf of the kids.”

Asked what changes her new title may bring her, Goss said she will “probably” continue doing “a lot of the same things.” Although one new aspect she said she’s looking forward to is becoming a “deeper part of the community.”

“A principal of a building gets to really become a part of the community in a way that an assistant principal only hopes to be,” she said.

Although no matter what her title, Goss said it’s always been a pleasure to wake up each morning and head to CES for work.

“We have such wonderful, bright-eyed, excited people coming to us,” Goss said. “How could we not be excited for that?”

Mathieu said Goss will serve as interim principal until the end of the 2014-15 school year, at which time she will be evaluated. This is the same timeline that Mark Ambruso underwent before his appointment to the permanent position of principal of Bacon Academy last year. The superintendent concluded he is confident that Goss will prove herself over the next year.

“I truly believe in my heart that Amity is the permanent principal,” Mathieu said. “I think she’s that gifted of an educator. She’s just extremely knowledgeable and caring. The staff



Amity Goss

and the students just respect her so much.”

Mathieu said he hopes to announce who will fill the assistant principal position by the June 10 Board of Education meeting. Like Goss, the superintendent said he felt the district has “some highly qualified internal candidates” to choose from.

For Goss, “building upon the good things” at CES will be her goal over the next year.

“That’s one of the advantages having been here so long,” she said. “I know our traditions. I know our families. I just really want to respect that and grow on those things.”

Becker’s Beats the Bass Drum to Colchester

by Melissa Roberto

There’s a new place to shop in Colchester – and it’s where the manager says a sparkler can be found for any occasion.

A Becker’s Diamonds & Fine Jewelry outlet is now located at 95 Linwood Ave. It officially opened for business Friday, May 2 and the family-owned business seems to be quite pleased with its new location that gives off a small-town feel.

“Colchester is a wonderful town to be in,” said store manager Vanessa Grano. “The people are great; the community is great. It’s followed all of our values and it was exactly what we were looking for.”

Grano was pleased to say the store’s first month welcomed “a lot of traffic.”

“Everyone seems so excited,” Grano said of people in the area, “and we’re excited to be here as well.”

There are now six Becker’s stores in the state, with another one coming soon to Old Saybrook. However, only the Colchester and West Hartford stores are “full-scale” ones; the Old Saybrook one will be the third.

In Colchester, the full-scale store features 10 floor cases and four wall cases full of jewelry. It also has a “full-functioning” jewelry repair shop, where third-generation master goldsmith John Bray is on site five days a week to assess, repair and “give his expert opinion” on pieces that may be in need of repair, Grano said.

And inside those 14 cases of jewelry, the manager explained, are “some of the world’s most exquisite, unique, one-of-a-kind, estate pieces.” She explained estate jewelry is “jewelry that is pre-loved.” The pieces are refinished by a goldsmith, assessed by a graduate gemologist and put in the cases “as what we call ‘new-new.’”

Grano pointed out the pieces in the store vary

from “trendy, designer, hand-crafted, unique, and period pieces.”

The period pieces are inspired by art nouveau, art deco, and even the Elizabethan periods, Grano said.

In addition to the wide variety, Grano pointed out it’s also the value customers can buy these items at that make the Becker’s name stand out among competitors.

“The value is half off what you would get it for roughly new,” Grano said. “You get the excellence you deserve, with the value that you want.”

In addition to having the opportunity of purchasing authentic pieces, Grano pointed out the fine jewelry store also purchases pieces from customers—whether old, new, or if they are just looking to get a piece off of their hands.

“We will happily assess it,” Grano said of this practice, adding, “We will make sure we give them a fair, competitive and consistent quote on the pieces.”

Even more so, Becker’s may be the fitting place to stop if a special day or event is approaching.

“Our jewelry can cater to any occasion, whether it’s graduation, birthday, anniversary, wedding or just because,” Grano said, furthering the wedding collection is “phenomenal.”

The manager concluded the store is full of items “in every single budget for every single occasion.”

And, Grano pointed out what may be in there this week could be gone the next. She recommended for customers to “check back in frequently.”

“Our jewelry does turnover very quickly. We get new pieces in weekly and if customers have a request for something we can try to meet all of their needs,” she said.

This week the Colchester store celebrated its



A new jewelry store, Becker’s Diamonds & Fine Jewelry, has come to Colchester. The full-scale store is located at 95 Linwood Ave.

grand opening, which featured a ribbon cutting and the drawing of a \$1,000 retailed diamond necklace that went to a lucky Colchester resident. In addition to the business getting acclimated with the public, it also used the opening event as a way to “give back” to its new home. Attendees were encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Colchester Food Bank.

“It’s part of the company’s philosophy,” said Grano. “We don’t just want to be a jeweler in Colchester. We want to be your jeweler in Colchester and we want to invest in the community.”

Two bins have since been delivered to the food bank as a result of the event’s donations.

“We would love to say thank you to the people that did come and thank you for supporting us and the Colchester Food Bank, of course,” the manager continued.

Becker’s Diamonds & Fine Jewelry, at 95 Linwood Ave., is open Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and is closed Sundays. Readers are encouraged to check out the Becker’s company website at beckers.com and its Facebook page at Facebook.com/BeckersJewelers. The Colchester location can be reached at 860-603-2477.

August Primary for 48th District Democratic Candidates

by Melissa Roberto

Jason Paul has collected enough votes to force an August primary against incumbent Linda Orange for the Democratic nomination for the 48th Assembly District state representative seat.

Paul qualified to be placed on the Democratic Primary ballot by securing the votes of more than 15 percent of the delegates at the 48th District's May 20 convention. He communicated his pleasure in heading to the primary.

"I am grateful to the delegates who voted to give the people of the 48th District the opportunity to choose their Democratic nominees for state representative," said Paul in a press release.

In the release, Paul furthers, "Hartford insiders drew the lines of this district so that voters wouldn't have a choice. This primary is our opportunity to make our voices heard."

It will be the first primary for Orange, who has been elected to nine consecutive terms as state representative. She commented on the upcoming primary this week, stating, "It cer-

tainly is a democracy."

The incumbent seemed confident heading to the August primary.

"I have a lot of support of volunteers, a lot of support from volunteers from the communities, so I feel blessed that way," Orange said. "I'm running my campaign and we're working very hard."

