



RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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Dan Busa as J. Pierrepont Finch and Kelly Whitesell as Miss Jones sing and dance with fellow cast members as they rehearse for AHM Youth Theater's *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, which they'll perform next Thursday through Saturday, July 24-26, at RHAM High School. Photo courtesy of Mike Figueiredo.

## AHM Summer Musical Returns Next Week

by Geeta Schrayter

Next week, AHM Summer Youth Theater will take to the stage to perform the Tony Award-winning show *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. And through the performance, the hope of director Mary Rose Meade is that the RHAM High School auditorium will be filled with laughter.

*How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* is a show Meade said she's always loved because of the humor. And when it came to selecting this year's musical, humor was something she needed to help get motivated.

"Back in [the] spring as I was trying to think about – just mustering up the energy to do the program with everything that has gone on," Meade said, she began searching for the funniest shows she could find.

Meade explained, "There was such a feeling of grief" at the school as a result of all the losses RHAM had been dealt recently: four students and one teacher passed away over the course of the last year.

"One thing I told the cast – and it's been our mission really – I said, 'This building has had so much sadness in it. Our job this summer is to bring laughter into the building, bring joy, bring happiness, bring spirit,'" Meade said.

As time draw near to plan the play, Meade added, "I walked into the school this year and I

could feel the weight of the losses and it was so heavy – so we want to bring laughter into the space."

And Meade said she believes that can be accomplished with their chosen performance, which she selected out of about eight scripts she ordered and read.

"I just didn't want to have one serious moment in the show. I wanted it to be nothing but fun, laughing, entertainment and that was my primary goal," she said. "And I think honestly, just from sitting at rehearsals, we're definitely going to achieve that because it is very, very funny."

According to Music Theater International, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, which won seven Tony Awards in 1962 including Best Musical, is a satire about the rise of aspiring businessman J. Pierrepont Finch, who uses a handbook called "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" to climb the corporate ladder. He begins as a window-washer and makes his way to executive, tackling, MTI said, "such familiar but potent dangers as the aggressively compliant 'company man,' the office party, backstabbing co-workers, caffeine addiction and, of course, true love."

Meade said, "This show does not have one serious moment in it – and this year, that's the way we like it!"

She added the show will be particularly fun for anyone who's currently part of the business world.

"There's people in this community who work in Hartford, in insurance, who work in business, who probably don't come out to these shows, who don't have kids in the program – but this is the show they need to come to because it's about them!" she said. "It's about the business world and it's pure satire – nothing is sacred. Nothing in business is sacred. And we even knock musical theater a little bit!"

Different cast members had similar thoughts on the show's humor.

Hebron resident Dan Busa, who graduated from RHAM this year and will be acting in his final performance with AHM Youth Theater, called the show "a complete satire."

"There are a lot of plays with comedy aspects but there's usually romance involved and romance in this is not highly portrayed – it's just one funny thing after another," he said. "It's not serious at all; it's just a lot of fun really."

Busa will end his time with the program playing the lead as Finch. It's a part he said he's enjoying, although he mentioned it's the biggest role he's had, with over 300 lines – not including songs.

"And there are plenty of songs to learn as well," he said. "So it's probably the biggest workload in terms of memorizing, and character development – but like I said, it's probably one of the more fun roles I've played."

Like Busa, this will be the final performance

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## Absentee Ballots Questioned

by Melissa Roberto

At their third trip before the voters last month, the Colchester town and school budgets for the 2014-15 fiscal year squeaked out victories, and those tight margins held at a subsequent recount. But now, a Colchester resident is questioning the validity of some of the absentee ballots used in the referendum.

Earlier this month, Joyce Maine submitted a written challenge to both Town Clerk Nancy Bray and election moderator Denise Mizla. In the complaint, Maine states she found errors in some of the absentee ballot applications filled out for the June 24 referendum.

"The absentee ballot applications in question display various errors, such as statement of applicant not properly executed, which should have rendered them invalid prior to the individuals being provided a ballot by the town clerk," Maine states in the challenge.

The day following the referendum, on Wednesday, June 25, Maine said she viewed the 90 absentee ballots, and found errors in 24 of them. She said her curiosity sparked when she noticed the number of absentee ballots for the third vote was substantially higher than usual.

"What happened was since we typically have 18-20 absentee ballots [in a budget vote], and now all of a sudden there were 90, I was curious," said Maine.

The Colchester resident said she noticed the crossing out of names replaced with signatures of others, as well as Wite-Out used on one application (which Maine stressed isn't allowed), and some with unmarked boxes that are used to communicate the reason a person is applying for an absentee ballot.

"If you want an absentee ballot, you have to state why you want one," Maine said.

Six reasons for an absentee ballot are shown on the application: active service in the Armed Forces; absence from the town during voting hours; illness; religious obligations; duties as a primary, election or referendum official at a polling place other than his or her own during all voting hours; and physical disability.

However, Bray said this week failure to check off one of the six reasons on the application does not give reason to deny someone a ballot.

"You cannot deny someone an absentee ballot because they didn't check off their form," Bray said. "We don't want to disenfranchise voters. We would not withhold a ballot from someone who filled out an application, they signed it [and] they dated it."

Maine said her main concern is now "whether or not the referendum is valid or not and is in compliance with Connecticut general statutes."

First Selectman Stan Soby said resolving

issues with absentee ballot applications does not fall under the jurisdiction of the town.

"Making any determination of that is not within the purview of the moderator or the town clerk at this point," the selectman said.

Soby furthered that, to his knowledge, the 90 absentee ballots received by the town for the June 24 vote "met all the requirements and they were valid."

Bray said she did notice some absentee ballot applicants signed and dated their applications in the wrong places.

"But that's not [reason] to deny someone from having an absentee ballot," Bray said.

Soby confirmed he has been in talks with the town's bond counsel regarding the issue but did not provide details, citing attorney-client privilege.