Paul said his decision to run was with the focus of bringing in "new ideas and new energy." He said he's kept busy knocking on "a ton" of doors in the four communities the 48th District encompasses – Colchester, Mansfield, Lebanon and Windham – and will continue to do so leading up to the primary.

"I feel very good," he said. "People are not overwhelmingly thrilled over things that have been going on in the 18 years with Orange."



Jason Paul

Paul, a Colchester resident, has also stood outside the two budget referendums held in the town in the last month to greet voters. He said he's also introduced himself to folks by attending the town's Economic Development Commission meetings, attending the Colchester Memorial Day Parade, and a Lions Club breakfast.

Orange, who also lives in Colchester, said she's been consistent in her campaign efforts like she's done over nearly the last two decades.

"I'm looking forward to the race," she said. "And I'm working very hard, as I always do."

Something also new to the race this year is a request Paul made to Orange's campaign team, suggesting the two host a series of debates.

"Democrats have a choice this year," said Paul, in an open email. "Representative Orange and I owe it to them to have a public dialogue about the direction of our state and the leadership of our district."

This week Orange responded to the suggestion.

"Rep. Orange agrees that the district's vot-

ers deserve the opportunity to hear from the candidates and she relishes the opportunity to have face-to-face debates sponsored by an experienced, non-partisan organization, such as the League of Women Voters," an email from her campaign team states.

"Rep. Orange looks forward to having discussions with her opponent's campaign with respect to organizing and scheduling debates."

Paul also suggested Orange's campaigns to "jointly administer a website where any 48th District voter can submit questions of the candidates and have their answers posted within 72 hours."

However, as of press time, Orange has yet to respond to the website request.

The primary will be held Aug. 12.



Linda Orange

Colchester Selectmen Vacancies Filled

by Melissa Roberto

The Board of Selectmen is complete again. Last month's resignations of Gregg Schuster and Mike Caplet left two vacancies on the five-person board – but the vacancies didn't last very long. At a special May 22 meeting of the selectmen, Republican Bill Curran was picked to fill Schuster's seat, while Democrat Kurt Frantzen was tabbed for Caplet's. The terms of both will run through November 2015.

The two are first-timers to the Board of Selectmen, but have brought forth with them experience serving on other boards and commissions in town. Soby – who officially became the town's first selectman at noon last Friday, May 30, taking over for Gregg Schuster, who recently took a township manager job in Pennsylvania – sang the praises of both.

"We're looking at people with really solid business backgrounds that have a knowledge of how the town government works and they'll be up to speed right at the start," Soby said.

Curran comes in as a selectman after having spent the last year serving in various volunteer roles. He served on the Fire Department Task Force in 2013, and went on to fill a vacancy on the Board of Finance last July that had been vacated by Cathy Pompei. Curran served on the finance board until November, when he lost a bid for re-election. At the start of 2014, Curran began serving on the Economic Development Commission, and was on that commission right up until he was named a selectman last month.

At the May 22 meeting, Curran joked with the selectmen that he "in some respects" feels "like Goldilocks," trying out different boards

and commissions in town. However, on a more serious note, Curran said it was his time serving on each of those boards/commissions that he recognized what the town is in need of. He repeated those needs to the *Rivereast* this week.

"The more and more I get into town government the more and more I see opportunities for improvement," said Curran. "One of the things that prompted me to get to the board is the whole concept of taxation."

Curran continued, "One of the things I heard loud and clear through my campaign trail for the Board of Finance was 'reduce my taxes, improve my roads and give me another place to shop.'"

Curran said it was those responses that motivated him to get involved and spearhead some change. To do so, he said he has a different approach to bringing taxes down aside from solely reducing the town and education budgets.

"It's not about reducing costs," Curran said. "It's about growing revenue."

The Republican said additional revenue can "fund services that people so desperately want without impacting their pocketbooks." He said that would be his goal while serving in his new capacity.

Curran also said he'd like to see some change brought forward to the town charter. It's a document, he said, that "people really need to take seriously."

"Times are different; things are different," Curran pointed out. "It may have been good in the past but I think we really have to shake that

tree and say 'what really should the town charter look like?'"

The selectmen recently established a charter review commission, and are currently interviewing members.

Curran said he's "really looking forward" to working with his fellow selectmen.

"I hold Stan Soby in high regards," he said. "I hold my other selectmen in high regards. They are very dedicated people, very knowledgeable. It's a new board with new thoughts and new ideas and I think we can really start to make a fundamental change by bringing different thoughts."

Frantzen said he's also looking forward to sitting on the decision-making board of the town. He said his pursuit of a seat on the board comes from an interest that has progressed over the 17 years he's lived in Colchester.

Up until his appointment to the Board of Selectmen, Frantzen served on the Conservation Commission since 2008, having served most recently as its vice chairman, as well as the Sewer and Water Commission since March of this year.

Frantzen also ran last fall for a seat on the Board of Finance but, like Curran, came up short in the votes.

Additionally, Frantzen recalled his past participation in various "work groups" for the town. One was a group formed in 2000, of which he worked with members to assist in the "original plan" of the town's Plan of Conservation and Development. Frantzen also recalled

sitting on a board tasked with looking at Colchester's need of forming an Agriculture Commission.

"All of these things have contributed to the increase of my interest in service," Frantzen concluded.

In terms of what he hopes to achieve in his new role, Frantzen listed off: "listen carefully, look to contribute sound advice and ask good questions."

He furthered a responsibility of his as one fifth of the board of selectmen will be to "serve the entire community."

And while the new selectman quipped that the task "is daunting, of course," he said he's "looking forward to it." Asked to look at what some issues are the town may face over the next year and a half he'll serve as selectman, Frantzen said "budgetary issues, questions of revenues, taxes, economic development and operational efficiency," in addition to what he said is "last but not least – communication."

Aside from volunteering, Frantzen does consulting work in the area of environmental health and safety. And while that work took him out of town Monday, Frantzen still was available to participate in the full board's first meeting – a special meeting dealing with the town budget – via telephone. In regards to his first duty, he said, "so far so good."

Now a complete five-member board, members admitted they have work to tackle. They met in their first regular meeting last night, Thursday, June 5, after press time.

Three-Car Accident Involved Mail Truck

by Elizabeth Bowling

A three-vehicle, two-collision accident Saturday afternoon sent all six people involved to the hospital, police said.

According to East Hampton Police Chief Sean Cox, the first of the two collisions involved two vehicles traveling south on Young Street. The first of those two vehicles was a mail truck, which was being followed by an older model Ford F150, Cox said.

As the two vehicles traveled southbound, the F150 struck the mail truck in the rear, forcing it into oncoming traffic in the northbound lane. The mail truck was forced into the path of a Chevy Avalanche pick-up truck, Cox said, which led to the second collision.

"The mail truck came to an uncontrolled

rest" in the northbound lane, Cox affirmed. The Chevy Avalanche drove off the unpaved shoulder to an uncontrolled rest, and the F150 stopped in the southbound lane, he said.

Cox said all parties involved in the accident – six people total – were transported to various hospitals. One person, the driver and sole occupant of the mail truck, was transported via Lifestar, he said. Cox was unable to release the identities of the six.

Specially-trained officers from the East Hampton Police Department responded to the accident and are currently investigating the accident, Cox said.

Colchester Police News

5/28: State Police said Joshua Reed, 31, of 118 Burnham Rd., Lebanon, was arrested for traveling too fast and operating a motor vehicle under a suspended license.

5/30: State Police said Gary A. Newman, 53, of 1189 Washington St., Apt. E24, Middletown, was arrested and charged with DUI, operating a motor vehicle under a suspended license, failure to drive in the right lane, and two counts of failure to carry registration/insurance.

5/30: State Police said Denise Karle, 48, of 32 Mill St., turned herself in at Troop K for conspiracy for sixth-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit sixth-degree larceny.

5/30: Colchester Police are investigating a burglary that occurred at Country Dog Grooming and Gray House Farms on Loomis Road sometime between 5 p.m. on May 29 and 8 a.m. May 30. Anybody with information is asked to contact the Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.

5/31: Colchester Police said they are investigating a case regarding a person on Linwood Cemetery Road who reported there were unlawful charges on her credit card.

5/31: State Police responded to an alarm at Gibbs Oil/Phillips 66 gas station located at 299 South Main St. Police said upon arrival damage was observed to the front glass window. This case is under investigation.

5/31: State Police said Blaine M. Chesnutt, 24, of 9 Sherwood Ln., Marlborough, was charged with DWI and improper turn.

6/1: Colchester Police said Kelly D. Nixon, 42, of 24 Prospect St., was charged with an infraction of failure to respond.

6/2: State Police said Michael Marcuccio, 38, of 39 Andrews Rd., Wolcott, turned himself into Troop K on an outstanding arrest warrant for second-degree failure to appear.

‘Heroes for Ian’ Brings Adventure to Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

Late last month the dream of every kid – and, whether or not they’ll admit it, many adults, too – came true when a number of superheroes paid a visit to Hebron.

Superman, Wonder Woman, Spiderman, and Bat Woman all made an appearance May 25 to help a local kid retrieve his “Cape of Courage.”

Ian Fagan, 6, the son of Patrick and Cindy Fagan, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in April 2011 – just a month shy of his third birthday. Since then, his family’s church, Gilead Congregational, has been rallying behind the Fagans and putting on periodic events to support them throughout their struggle.

This most recent event was no different.

According to Stephanie Haines, minister of missions and faith formation at the church, the event was an opportunity to celebrate real life heroes such as local veterans and members of the police and fire department – all who participated – as well as “our little hero, Ian, who has been so courageous in his battle against childhood leukemia!”

She furthered, “In a world where it can seem that there is just too much sadness, illness and tragedy, it is nice to be reminded that there is also so much good. And that overwhelming goodness was seen in the love and support of all of those who participated in ‘Heroes for Ian.’”

Throughout May, Haines explained Ian wore a special “Cape of Courage” made by Nathalie Peltier-Horton, a member of the church. But there was someone else with their eye on his cape – Jeffrey Haines – who stepped into the role of villain and made periodic appearances at the church, making himself known and demanding Ian’s cape (the Joker also paid a visit, played by Bruce Langevin).

Then, on the 25th, the villain’s goal was achieved when he successfully got a hold of – and hid – Ian’s cape. But in the face of defeat, the community wasn’t about to let the bad guy win, and a search began for the missing item. Ian’s friends, along with members of the community as well as the slew of superheroes – which included the Rev. Dr. Denise Esslinger as Wonder Woman, Ned Ellis as Superman, Michelle Pawlina as Bat Woman, and Charles

Daniels as Spiderman – banded together in a hunt for the cape organized by Brenda Houghton, from the church’s Board of Missions.

The crew found sheets of a comic book that gave clues as to the whereabouts of the cape and, Haines explained, “Children participated in a number of clues and tasks to find the real cape as ‘the tricky villain’ had hidden many decoys.”

But good eventually prevailed when the cape was found behind a giant American flag hung at the top of the Hebron Fire Department’s 80-foot ladder. Firefighter Tyler Huppe scaled the ladder and it was lowered down, allowing him to place the cape back on Ian as the crowd cheered happily.

Tony Pitrone Sr., a member of the fire department, said this week the event went “very well.”

“To see the smile on Ian’s face when all this went down was priceless,” he stated. “If the Hebron Fire Department can make this little boy’s life a little easier, even if it’s only for a couple of hours, that is what we are all about.”

After Ian’s cape was returned, the villain was apprehended and “arrested” by a trio of policemen – Sgt. John Thompson, Trooper Dan McCormack and Lt. Eric Murray and taken away in a police cruiser, in an ending fit for any DC comic.

Along with the drama that unfolded May 25, the event helped raise money to support Ian and Camp Sunshine, a camp in Maine for children with life-threatening illnesses. Throughout May, coins were collected to support Ian and his family as well as the camp, which the Fagans attended last summer. In total, \$3,089.62 was raised by the community.

Earlier this week, Esslinger called everything “fabulous.”

“I think it really was the church community and the entire community, with the involvement of the Hebron Fire Department and the state police, coming together to support Ian and his family,” she stated. “It was just a ton of fun.”

The idea for the event, Esslinger said, came from California, where a young boy was recently given a similar kind of event through the Make-a-Wish Foundation.



Ned Ellis as Superman (left) and Rev. Dr. Denise Esslinger as Wonder Woman, hold hands with Ian Fagan, 6, as they took part in a comic-book worthy adventure with community members May 25 to support Ian in his battle with cancer.

“We just thought, ‘what a great way for people to come together,’” Esslinger continued, and so, something on a smaller scale – but no less great – was put together for Ian.