Maine said she was looking for an answer from someone in Town Hall regarding the issue. As of Wednesday morning, she said she had not yet been given one.

The concerned resident concluded she was under the impression this matter could be resolved "without going to court." However, Maine said she is in the process of seeking legal advice on the issue.

Spokesman for the Secretary of the State's office, Av Harris, did not return phone calls for this story.





There are around 60 people in the cast and crew of this summer's musical, and show director Mary Rose Meade hopes they'll provide some much-needed comedy to the RHAM community.

### Summer Musical cont. from Front Page

for Andover resident Cecelia Tamburro who will be acting as Rosemary, the play's "ingénue." According to Merriam-Webster the ingénue is "an innocent girl or young woman" and is considered a stock character in literature.

The ingénue, Tamburro furthered, is "kind of the young, pretty, female part that falls in love with the males." It's a role that's different for her, and one she at first thought would be boring.

"I've never been the ingénue part before so it seemed to be more boring than other parts that are obviously crazy or funny or something," Tamburro said. But, she said, Rosemary turned out to be quite varied.

"I like the fact that she is down-to-earth but can also be kind of funny, and [I like] just different parts of her character at times; she's not always the same," Tamburro said.

And speaking on the play as a whole, Tamburro, like Meade and Busa, called it "very funny."

"I don't think we've done a satire while I've been in AHM so it's nice to do something new and also it's a lot of fun," she stated. "There are

a lot of great characters that are being played."

Hebron resident Jim Hayden was also a fan of the chosen production. Hayden will be a senior in the fall and plays two parts: chairman of the board Wally Wompers and Mr. Twimble, an "eccentric old guy" and a role that involves Hayden wearing a wig "that makes me look like Doc Brown" from *Back to the Future*.

"I think it's a pretty good show," Hayden said. "I like the music and probably my favorite thing about it is everyone who sings has a very unique and different voice – you could close your eyes and listen and know who it is."

To hear those "unique and different voices" and help fill RHAM with laughter, head to *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, which will be performed Thursday through Saturday, July 24-26 at 7 p.m. in the RHAM High School Auditorium, 85 Wall Street in Hebron. Tickets cost \$9 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and children under 12. For tickets or information, contact AHM Youth Services at 228-9488; tickets are also available at the Hebron Town Clerk's office, 15 Gilead St., Hebron, and will be sold at the door.

### From the Editor's Desk

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Connecticut has a lot of good things to offer; I'll admit that. But if you live here long enough, you also encounter plenty of things that you don't like but learn to grudgingly accept: High gas prices. The occasional April snowfall. A woefully low number of Mets fans.

And: lousy roads.

The roads in this state are terrible. They're lumpy, full of cracks and holes, and more often than not, it seems, need a lot of work. (And maybe it's just me, but when the roads do get work done on them, it always seems to be the roads that actually aren't so bad.)

I've learned to adjust. Many's the time I'm driving in the car, happily singing along to the radio, when I suddenly and without warning come across a patch of road that makes the ride become very bumpy and unpleasant. So I let out a nice string of profanity, the road eventually becomes smoother again, and I'm back to singing along with the radio.

But it doesn't have to be this way – and in other states, it doesn't seem to be. Over the years, I've visited friends and family in various states, and the roads tend to seem pretty smooth. Then I come back home to Connecticut, and am welcomed back to bumpy rides.

Where am I going with all this, you ask? (A question you probably ask yourself whenever you read this column.) Well, Monday the White House issued a report card of all of the country's roads. And with it came federally-sanctioned proof that the roads here stink.

Connecticut had the highest percentage of bad roads in the entire country. An alarming 41 percent of roads were rated "poor." (Rhode Island had the same 41 percent.) So basically you've got a one-out-of-two shot of winding up on a bad road next time you take a drive.

Monday's report wasn't issued just to make us Nutmeggers weep for our beautiful cars, who deserve much better from us. According to the website The Connecticut Mirror, the report is the latest push by the Obama administration to press lawmakers to pass legislation that would fund the Highway Trust Fund, which was projected to go broke next month. That fund is typically paid for via a gas tax, which hasn't been increased since 1993. Republicans are balking at the idea of a gas tax increase, opting instead for short-term funding. Indeed, on Tuesday, the House passed \$10.8 billion in funding (the money

coming from a variety of places, such as pension tax changes and customs fees), to keep the Highway Trust Fund going until next May.

The Democrats want a longer-term solution. So does the White House, which wants to inject the fund with billions from corporate tax reform. Some of the most-conservative members of Congress are even balking at a short-term solution, wanting instead to transfer more of the cost of repairing and building roads and bridges to the states.

(Speaking of bridges, by the way, the same report issued Monday said 35 percent of the state's 4,218 bridges are "structurally deficient." Now, as the website The Connecticut Mirror points out, that doesn't mean the bridges are unsafe; it just means they need repairs. But still, that number seems quite high.)

I'd feel more comfortable with the federal government paying for highways and bridges than I would the states (especially our state, which always seems to be in financial peril), so I hope the Republicans and Democrats can resolve their differences – hah! – and come to a solution to fund that Highway Trust Fund long-term.

But, for the moment at least, we in Connecticut have to live with the knowledge our roads are the worst in the country. And one question I have is: why? The easy answer, you might say, would be the weather. We get a lot more snow up here than down in, say, Alabama; heavy, road-damaging plows are out, slicing pavement with their blades and dusting roads with salt and sand, on a regular basis for about four or five months a year. So no wonder the roads are bad; after all, you may point out, Rhode Island, our neighbor to the east, has just as high a percentage of lousy roads as we do. Maybe it's just a New England thing.

Ah, but you'd be wrong. Things get a lot colder and a lot snowier up in Maine than they do here, and yet a mere 7 percent of public roads in that state are rated "poor." Even Minnesota, a place that gets a punishing amount of snow every year, has just 11 percent of its roads designated "poor."