“It was quite wonderful, special and dramatic when one of the firefighters climbed up the ladder” Esslinger stated, concluding, “I think it was a great way to show community support for Ian and his family and to do it in such a fun way.”

Like Esslinger, Cindy Fagan considered the event a success, calling it “amazing.”

“It was definitely [Ian’s] dream come true,” she said. “He loves superheroes and he loves things like the fire department and he loves police – so everything that he loves was there and it was great.”

Fagan added Ian was “very excited and just thrilled” about the event, and said the family was “blessed” to have the support of the community throughout Ian’s treatment.

“It’s been amazing, because this is such a

long journey – over three years already. Sometimes people talk about how people are there at the beginning because it rocks everybody, then they kind of go on with their lives and you’re still left with the daily grind of treatments and life – and our community has not been like that,” Fagan said.

She furthered, “We’re very blessed to be a part of Hebron.”

As for Ian, he’s scheduled to finish his chemotherapy treatments sometime in September. If all goes well, his mom explained there will then be “lots of follow-ups and hopefully he can start healing from some of the side effects, get some of his strength and energy back and be a little boy again.”

And until then, he’ll have May 25 to think of fondly: a day he was given the opportunity to be just that – a little boy embarking on his very own comic book adventure – thanks to the help of the community.

Basset Hound Named Top Canine in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

They say “every dog has its day,” and for Chloe, a 3-year-old basset hound, that day – or year, rather – has arrived; Chloe has been named Hebron’s Top Dog for 2014, an accolade earned after residents paid a visit to the Russell Mercier Senior Center throughout the month of May to vote for their preferred pooch.

The Top Dog Competition is put on by the Town Clerk’s office as a way to remind dog owners that June is dog-licensing month. In addition, the competition provided a way to decide which dog got the coveted No. 1 dog tag – and this year, that dog is Chloe.

“We are all very excited,” owner Jan Mango said this week. “It’s the small things that really add joy to your life.”

And along with the win, one of those small joys is Chloe herself, who’s been with the Mangos since she was a puppy and is now an integral part of the family.

“Most people would say their dog is part of their family – and she definitely is really part of ours,” Mango shared, adding one of the things she loved most about Chloe was her ears.

“Her ears are as long as her front legs – they do get in the way sometimes and if she doesn’t want you touching her for some reason she’ll flap her ears at you,” Mango said.

Being a basset hound, one of Chloe’s favorite things to do is sniff around outside.

Mango explained, “If you try to take her on a walk and there’s some sort of smell of deer or any kind of animal, she’s going to follow her nose, so she’s not like, the classic walking kind of dog.”

But she *is* like other dogs in that she enjoys being outside, playing games and eating. Mango shared Chloe likes sunbathing, has plenty of toys she likes to chew on and tear apart, and a

favorite game: keep-away, where, unlike traditional fetch, “you throw the ball and instead of returning the ball to you she likes to keep it away from you.”

In addition, Chloe – who Mango called a “chow hound” – has a hearty appetite.

“Basset hounds love to eat so there’s not any kind of favorite food, she will eat just about anything so we have to be careful because she will try to eat whatever’s in the kitchen,” said Mango.

And when it comes to food and water, she added Chloe has a funny way of letting people know she wants some.

“If she wants water, she plops down in the kitchen and just starts pushing her water bowl around,” Mango explained. “If she wants food she starts pushing that around.”

Mango added Chloe is a quiet dog who reserves her barks for special occasions like when the UPS truck arrives – yet she communicates in other ways.

“She has very expressive eyes and she can give you a look that just says volumes. She communicates with her eyes a lot,” Mango said. In addition, “she’s very quiet but does have different noises that mean different things. If she wants to go out she makes this funny noise.”

Chloe also has the ability to sense when someone’s upset.

“If you’re not feeling great she kind of detects it and just comes sit next to you – she’s very in tuned with what’s going on around her,” Mango said.

So it’s likely Chloe was aware something special was going on recently, when she was adorned with the No. 1 dog tag and praised for being – well, herself! Something that’s earned her the top spot in Hebron for 2014, but had already garnered her the top spot in the hearts



Chloe, a 3-year-old the basset hound belonging to the Mango family, was recently named this year’s Top Dog in town, a recognition that earned her the No. 1 dog tag for 2014 and plenty of bragging – or rather, *barking* - rights.

of those that love her.

All dog licenses are renewed in June and become effective July 1. Dog owners are encouraged to license their dog through the mail by sending a self-addressed stamp envelop, the applicable fee and any required documentation to the Town Clerk’s Office, 15 Gilead St, Hebron, CT 06248.

Dogs whose rabies vaccination expired since the last licensing are required to provide documentation from a veterinarian of the new expiration date; documentation from the veterinarian should also be provided for dogs that were newly spayed or neutered. The license renewal cost for unaltered dogs is \$19; the cost for spayed or neutered dogs is \$8. There is a late fee of \$1 per month.

Portland Selectmen Allow Fire Truck Purchase to Move Forward

by Elizabeth Bowling

At Wednesday night's Board of Selectmen meeting, board members voted to waive the bidding requirements in the Portland Charter, allowing the town fire department to continue moving forward with its purchase of a custom truck.

The Portland Volunteer Fire Department is seeking a new rescue/pumper fire truck to replace the 30-year-old Engine 1 out of Company #1 on Middlesex Avenue.

According to Fire Chief Robert Shea, the new truck would be "better equipped to provide more manpower safely to a scene quickly."

The old truck is inefficient because it only has two seats, Shea explained.

"You can't do much with two firefighters," he said. "As a matter of fact you can't even technically fight a structure fire."

A-year-and-a-half ago, Shea and his department began coming up with "engineering specs" for the custom truck. They decided on an "all stainless truck" to be provided by the vendor 4-Guys Stainless Steel Tank and Equipment, Inc.

He said combining an engine and a rescue truck into one vehicle is an attempt to "consolidate our efforts."

He furthered, "It'll phase out our heavy rescue over the years. Instead of replacing that rescue, which will probably be over a \$700,000 price tag if we were to do that separately, that truck will eventually just leave the fleet and this truck will be replacing two for one."

Another reason to have two trucks in one, according to Shea, is "it's not safe to keep a number of apparatus on the road, so we want to try and respond [to an accident] with as little as we can."

Shea affirmed the apparatus would have "30 years plus of longevity." He also affirmed 4-Guys provided a "very good bid" of \$484,000.

Moving forward, Shea said, "We have some design work that needs to be done for the cab" but "that doesn't affect the price." That process should be completed in the next two weeks, he continued.

After that, he will put a contract together and "hopefully have the truck delivered within eight months," he said.

But board member Carl Chudzick said, "I don't see why we would have to close off to this one company [4-Guys] right now" rather than going to bid. He furthered, "I like to see bids. I don't want to do waivers anymore, es-

pecially on large capital items."

Shea explained that because the truck is specifically designed for PVFD use, most companies wouldn't be able to provide it; since 4-Guys has been involved with the PVFD all throughout the process, it may be the only company that could provide the exact truck for a price the town is willing to pay.

Selectman Mark Finklestein said to the fire chief, "I'm convinced that you've done your due diligence." But he furthered he, like Chudzick, does not support the board's practice of waiving the bid process. He called it "bad business."

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield suggested the board revisit the purchasing regulations in the town charter in its upcoming meeting in July.

Ultimately the waiving of bid requirements for the replacement of the PVFD passed 6-1, with Chudzick voting against.

* * *

Also on Wednesday, the board discussed the need for an update to the town's plan of conservation and development.

Selectmen also voiced their interest in certain topics for future discussion and action, like

the town water system, the possibility of solar energy, opportunities to earn more grant money, and economic development in general.

The board also discussed – but did not yet act upon – an "easement agreement" between the town and Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation.

Regarding the building at 13 Waverly Ave., Bransfield explained the owners are seeking to change over to natural gas use.

"They want to use natural gas for their utility for the building," Bransfield said, "and in order to do that they need to get the gas line from the library" which already has a natural gas line.

But the line cannot be installed until it's approved by the Selectmen.

Regarding the direct route of the potential pipeline, Chudzick said, "I'd like to see a map."

As a result, board members decided to wait to vote on the matter until they'd been able to examine one.

* * *

The next regularly scheduled Portland Board of Selectmen meeting is Wednesday, June 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Library.

Portland Selectman Vying for State Rep. Seat

by Elizabeth Bowling

Board of Selectmen member Kathy Richards is hoping to jump from municipal government to the state level – specifically the House of Representatives.

The Democrat threw her hat in the ring for the state representative seat representing the 32nd district, which includes Portland and Cromwell; she's hoping to step into the position that's been held by Republican Christie Carpino since 2011.

Speaking about the competition Monday, Carpino said, "Regardless of my opponent I'm going to continue what I've done the past four years, which is fight for the residents of my district."

She concluded, "I look forward to a clean election season on the issues."

On Monday, Richards said she initially decided to run for state representative because Democrats "need a voice" in Hartford.

"I felt we needed to have a Democrat back in the seat in Hartford," she said. "We need to have a seat at the table."

But Richards isn't the only Democrat who wishes to provide a voice in the state capital. Fellow Democrat Anthony Salvatore, the Cromwell police chief, announced he, too, is running for the position. Since there are two hopefuls, a primary will be held Aug. 12 to determine which Democrat will run against Carpino come November.

Salvatore said Wednesday, "I'm very much looking forward to the campaigning, to the primary and to the general election."

He mentioned his experience with the Cromwell Police Department, as well as his work representing his department as the legislative liaison at the state capital for the Connecticut Police Chief's Association as a couple hats he's worn that have prepared him for a seat

on the State House of Representatives. He added he's also a member of the Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council.

"I bring my experience to the table and proven leadership in the things that I've been able to accomplish," the 40-year Cromwell resident said. "I've worn a number of hats."

Experience was important to Richards as well, and on the political front, she felt she had a larger plate; regarding the upcoming primary, she stated, "I feel that I have more experience running politically" than Salvatore.

She mentioned she had two years experience on the Portland Board of Education and 10 years on the Board of Selectmen.

"I have run for seven elections in the Town of Portland and the last two I was elected Deputy First Selectman," Richards said.

Her current position of Deputy First Selectman, a position she's held for about two-and-a-half years, means she had the most votes of any of the selectmen on the board aside from First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

Some of Richards' community experience includes her volunteer work at St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown where she has served meals to the homeless for the past five years.

Additionally, she and her family have sponsored a Red Cross blood drive every year for the past six years; their seventh blood drive is scheduled for June 20, at Zion Lutheran Church, where she is currently vice president and has formerly served as president of the church's council.

Richards was also formerly on the Board of Directors at Charter Oak State College for three years.

Richards earned her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Connecticut and her MBA from the University of Hartford. She is the area manager of the local branch of Henkels &

McCoy, Inc., a privately owned utility contractor where she's worked for over 40 years.

There, Richards manages about 80 employees, but Henkels and McCoy employs about 5,500 people nationwide.

"I understand the need for training the workers that are available," she said of her goal to reduce the unemployment rate in Connecticut.

In order to cut back on that rate, Richards said she'd like to implement more job training for high school and college graduates for jobs that are available in Connecticut.

In a recent a press release Richards stated, "I want to work on improving opportunities for young people in the state of Connecticut. We need to train graduates for the jobs that exist in our state."

If elected, Richards also said, "I would like to improve the infrastructure, fix our downtown business areas and work on the development of our riverfront."

She said her vision for the district also includes "economic development to increase and welcome small businesses, which would increase the number of jobs and take some of the tax burden off of the homeowners."

Additionally, she said, "I would also like to get increased state aid for our towns and our schools."

She explained that a lot of state aid goes to larger cities. But, she said, "I think it's important that smaller towns get more money for Education Cost Sharing," which is money that the state gives each town every year.

"I would work on getting additional Education Cost Sharing dollars" to the towns, she said.

This is Richards' first time running for state representative. The Portland resident said part of the process has involved meeting and getting to know the residents of Cromwell.



Kathy Richards

On the other hand, Richards, a Portland High School graduate, has lived in Portland for 48 years so she is already very familiar with her community.

The 62-year-old has been married to her husband, Bill, for 38 years. They have two adult daughters together, six grandchildren, and two more grandchildren on the way.

* * *

The Democratic primary is scheduled for Aug. 12. If Richards is elected over Salvatore to represent the Democrats of her district, she will face off against Carpino on Election Day, Nov. 4.

East Hampton Police News

5/24: Jamie Branciforte, 39, of 2 Lakeview Dr., was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to drive right and failure to carry a license, East Hampton Police said.