So it's not a New England thing. It's not a snow thing. I don't know what it is. All I know is I don't like it – and neither does my car.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

## RHAM Board Approves Anonymous Complaint Policy

by Geeta Schrayter

Under a new policy passed by the RHAM Board of Education, any anonymous complaints received by the school board will go promptly to the superintendent of schools.

The policy, which was unanimously approved by the regional school board last month, comes after multiple letters were received last year regarding the conduct of RHAM baseball, basketball and volleyball coach Tim Guernsey. The letters claimed to be from "a concerned group of parents and taxpayers," and accused Guernsey of being a bully who behaved unprofessionally.

But at a board meeting held last November, several community members rallied in support of the coach, calling the accusations "ridiculous" and "without merit."

Most felt the letters should be considered invalid due to their anonymity, but the board eventually decided to retain legal counsel to investigate the allegations – an investigation that ended quietly in March, with no action taken against Guernsey.

The letters also led to the creation of policy 9260, which states, "All anonymous complaints or correspondence received by the Regional School District No. 8 Board of Education or any of its employees regarding the school district, its employees, students or other functions of the Board of Education shall be forwarded promptly to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee for consideration."

Under the policy, the superintendent or

his/her designee "shall review the subject matter of the complaint and ensure that such complaint is forwarded to the appropriate individual responsible for its review and consideration in accordance with Board policy, state and federal law or other applicable protocol."

Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said the policy was one "that many other school districts have," and added that each instance of anonymity needed to be examined individually.

"I think that you need to look at those things on an individual basis and I think then they're investigated, and then if there's cause to go forward then you can go forward – but if not, you can end it there," he stated. "But at least there's some record and it has been addressed in some way, shape or form."

The policy was approved at the board's June 16 meeting. During that same meeting, various members of the public expressed a desire for the board to make a public statement regarding the investigation's findings.

According to minutes of that meeting, more than one individual said they wanted a letter placed in Guernsey's file clearing his name. But as to whether or not there are any plans to do so, Siminski said "that's strictly a board decision."

Board of Education Chairman Danny Holtsclaw could not be reached for comment for this story.



# Marlborough Residents Question Phase III Sewer Expansion

by **Melissa Roberto**

The Water Pollution Control Authority and Town Planner Peter Hughes fielded questions from Marlborough residents last Thursday night at the public hearing held on Phase III of the sewer expansion project.

Residents learned what Phase III would entail and how it would impact those who would hook up to the system should it pass at referendum in November.

WPCA Chairman John Murray said the project dates back to 2002, when the town authorized the spending of \$13 million “to accomplish some-odd 1,400 EDUs [equivalent dwelling units] of a sewer system.”

Hughes explained Phase I completed the town center and a portion of east Lake Terramuggus. Phase II, which is currently underway, will complete the east portion of the lake. The second phase includes Cheney Road, Beverly Lane and four houses on North Main Street, Hughes told the crowd.

And Phase III is proposed to complete the watershed of Lake Terramuggus, Hughes informed. He said the Phase III area is proposed to complete North Main Street, from the intersection of Pettingill Road to Lake Road as well as Lake Road, Culman Lane, Pettingill Road, Walker Lane, Lafayette Road and Roberts Road to the southern intersection with Sherwood Lane.

Phase III would impact 98 properties and it would add 105.25 EDUs to the sewer system, the town planner furthered.

The preliminary cost of this third phase totals \$3.5 million. Seventy-five percent of the project’s cost would be paid for by the town through a long-term borrowing loan with a two percent interest rate for 20 years. That loan, with the interest included, totals \$3,195,088.

The remaining 25 percent of the project’s cost is to be paid for by the state through a clean water funding grant.

Forty percent of the town’s portion is to be paid for by the users of the system. Each homeowner will be responsible for \$12,060, which amounts to an annual payment of \$603 for 20 years. In addition to the benefit assessment, Hughes explained users would need to pay an annual operation and maintenance fee – a fee that varies each year based on usage of the system. This year’s fee, Hughes used as an example, is \$432.

Hughes pointed out the \$12,060 is the same amount users in the Phase I and Phase II areas are responsible for.

The remaining 60 percent the town is responsible for will be paid for through general taxes.

Due to the project’s price tag, a referendum would need to be held in November for voters to either pass or reject the project. Should it pass, Hughes said the town would go out to bid this coming winter, award a contract in February and start construction in March or April 2015. He anticipated construction to take “about 18 months.”

The audience was then informed of what it takes to hook up to the system. Hughes explained to homeowners that they would need to make a house connection from an electrical unit to a grinder pump.

“You just take that sewer line and bring it to the grinder pump. It runs just the same as it [does] into the septic tank,” Hughes explained.

In addition to specifics on how to operate a grinder pump, Hughes fielded other questions from the public pertaining to why the sewer project exists in the first place.

“If your septic system is not failing, why do we need to put in a sewer if we don’t need it?” one woman asked.

Hughes said the project passed back in the early 2000s, therefore requiring “a mandatory hook up.” He said the project also affects the user charge.

“To keep the user charge reasonable,” he said, “you have to have users.”

In response to a question on what advantages there are to hooking up to the sewer system, Hughes explained a homeowner would pay less to hook up to the system than they would if they had to replace their failing septic system.

“Septic systems can last 30 or 40 years. They could last 20,” Hughes told the crowd. “But when they go, they go.”

In response to another question regarding the state’s clean water funding, Hughes told the crowd that, if Phase III were to fail at referendum this fall, Marlborough simply won’t re-

ceive it.

“Some other community will see them,” the planner said of the funds. “If it doesn’t pass, it doesn’t move.”

Resident Cliff Denniss made a comment to put the crowd at ease. He said he is currently being hooked up to Phase 2 of the system, highlighting that he recently had to go through the process of getting a grinder pump installed in his yard.