5/26: Keegan Shea, 22, of 146 Sheppard Knoll, Hamden, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

5/29: Christopher Laurito, 23, of 531 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, was arrested and charged with violating a protective order, police said.

Marlborough Police News

5/27: State Police said Nicholas Fischlein, 28, of 22 William F. Palmer Rd., Moodus, was arrested for violation of a protective order.

5/29: State Police said Che S. Joseph, 31, of 11 Alden St., Hartford, was arrested for reckless driving and DUI.

Obituaries

Hebron

Susan N. Cappello

Susan N. Cappello, 66, of Hebron, formerly of Manchester, beloved wife of Charles A. Cappello, died peacefully Thursday, May 29, at her home with her family at her side, after a brave fight with cancer.

Sue was born Feb. 14, 1948, in Waterbury, daughter of the late George P. & Lois (Wheeler) Neale. She was raised in Glastonbury, was a 1966 graduate of Glastonbury High School and earned her associate's degree from Chandler School for Women in Boston.

Sue had worked for Northeastern University in Boston as an Engineering Department administrator. After raising her two children, she went back to work and had been the church secretary at North United Methodist Church in Manchester for 15 years. She later retired from MACC Charities in Manchester, where she was the assistant to the finance manager. She enjoyed working and always cared about her co-workers.

In addition to her husband of 45 years, she was the loving mother of two, her son Jeffrey C. Cappello and his wife Alicia of Andover, her daughter Sarah N. Cappello of Bolton and two grandchildren, Olivia and Leo Cappello of Andover. Other survivors include her sister Pamela Cote and her husband, Romeo of Madawaska, Maine, and nine nieces and nephews, Mark Cote, Stephen Cote, Karen Neale Cain, Deborah Neale Young, Thomas Neale, Matthew Lizzi, Christa Lizzi, Lauren Lizzi and Elise Cappello.

Sue loved to vacation on Cape Cod and the warm blue waters of the Caribbean. An avid Red Sox fan, she enjoyed most, her trip to spring training and cherished her framed picture taken with Red Sox manager Terry Francona. She loved spending time with her friends and always offered a black and white view on life. Her frankness was admired by all who knew her and her humble and unimpressible nature drew her friends closer to her. If you were a friend of Sue's, you had a friend for life.

Family was most important to Sue, and her passion for desserts always added to the gatherings. She loved to bake and always had special treats for her grandchildren. Although she loved to shop, she could shop for hours and not purchase a thing for herself. Her enjoyment came from browsing with the occasional gift purchased for someone else.

She had a special place in her heart for the needy. Her years as a church secretary and her work at Manchester Area Conference of Churches gave her the opportunity to express herself in this regard.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, June 8, at 3 p.m., at North United Methodist Church, 300 Park St., Manchester. Prior to the service, respects can be paid to the family from 2-3 p.m. Burial will be private.

Memorial donations may be made to MACC Charities (Manchester Area Conference of Churches), 466 Main St., P.O. Box 3804, Manchester, CT 06045-3804.

To sign the online register book, go to holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Colchester

Betty Jane Waugh

Betty Jane (Stevens) Waugh, 77, of Colchester, widow of the late Richard Lee Waugh, died Friday, May 30, at Hartford Hospital. Born Sept. 8, 1936, in Sloansville, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Foster and Gladys (Tallmadge) Stevens.

Ms. Waugh earned both her bachelor's and master's of art degrees from the University of Hartford. She went on to teach as an adjunct professor at Eastern Connecticut State University for many years before her retirement. Ms. Waugh was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She is survived by two daughters, Joann D. Harrison of Pennsylvania and Kristin E. Waugh of Lebanon; a son, Richard S. Waugh of Sterling; three grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband of 51 years, who predeceased her May 6, 2005, she was predeceased by her two brothers.

A memorial service was observed Tuesday, June 3, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Graveside services will be observed at 11 a.m. today, June 6, at Florida National Cemetery, 6502 SW 102nd Ave., Bushnell, Fla.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester-Hayward Vol. Fire Co., 18-54 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.



Marlborough

Donald Whitfield

Donald Whitfield, 93, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Elsie (Brinkman) Whitfield died Thursday, May 29, at St. Francis Hospital. Born April 18, 1921, in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was the son of the late John and Christina (McIntyre) Whitfield.

Donald proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II as part of the 360th B Battery Search Light Battalion. He was very involved in organizing reunions with his battalion for more than 60 years.

He was a Masonic Lodge member. Donald was very involved in Bible study at Marlborough Congregational Church and was a past deacon and Sunday school teacher at his previous church in Long Island.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his two daughters, Jan Whitfield and her husband Craig Doolittle of New Jersey, Jill Terrillion of Marlborough; a brother, Peter Whitfield of Massachusetts; a sister, Trudy Krone of North Carolina; and his four beloved grandchildren, Joshua Doolittle and his fiancée Hanna Gerlovin, Chantelle Terillion and her husband Joel Fink, Nicole Rockwell and her husband Tanner and Kaitlyn Doolittle.

He was predeceased by three brothers, Francis, George and Jack.

Friends and family called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Sunday, June 1, and again on Monday, June 2, before a funeral service that afternoon with the Rev. Robert Faulhaber officiating in the Spencer Funeral Home, followed by burial with Military Honors in Marlboro Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made in Donald's memory to The Wounded Warrior Project at woundedwarriorproject.org/donate.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Anne Stanford

Anne (Champ) Stanford, 75, of East Hampton, wife of the late Robert J. Stanford, Jr., died Thursday, May 29, at the Marlborough Health Care Center, surrounded by her children, her brother and her sister-in-law.

Born March 27, 1939 in Hartford, daughter of the late Joseph N. and Madeline (Guglielmo) Champ. She had lived in Glastonbury over 30 years before moving to East Hampton. Prior to her retirement she was an office manager for the Connecticut Associates of Health Care.

Anne is survived by her three children and their spouses: Katherine and Charles Martie of East Haddam, Robert and Linda Stanford of East Hampton, Lori and Jeffrey Brooks of Hebron; her brother, Daniel J. Champ and his wife Louise of Duxbury, Mass.; her sister-in-law, Kathleen Lawrence of East Hartford; and six grandchildren, Nicole, Katie and Nicholas Claps, Madeline and Rachel Brooks, Robert J. Stanford III.