“They’re very receptive to where you want to locate it,” Denniss said. “So far, I really have no complaints. They’re watering my lawn! They have been very, very cordial. For Phase 2, I’m very satisfied so far.”

Hughes said the WPCA would hold a special meeting sometime in the next month to vote to approve Phase III and recommend it to the Board of Selectmen. The selectmen would then evaluate it, and take action on moving it to the Board of Finance for consideration. The Board of Finance would hold another public hearing, and ultimately would vote whether or not to move Phase III to referendum. If that is the case, a town meeting would be held sometime in late October, Hughes said, to move it on to a November referendum.

Hughes said this week he felt the July 10 public hearing “went very well.”

“People asked good questions,” he said. “I thought we had a good section of people from all the different streets. I thought it went extremely well.”

## Board Hires New Portland Schools Chief

by **Mike Thompson**

The Board of Education Monday unanimously voted to hire Dr. Philip O’Reilly to be the new superintendent of schools. O’Reilly, who is currently the schools superintendent in New Hartford, replaces Dr. Sally Doyen, who retired at the end of June.

O’Reilly’s first day as superintendent is Aug. 15. Since her retirement last month, Doyen has stayed on in an interim capacity – and will continue to do so, to help transition O’Reilly to his new position. O’Reilly will have an annual base salary of \$165,000, which will be pro-rated from when he starts next month.

O’Reilly’s appointment concludes a process that included input from parents, teachers, administrators and community members. Focus group meetings and online survey submissions produced input into the search process from over 250 town residents.

The school board received in-state and out-

of-state applications, and narrowed the field to six candidates. From there, three finalists were selected – and O’Reilly emerged as the final candidate.

Board of Education member MaryAnne Rode chaired the search process for the board, and said in a press release, “We were fortunate to have a number of highly-qualified educators show interest in leading Portland’s schools.”

Rode said O’Reilly’s experience as a classroom teacher, his track record of school and district leadership and a readiness to become part of the Portland community were all strong factors that led to his selection.

“We believe Dr. O’Reilly will work well with our community, teachers, and families to continue Portland’s record of academic excellence,” Rode said.

O’Reilly has been superintendent of schools in New Hartford for the past nine years. Previ-

ously, he was a teacher and administrator in school districts in both Massachusetts and Connecticut. He holds a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Massachusetts, a master’s in science education from Central Connecticut State University and a degree in educational administration from the University of Connecticut. He earned his doctorate in educational administration from UMass in 2002.

“We were particularly impressed by Dr. O’Reilly’s vision and commitment to strengthening student achievement,” Board of Education Chairman Chris Phelps said in a press release. “Public education faces many challenges in the years to come and Dr. O’Reilly’s classroom experience, grasp of the challenges faced by today’s teachers, and vision for improving student achievement will serve our community well in the years ahead.”

Phelps agreed with Rode that O’Reilly’s

background was “very impressive.”

“He brought a lot to the table,” Phelps said in a phone interview this week. “It was the totality of his background and experiences that really made him a good fit for the job.”

Phelps added the school board is “definitely very excited” O’Reilly is coming aboard.

“Dr. Doyen has been superintendent in Portland now for nine years; it’s a big transition,” Phelps said. “Dr. O’Reilly has really impressed the board. We really think he’s going to be able to take the reins from Dr. Doyen and continue to move the district forward in a positive direction.”

In addition to meeting with Doyen, the Board of Education said that between now and the start of the school year, O’Reilly will also meet with teachers, parents, town officials and community members.

## Bray to Leave, New Colchester Town Clerk Named

by **Melissa Roberto**

Come Aug. 4, Nancy Bray will no longer hold the position of town clerk – one she’s held for the past 21 years. But she will spend her last few weeks in the role training fellow resident Gayle Furman, who the Board of Selectmen recently appointed as acting town clerk.

Bray confirmed this week she plans to retire because her family has made the move to South Carolina. She is temporarily residing in Colchester to keep her role as town clerk until Aug. 1.

After notifying the town of her imminent departure, the Board of Selectmen held a special meeting Wednesday, July 2, to appoint someone to take over as town clerk. Furman and fellow resident Jean Stawicki applied to the position and were interviewed by the selectmen, and, by a unanimous vote, Furman was hired.

“I think we were impressed with Gayle’s presence and her skill set, so we’re very happy to have her joining the Town Hall staff as the acting town collector,” First Selectman Stan Soby said this week.

Furman, who like Bray is a Democrat, had

been employed by the Colchester Board of Education since 2003. She worked at Jack Jackter Intermediate School as a one-on-one paraprofessional for two years, and spent the rest of her time there as a literacy lab paraprofessional.

Prior to working for the Colchester school system, Furman was employed by Farmer & Mechanics Bank in Middletown for three years as a product support specialist, and before that, she worked in a customer service role at Versys, Inc. in East Windsor.

Furman shared with the selectmen that she also has at various times served as a poll worker in Colchester.

“My previous work experience had a lot to do with customer service so I feel comfortable in that aspect of the position,” Furman said when the selectmen asked why she would be a good fit for the role. “Dealing with the public – I’m not afraid of that.”

The selectmen each asked extensive questions to the two candidates in separate interviews. Selectman Kurt Frantzen asked the candidates what characteristics “make a great town

clerk.” Furman answered: “Organized, friendly, punctual.”

Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle asked the candidates to describe their style of working with people. In her interview, Furman said she is neither quiet nor outspoken.

“I like to let people talk, let people tell me what they are needing and wanting, and respond to that,” Furman told the selectmen. “I’ve been told I have a friendly attitude. ... I think I could deal diplomatically with different things that might come up.”

Asked what she sees as the “most important function” of the town clerk, Furman answered, “Keeping the records in orderly fashion and adhering to all the legal aspects of how to keep them.”

On a lighter note, selectman Bill Curran asked what “scares the bejesus” out of Furman regarding the position of town clerk. Her answer was “elections.”