Her grandson called her "Sunshine" when he was little because she always sang "You Are My Sunshine" to him. We all thought the name suited her perfectly.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Wednesday, June 4, in St. Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury. Burial followed in Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury. Friends called at the Mulryan Funeral, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, on Tuesday, June 3.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside St., P.O. Box 5022, Wallingford, CT 06492.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

Portland

Thomas Bordonaro Memorial Service

A memorial for service for Thomas J. Bordonaro, 74, of Bonita Springs, Fla., formerly of Portland, will be held Monday, June 9, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary's Church on Freestone Avenue in Portland, with burial to follow.

Bordonaro, 74 passed away suddenly Tuesday, March 25, in Ft. Myers, Fla. Tom was the husband of Elizabeth (Chandler) Bordonaro.

Colchester

Dennis Anthony Cordova

Dennis Anthony Cordova, 50, of Colchester, formerly of Norwich, passed away peacefully Saturday, May 31. Dennis quietly struggled with MS for many years, but was unable to overcome the complications from a recent brain tumor. Born July 2, 1963 in Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y., he was a son of the late Richard and Rosa (Carrero) Cordova.

Mr. Cordova had worked for S&S Worldwide in Colchester for many years, prior to changing careers to work for TI Automotive in Meriden before his retirement. He was an avid fan of the New York Giants as well as *Star Trek*.

He leaves three siblings and their spouses, Beverly and Mathew Botchis of Norwich, Richard and Ronnie Cordova of Yantic, and Gregory and Nancy Cordova of Colchester; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

A memorial service will be observed at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 7, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The family will receive guests one hour prior to the service. Burial will be private.

Donations in his memory may be made to the National MS Society, P.O. Box 4527, New York, NY 10163 (nationalmssociety.org).

For online condolences, visit auroramcarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Everett Leroy Stone

Everett Leroy Stone, 64, of Hebron, beloved husband of Amy (Rohde) Stone, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, June 1. Born Oct. 21, 1949 in Norwich, he was a son of the late Darwin Everett and Alice (Markham) Stone.

A graduate of the University of Miami, he worked as an application architect senior principal leader for 30 years with Computer Sciences Corp. He was a gifted musician who shared his talent singing and playing with the "Elder Friends Band" for the residents on Fridays at the Harrington Court GHC Center in Colchester, and was also a gifted luthier, handmaking acoustic guitars as treasured gifts to family and friends (but never selling them). He was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron.

In addition to his loving wife of 14 years, he is survived by two daughters, Meaghan Stone of Hebron and Meryl Smith and her husband, Kevin of Saint-Sauveur, QC, Canada; a brother Ronald Gallant of Ottawa, ON, Canada; his best friend and fellow band member, Gary Horton of Hebron; his mother-in-law, Jean Rohde of Hebron; brother-in-law, Richard Rohde and wife, Diane of Ashland, N.H.; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of his life will be observed at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 14, directly at St. Peter's Church, 30 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron.

Everett's final gift of generosity – in death as he did in life – was in giving life through tissue donation.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the St. Peter's Memorial Garden Fund at St. Peter's (where he will be laid to rest), the Hebron VFD / EMS, P.O. Box 911, Hebron 06248 or to the charity of one's choice.

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

Colchester

Juliann E. LaRose

Juliann E. 'Julie' (Hoopes) LaRose, 48, of Colchester, beloved daughter of Anne Marie (Gillen) Lata of Colchester and the late Ronald Martin Hoopes, passed away Tuesday, May 27. She was born in New Haven Dec. 21, 1965, and grew up in Windsor, attending Windsor public schools.

Julie valued love and companionship above material possessions and cared deeply for animals. Her memory lives on in the hearts of her family and friends and will never be forgotten.

In addition to her mother, Julie leaves a brother, Michael E. Hoopes; a sister, Michelle E. Maglieri; two nieces, Jessica Koenig and Erica Maglieri; and a nephew, Bryce Hoopes. She was also blessed with the care and support of two dear friends, Lisa and Paula.

Her family wishes to thank the staff of Backus Memorial Hospital for the kindnesses and gentle care Julie received in recent months. Private services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorial donations to either Helping Paws, P.O. Box 47, Colchester, CT 06415 or Protectors of Animals, 144 Main St. East Hartford, CT 06118.

To send notes of condolences to her family, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Andover

Gertrude C. Madore

Gertrude C. Madore, "Trudy," 73, of Andover and West Palm Beach, Fla., passed away peacefully with her partner by her side Thursday, May 29, while at Yale-New Haven Hospital. She had such a zest for life. She fought an eight-year courageous battle for life until God said, "Come home to me and you will be free to now join your Mom and Dad with the Lord."

Born in Hartford Oct. 5, 1940, and raised in East Hartford, she was a model woman who was an entrepreneur, sports enthusiast. At a young age, she played softball, swam, and loved watching the East Hartford Dovelettes. She also loved biking, skiing and snowmobiling. She had a love for cars, especially Cadillac's, sport cars, and scooters.

She also was a lover of all creatures, raised and showed Morgan horses, enjoyed her bird "Popcorn" who would speak to her on the phone, and loved watching birds at the feeders at their home. She had many dogs, but one that was most precious to her was "Sadie" who was a service dog that knew exactly when Trudy needed her medication. She was a very religious person who became a Eucharistic Minister while in Florida at St. Luke's in West Palm Beach.

Trudy was an accomplished business woman, owned and operated a number of restaurants in California, East Hartford, Manchester and Florida in addition to a catering service, in later years became an antique dealer, she was a well-rounded person who had a contagious laughter that will be with us forever. She had a business mind, but always put the customer first. There was no job that she wouldn't try to do; even when ill, she bought a tractor and did her best to mow a four-acre parcel of land.

She was predeceased by her parents, Leonard and Marie Madore.

She leaves behind her loving partner, Janet Prophet; brother Robert and wife Diane Madore of Bolton; two sisters, Mary Mauri and husband Phil of Lake Worth, Fla., and Barbara Brennan and husband Don of Vero Beach, Fla.; step-sister Betsy Dunn and husband Bill of Pennsylvania; her aunt, Maria Gauvin and husband George of Lake Worth, Fla.; her uncle, Claude Belliveau of Lake Worth, Fla.; and numerous, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Family and friends may call at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester, Sunday, June 8, from 3-4:30 p.m. A memorial service will be held at the funeral home at 4:30 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made an animal rescue society of your choice.