“I want to make sure that I adhere to all the statutes,” Furman said. “That would be the thing I would be concentrated the most on learning.”

But it seems the strengths Furman told the

selectmen she believes make her a good fit for the role is what led to the board’s unanimous support.

“I’m very organized,” Furman shared, adding her experience in “customer relations and customer services” would come in handy.

Furman began training in the town clerk’s office alongside Bray on July 7. Bray said she’s “very happy” Furman was hired to the role.

“I know Gayle will do a great job,” Bray shared. “She’s intelligent, she’s conscientious, methodical. She’ll make a great town clerk.”

And on Monday, Furman said her first week in the office has gone “very well,” crediting Bray as an “excellent teacher.”

“I am feeling excited,” Furman said this week of her new position at Town Hall. “I’m very proud to have been appointed and can’t wait to serve my town.”

Furman’s first day as the acting town clerk is Monday, Aug. 4. She is expected to see out Bray’s current term, which is set to expire in November 2015. From there, Furman said she has plans to run for election.



# CCT Summer Theater to Present *The Grunch*

by Melissa Roberto

School may be out for summer but some of Colchester's youth have been busy inside the Bacon Academy auditorium learning all the fundamentals for the Colchester Community Theatre (CCT) Summer Children's Workshop show, *The Grunch*.

The show will be performed tomorrow, Saturday, July 19 at 2 p.m., in the Bacon Academy auditorium.

Director Wallis Johnson said the 85 cast members that make up the summer show have been in preparation for the past two weeks.

"We're teaching the kids every aspect of theater," Johnson said of the summer workshop. "They learn choreography, they do set painting, they make props, and they learn stage singing and character development, costuming, sound."

The cast ranges from children as young as 6 to high school students. When the *Rivereast* stopped into the auditorium on Monday morning, kids were on stage singing, dancing, and rehearsing their lines.

"The kids look like they're going to have a blast on stage," said Colchester resident Carey Ozmun, daughter of CCT President Diane Ozmun. Ozmun will attend State University of New York – Purchase in the fall to study jazz. She has assisted this year's summer group by painting sets for the show, which she hinted is sure to make people laugh.

*The Grunch* is modeled after the Dr. Seuss classic *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. Its main character, Rudy Grunch, is a grumpy sixth-grader who often feels like an outsider, according to a CCT press release. When the school gets excited for its annual school musical, Rudy plans to ruin it by stealing the sets, costumes and lights the night before the show's debut.

"The play is about school kids putting on a school play, so it's kind of like a musical in the musical," Johnson shared this week.

Ten-year-old Colchester resident Mallory Scherff plays the lead role of Rudy Grunch. She described her character as "grumpy and angry" because she does not have any friends. Scherff said she has to be mean in the role, which she said has been "a challenge" for her because it's a personality trait she is not used to possess-

ing.

"No, other than when I have to wake up really early in the morning I'm not usually grumpy!" Scherff said with a laugh.

But Scherff said having seen *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* "many times" before has given her some inspiration. *The Grunch* will be Scherff's fourth musical with CCT. She said singing, dancing and acting are some of her favorite things to do and the CCT summer shows help her continue doing just that.

"I like that I get to sing, I get to dance and I get to act all at the same time," she said.

Scherff has one solo in the musical, entitled "More Like Me."

Colchester teen Lauren Neal will also take the Bacon Academy stage tomorrow to act out her role of Rachel, who is the student stage manager in *The Grunch*. Neal said it will be her eighth time performing in a CCT show.

"I like that especially here everyone feels important even if they don't have a part," Neal said of why she enjoys participating in CCT.

Neal described her character as responsible "because she has to take care of everything backstage." As Rachel, the Colchester teen shared she's learned how to use her facial expressions.

"I think that's a really fun thing," Neal said.

Eleven-year-old Meagan Gallacher is also no stranger to the stage. The Colchester resident said she's been doing CCT shows for five years and keeps coming back "because it's really fun and I get to discover different parts of me."

One of those different sides will come out in her role as Jaden in the play, Gallacher said.

"She is kind of like the student director," Gallacher said. "She makes sure everything is on time with the actors and the backstage people."

The pre-teen added she isn't usually someone who likes to take charge.

"I'm kind of discovering how to take charge and be more of myself in this play," Gallacher shared. "I'm learning how to express myself and be different characters."

Gallacher said the annual summer workshop is "more fun than just going to the beach."

While the cast members' adrenaline is pumping in anticipation for tomorrow's show, those



**For the last two weeks, kids participating in the Colchester Community Theatre Summer Workshop have taken to the Bacon Academy stage to rehearse their lines and go over their choreography. All of their talents will be showcased tomorrow afternoon in their public performance of *The Grunch*.**

behind the scenes are just as excited to see *The Grunch* play out.

"It's just fun to see new kids come through," said Molly Anderson, who will be a senior at Bacon Academy this coming year. Anderson has assisted as a counselor and has been painting sets with this year's summer group.

Elizabeth Johnson, 18, is the show's choreographer. She is the daughter of Director Wallis Johnson so she's been assisting in casts for years. Each one, the younger Johnson said, "creates a big CCT family."

As far as what the audience can expect, Johnson agreed with her friend Ozmun: "They can expect a comedy."

Ozmun shared there are six sets for the show, which is a change from previous summer shows because "they're all different."

"They're all kind of weird and quirky," Ozmun said. "One is an ostrich; one is a giant thing of French fries."

Ozmun also hinted that one of the sets is even inspired by a local dining spot in town. The 18-

year-old concluded tomorrow's show is sure to entertain.

"It's going to be a good show," she said. "It's funny and it's got a lot of references to other musicals. There's a wide range of styles."

And if the comical plot isn't enough to entice people to come out, maybe the opportunity to see some of Colchester's youngsters and adolescents on stage will.

"They have a lot of fun and they are really proud of what they did," said Elizabeth Johnson. "I see the same kids year after year coming back, and it's just a really great feeling by the time the show's over. We're a little sad but, you know, the kids have fun and that's what matters."

*The Grunch* is presented through special arrangement with Beat by Beat Press. Tickets for the production are \$4 each for adults and children and can be purchased at the door the day of the performance. Anyone with a question is encouraged to call Wallis Johnson at 860-267-1023 or Laura Brown at 860-537-3259.

## Andover Selectmen Talk Budget Policy

by Geeta Schrayter

The Board of Selectmen is developing a policy-and-procedures manual for the annual town budget, and on Tuesday the selectmen discussed how the process is coming along.

During the meeting's public comment, resident Joan Foran, who has seen a copy of the draft version of the manual – said she found the language confusing – though she didn't provide specific examples – and stressed it needed to be "succinct."

"As you review your document, please have it done in such a manner that is consistent," she said, and utilizes the same language that's in the charter.

Board of Finance Chairwoman Georgette Conrad explained Wednesday creating the procedure was a part of a larger plan to create a manual that contains information on each town department – and it's a plan that's been in the works for some time.

"It came up several years ago in the audit report and the auditor has said that we should have some kind of policies and procedures manual for all departments in town," she stated.

When current selectwoman Cathy Desrosiers was chairwoman of the finance board, Conrad said she wrote up a few pages of instructions, but the auditor said it "wasn't in-depth enough." As a result, when Conrad took over she worked to expand what Desrosiers had done.

First Selectman Bob Burbank explained, "It wasn't until Georgette [Conrad] really took it on her own shoulders to try to get a completed manual for the Board of Finance section" that the project moved forward.

The document currently includes information on the budget timeline, when and what notices to send out, meetings and budget workshops, and how to formulate the proposed bud-

get: from reviewing department "actual" expenditures and budget requests to calculating revenues and more. The document also contains a number of examples to aid in the process.

Now, it's waiting for review and approval from the Board of Finance, after which the selectmen would look it over; Conrad said she gave the document to the rest of the finance board at its June meeting, "and asked them to please look at it and see if it's in-depth enough to where, if they took over as chair, they could do it."

During Tuesday's meeting, Burbank explained creating a procedural manual for the town was initially discussed after a suggestion from the auditor, Stephen Hopkins, years prior. Around 2007, the town approved \$5,000 to put toward its creation – but the document didn't move forward, and the money ended up in the general fund.

"What had happened was he didn't have the time to go out and develop it," Burbank said of Hopkins. "So it [the money] wasn't utilized. We realized it was far too complex for him to get involved and the procedures would have to come from the Board of Selectmen" instead.

However, Burbank said Wednesday there is still money to work with Hopkins when the procedure comes together.

"We do keep a few extra dollars if we need him for other consultations which would include, once we have the procedure manual completed, we would ask him to review it to make sure that we included everything that we needed to include," Burbank stated.

And now, he added the town was in the "cruz" of the process.

"This is the Board of Finance part of it," he

said. "The treasurer has a part of it as well that she and the bookkeeper have been working on. Once we have it all put together it will come back to the selectmen" for approval.

Selectwoman Julia Haverl said, after all this time, she wanted the manual to be finished.

"Let's get it on the road," she said. "Let's not talk about it then not do it; what we need to do is get it done."

But to do that, the Board of Finance still needs to discuss the document. As a result, Vice First Selectman Jay Lindy suggested the board table the topic to the next meeting, after the finance board had the opportunity to meet. The Board of Finance's next meeting is scheduled for July 23.

\* \* \*

Also at the meeting, the selectmen mentioned the importance of spreading the word regarding the annual pig roast fundraiser for the Andover Food Pantry, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 20.

"The demand [for the food pantry] has increased substantially," Burbank stated, calling the pig roast "one of the major ways they get enough money to purchase the food they really need to."

Lindy added, "It's really important this year. They're seeing visits every week by about 140 families – that's huge."

And related to raising money for the pantry, some concern was expressed over the Hop River 5K, scheduled to take place in town Aug. 9. The race is advertised as benefiting the pantry, but to date, Lindy said no money has been received from the inaugural race held last year.

"It's put in bold [on the race flyer] that it benefits the food bank" Lindy stated, but said

he'd talked to Food Bank Director Joan Soucy "and they got zero from" Glastonbury-based The First Mile, the organization in charge of the event.

Resident Jeff Murray piped up and added he'd spoken to Soucy that day and had been told the same thing. He said it concerned him the race was being allowed to take place without some sort of agreement between the Town of Andover and The First Mile.

(Burbank however, explained the race is run on state property – although the senior center parking lot is used as a staging area "and that's really the only control I have.")

Murray said that when he reads the flyer for the race and it says "benefiting the Andover Food Pantry," to him it means all proceeds are going to the pantry – but in reality, without an official agreement, there's no guarantee that will happen.

In response, Haverl and Desrosiers said the town should write a letter to The First Mile.

Desrosiers said they should ask for the money from the first year "and say it is our understanding you're asking again, and spell it out."

She added, "I think [The First Mile] has taken advantage of the discord" in town and the lack of a contract and follow-ups.

"This has slipped between the cracks," she stated.

To which Burbank affirmed, "We'll follow up on it."

The First Mile could not be reached for comment for this story.

\* \* \*

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 6, at 7 p.m. in the Town Office Building.



# Hebron Café Named Business of Year

by Geeta Schrayter

Although Something Simple Café in Hebron is less than two years old, it's quickly become an integral part of the community and a gathering place for many. And due in part to that, the eatery, despite being a relative newcomer to town, was recently named Business of the Year.

The Business of the Year award is sponsored by the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce. Chamber President Diane Nadeau explained her group "offers each of the towns we cover the opportunity to recognize an outstanding business in their community each year."

The towns, she furthered, choose the business based on their own criteria then inform the chamber who they selected. In Hebron, that business was Something Simple, who was honored at an awards ceremony held at the chamber in May.