For online condolences, visit tiernefuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Antanas Adomaitis

Antanas "Tony" Adomaitis, 93, of Manchester and formerly of Colchester, beloved husband of the late Antionette (Kaunas) Adomaitis, died Monday, June 2, at his home.

Tony was born March 25, 1921 in Lithuania and came to the U.S. in the early 1950s. He and his beloved wife ran the Hayward Restaurant in Colchester from 1957 to 1965, they then moved to Manchester and together they ran Tony's Package Store on Main St. from 1965 to 1981 when they retired.

He is survived by his daughter Laima V. Glista and her husband Jim of Longwood, Fla.; his grandson, Christian K. Glista of Charlotte, N.C. Other survivors include his brother and sister, Joseph Adomaitis and Aldona Adomaitis, both in Lithuania.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, June 7, at 11 a.m., at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Burial will be in St James Cemetery. Visitation will be Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

Memorial donations may be made to the Visiting Nurse and Health Services, 8 Keynote Dr., Vernon, CT 06066.

To sign the online register book, go to holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Colchester

May Barker

May Naismith Addington Barker, of Colchester and formerly of Wethersfield, left this world Sunday, June 1, with her daughters by her side. She was 92.

May was the most positive and faithful person, loved by all that knew her. Her family immigrated from Scotland in 1927 settling in Waterbury and then moving to Watertown, where her dad had a successful plumbing and heating business.

May and her sister, Martha also had a small gift shop and May had her own radio show on WATR, *The Bonnie Stewart Show*. Her lovely voice brought her other singing opportunities with big bands.

While living in Watertown, she met her first husband, Johnny Addington, and they had their daughter, Martha Anne or “Muffie” (Annie) Addington. Johnny died in 1949 from a disease contracted in Okinawa during World War II. Her father’s business took him to Niantic, where he later built their new home at Giant’s Neck Beach. May went to work at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital as the medical records librarian.

While living with her family at the beach, she was introduced by friends to her second husband, Del (W. Delmar) Barker from Wethersfield. They were married within weeks and moved to his home in Wethersfield, the town she lived in for the next 50-plus years.

May loved her family, church, children, her careers, the beach and music. She was so proud of her position as lecturer with Weight Watchers, which took her all over the state. She later worked for 20 years in the emergency room at Hartford Hospital. There, she was given the opportunity to touch thousands of lives.

Shortly after her retirement in 1997, May was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s type dementia. She lived for years after that with her daughter Elizabeth and family until it was no longer safe. For the past seven years, May has resided at Apple Rehab in Colchester where, again, she touched many with her loving and kind disposition and her great sense of humor!

In addition to her parents, May and James Naismith, she was predeceased by her brother, James; her sister, Martha Pettigrew Merriman; her first husband, Johnny Addington; her second husband, Del Barker; and her stepson, Captain George Barker (USN Ret.).

She leaves behind her “baby” sister, Carol Anne Eastham and her husband, Mark “Kevin” of New London; her daughter, Annie Addington of New York; her daughter, Elizabeth “Liz” and husband, Shane Shilosky of Lebanon, her stepsons, Richard C. Barker of California and Idaho and Peter K. Barker of Illinois and New Jersey; her grandchildren, whom she adored, Christian Janssen and his wife, Janica, of Middletown, N.Y., her only granddaughter and best girlfriend, Alyssa May Shilosky Rancourt and her husband, Tim of Lebanon and her grandson, Ian James Shilosky of Lebanon. She also leaves her nieces and nephews, Joanne Kenyon of Waterford and her daughters, Laura Kenyon of New London, Lindsay Kenyon of Waterford, Mark “Sparky” Eastham of New London; Mary Ann Merriman and her husband, Peter Fitschen of Lakeland, Fla.; nephew, Jim Merriman and his wife, Ronda and their children, Christopher and Caitlin of Southington, and her dear cousin Robert J. Thom of Windsor, and his daughters, Jamie Lynn and Bobbie Lynn Reska.

The family would like to thank the staff at Apple Rehab, especially on B wing (Courtyard) for all of the loving care given to May over the years.

A private graveside service will be held at Evergreen Cemetery in Watertown, where May will be buried with her family and husbands.

Her faith and love of the Lord was apparent in all she did. We think those who knew her will take comfort in her rendition of her favorite psalm, “The Lord has made His Face to shine upon us.”

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in May’s honor to her daughter Liz’s team for “The Walk to End Alzheimer’s” - the “Rocky Hill Rockers” online at alz.org or Alzheimer’s Association, Connecticut Chapter, 2075 Silas Deane Hwy. Ste. 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester (auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

Portland

Evelyn Ruth Birdsey

Evelyn Ruth Birdsey, 98, of North Port, Fla., formerly of Portland, died Wednesday, May 28, at Quality Health Care of North Port. She was born Nov. 22, 1915, in Springfield, Mass., to George and Ruth (Anderson) Bostrom.

Following the death of her mother, when Evelyn was 10 years old, her father moved the family, including her younger siblings, George and Betty, to Portland, to be near her father’s family. Evelyn was a graduate of Portland High School and attended the University of Connecticut.

She married Herbert Birdsey June 3, 1939, and resided in Middletown, where they raised three children. They were very active in the Middletown community and both retired from the Middletown Board of Education. Evelyn retired in 1982 after serving as an administrative secretary for 25 years. They moved full time to North Port in 1984 and were very active with the North Port Elks Club (disbanded) and the North Port Yacht Club (disbanded) and volunteered with Meals on Wheels. They were members of St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church in North Port, where Evelyn served as a Sunday school teacher, deacon and elder. She had a very strong faith.

Evelyn loved to entertain family and friends over the years, made many friends along the way and created many cherished memories. She was a talented artist who painted beautiful pictures sharing them with loved ones. She enjoyed playing bridge and other card games, dancing and corresponding with family and friends. Evelyn had a wonderful smile.

Evelyn will be greatly missed by her son and best friend, Richard; daughter, Deanna; three grandchildren, Tom, Gera (Albert), and Melanie; three great-grandchildren, Shamus, Avery and Marco; and many treasured relatives and friends.

In addition to her parents and siblings, Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband (1995); son Tom (1998); and many relatives and special friends.

Following Evelyn’s request, no services will be held. The family asks that her family and friends keep her memory and love in their hearts.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you hug someone you love; and don’t hesitate visiting someone with dementia or Alzheimer disease. Her ashes will be buried in the family plot in Connecticut.

To send condolences, visit farleyfuneralhome.com.