"Something Simple was recognized for their great restaurant and community involvement as well as their generosity," Nadeau said, and Economic Development Commission Chairwoman Vicki Avelis furthered that point.

"Some of the reasons that we chose Something Simple Café to be the Business of the Year is because they started in 2012 and really did a great job renovating the exterior and front porch [of the building] to enhance the way it looked," Avelis explained.

The café is located in the town's historic district at 12 Main St., in a building that used to house the town's first grocery store. During her speech at the awards ceremony, Avelis explained the Dapsis family, who owns the café, utilized some of the programs offered by the town, including the Hebron Façade Improvement Program.

The Façade Improvement Program is relatively new, and funded through an Economic Development Grant. This program, Avelis explained, provided design assistance with a professional architect and partial funding for the renovations to the building's exterior.

Avelis furthered the café has "grown substantially" since it opened in October 2012. There were five rotating staff members then, but now, a bookkeeper has been hired, a manager is in the works, and there are 10 staff members.

And that growth can be seen in other areas of the café as well: the hours were recently extended, and the menu has grown from breakfast

and lunch to include light dinner fare. In addition, the café is now BYOB – although a liquor license has been applied for. Also new since the café's beginning is catering, nearby delivery, and the option to rent the space for parties.

In addition, Avelis mentioned the Dapsises strive to support local businesses and use as many local ingredients and products as they can.

Avelis stated during the awards ceremony, "The Dapsises were looking to support local business and most of the ingredients used and products for sale are locally produced. They strive to be as organic as possible. They now have gluten free offerings and baked goods which are purchased from local bakeries."

Some of the favorites, according to owner Jessica Dapsis, are the sweet potato fries and lemon squares. Meanwhile, Avelis feels the restaurant's Orange Salad and reuben also deserve recognition.

In addition to the above, the café serves items such as fair trade organic coffee, whole leaf tea, cappuccinos, lattes, smoothies, breakfast sandwiches, fresh Belgian waffles, soups, paninis and wraps and has daily specials.

Along with the nutritional support the restaurant provides, Avelis said the café also supports the local community by allowing various organizations to hold their meetings there after close.

"They really encourage the community to use them as a facility to come together; everything about what they're doing is extremely community oriented," she said.

Town Planner Mike O'Leary added his own thoughts on the recognition, calling the café "a perfect use for the Town Green."

Years before the arrival of Something Simple, O'Leary explained he had been involved in a number of discussions with the Planning and Zoning Commission, "with the whole conversation being 'what would be the uses we would like to encourage on the Town Green?'"

"We included a number that were of this type: low-density, pedestrian-oriented, where people could walk up to it and then down the street to the library or other shops," he stated. "Then this [business] came along, one we had approved use for."

O'Leary called the café the "perfect gathering spot" and, like Avelis, mentioned how the business had grown in a short amount of time.



Something Simple Café, which opened in October 2012, was recently named the Hebron Business of the Year, due in part to the café's growth, and support for the community and local businesses.

"All indications are that she's growing the business and that she's getting the support of the community, as well it should," he stated. "It's a wonderful business and a local family."

On Wednesday, Dapsis said she was excited about the award.

"It's nice when you put a lot of work into something to be recognized; it was a good feeling," she said. "I was really excited."

For Dapsis, what's made the café stand out is the way it's become "a really nice hub for the community."

"We've gotten to know so many people just because they're regulars here now," she said. "It really is just such a warm place."

Dapsis' words were supported Wednesday when the door repeatedly opened and a customer walked in, only to be greeted with a familiar "hello" from someone they knew, be it a staff member, or another patron sitting at a table enjoying their fare.

"Being a part of the community is huge to me," Dapsis furthered.

She added, along with opening up the building after hours for various organizations to meet, the café also strives to provide different creative events, like art nights and music performances. For example, former Hebron resident Calen Perkins will be making an appearance tomorrow, July 19, for an acoustic performance at 6 p.m.

"So we're definitely trying to bring more of that stuff in," Dapsis said.

Also available at the café is artwork by local artists, jewelry, pottery and organic oils.

"We have a lot of local artists selling stuff through us, which is really nice," Dapsis stated.

Something Simple Café is open Monday-Wednesday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sunday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information or to learn about upcoming events at the café, look for "Something Simple Café" on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/something-simplecafe), visit [something-simplecafe.com](http://something-simplecafe.com) or call 860-228-2266.

# Proposed Hebron Charter Changes Head to November Vote

by Geeta Schrayter

As a result of the work by the Hebron Charter Revision Commission, a number of changes to the town charter have been approved by the Board of Selectmen and will head to a vote in November.

The largest proposed changes include the addition of advisory questions to the annual budget referendum, a change in the number of members on certain boards and commissions, and the inclusion of the Code of Ethics.

The commission chose to include advisory questions on the budget ballot instead of moving to budget bifurcation – something various residents had been asking for. In recent years, advisory questions have sometimes been included with budget referendums. The proposed charter change would make the questions a regular occurrence.

When the commission first presented their draft changes to the selectmen in May, Chairmen Ken Slater explained bifurcation was the issue the commission had heard the most about. And while commission members started the process with various thoughts on the subject, they ended on the same page – and that decision came down to acknowledging the town really operated out of one checkbook.

"We have one budget we need to approve," Slater had said.

However, were the budget to fail at referendum, the commission thought it was important the reason *why* it failed could be discerned – hence the advisory questions.

These questions would read: Is the budget (excluding Hebron and RHAM boards of education budgets) too high or too low?; is the Hebron Board of Education budget too high or too low?; and any other questions the Board of Selectmen felt necessary.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said this

week, "I think they've come up with a really good alternative just short of bifurcation."

He added the commission "took into consideration the majority of the people" in town, although he admitted, "some people are going to tout bifurcation until the end of time. But for now, [the commission] looked at it, took it into consideration and decided against it."

Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan had similar thoughts.

Bifurcation, she said, has "always been a hot topic in town depending on what issues are in front of us at budget time."

She explained that in 2010 a study committee was put together to examine bifurcation and they came back with the view that it would provide no real benefit to the town. On the contrary, "it could make it more divisive, with more separation in town; those that support the school budget and those that support town services," Mulligan explained.

Yet the Charter Revision Commission, she furthered, did their due diligence: they looked at the study, got more information, and talked to other towns that had implemented bifurcation (including towns that had implemented the process and then went back to the old way). Although Mulligan said the commission members started "kind of all over the place" as far as their thoughts on the matter, after their research "a lot of minds changed."

When it comes to altering the makeup of some of the boards and commissions, these changes were done as a way to make it easier to reach a quorum and conduct meetings: both the Conservation Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission dropped from seven members down to five. In addition, the Board of Finance was lowered from six to five, a number

that mirrors the membership number of the Board of Selectmen. In addition to helping reach a quorum, changing the number from even to odd was chosen as a way to keep the finance board from becoming gridlocked.

Mulligan explained the change would make the finance board "consistent with our board – and pretty much all of our boards are odd numbers to make it easier to get decisions made."

In addition, a section on the policies, procedures and charges for the Board of Finance was added to the charter, since it isn't included in the current charter, which was last revised in 2009.

(Similarly, a reference was added in the charter to the Douglas Library Board of Trustees, since the Douglas Library is now town-owned.)

Including the Code of Ethics – which currently falls under town ordinance – in the charter was the other large change, according to Mulligan. The "purpose" of the code, as written in the charter, is to try and "avoid any loss of trust and to maintain and increase the confidence of our citizens in the integrity, fairness and transparency of their government."

The code includes information on conflicts of interest, disclosure and recusal, gifts, the use of town assets and confidential information and applies to "all Town officials, officers and employees, whether elected and/or appointed, including members of boards, commissions, and committees, full time or part time, paid or unpaid..." Apart from the above, the majority of the proposed changes involved organizational and editorial edits to help with clarity. While minor, Mulligan commented on their benefit.

"What they did – and I thought it was great – is they looked at the whole charter and the way it's written and cleaned it up," she stated.

"I think that was really helpful at this point because we've had changes throughout time and no one's really taken a look at the whole picture – so it was kind of haphazardly put together."

The commission, she furthered, "did an excellent job going through that."

Praise was given for the overall job of the commission as well.

"This Charter Revision Commission did an excellent job," Mulligan stated. "The group worked so well together. They were respectful of each other – a lot of them had different opinions on a lot of different issues."

She continued, "They had a lot of intense conversations and debates about two or three of the big topics, and they really worked through it, did their homework and worked very well – cooperatively – to come up with some really insightful, really good decisions."

Tierney added there were some "good, level-headed people who got on the commission," and they "showed up, and hashed out the topics before coming to a decision."

Tierney called the commission members' work, and the proposed changes, "progress for Hebron."

Residents will have the opportunity to vote on the above changes on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4, at Hebron Elementary School. It is expected residents will vote on whether to accept all or none of the proposed charter changes; the changes will not be voted on individually.

The entire charter, with the proposed changes included, is available at the Town Clerk's office or online at [hebronct.com](http://hebronct.com). The document is also included as an insert in the Hebron edition of this week's *Rivereast*.



# Obituaries

## Portland

### Stephen Allen Robinson

Stephen Allen Robinson, 70, of Cameron, N.C., passed away Thursday, July 10, at First-Health Hospice House in Pinehurst, N.C., with his family by his side.

Stephen was born in Middletown Sept. 21, 1943, to longtime Portland residents Clifford Huntington Robinson Jr. and Dorothy Kelsey Robinson, and he grew up in the Kelsey family homestead on Great Hill Road in Portland. He was a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend, and will be greatly missed by all.

Stephen was a skilled electrician and had a variety of other mechanical and creative talents, including woodworking.

He is survived by his wife, Gail Marie Robinson; sister, Bethia Robinson Washburn of Sandwich, Mass.; and brother, Clifford H. Robinson III, of Portland; five children; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son Stephen, sisters Sara and Carolyn, and brother Ralph, all Portland residents for much of their lives.

A graveside memorial service for family and friends will be held at Center Cemetery in Portland at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 19, to be followed by a reception at the Hemlock Grange in Portland.

Condolences may be sent to [coxmemorialfuneralhome.com](http://coxmemorialfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Paul Stillman Eldredge

Paul Stillman Eldredge, 78, of South Yarmouth, Mass., formerly of Colchester and Amston, died peacefully with his loving wife Maureen Eldredge by his side Saturday, July 12, at Eagle Pond Kindred Transitional Care & Rehabilitation Center in South Dennis, Mass.

He was predeceased by his parents, Edmund Clyde Eldredge and Anna Claire Mullen Eldredge, and his son, Paul Stillman Eldredge Jr., and his brother, E. Clyde Eldredge of Orleans.

Paul fought a long and courageous battle against lymphoma cancer and in his last years was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Paul was born in Chatham, Mass., on May 5, 1936, with two older brothers, Edmund Clyde and Robert Bruce Eldredge, and also a younger sister, Candace Eldredge. They all grew up in Chatham, Mass., on Highland Avenue in the family house. Paul was married to Maureen Margaret Joyce of Simsbury on Sept. 7, 1957, and they had four children, Paul Stillman, Clyde Robert, Theresa Margaret and Michael Christopher Eldredge.

Paul loved growing up in Chatham with his family on Highland Avenue and he used to work as a golf caddy on the Chatham Seaside Links Golf Course behind their house, but unfortunately at the age of 11, his father, who worked as a fisherman was lost at sea in a tragic accident with another fisherman from Chatham, Leon Long, during the winter month of January of 1947. Paul's mother Claire kept the family together as they all pitched in to help to try to fill their father's shoes. In the summer they would all move into the efficiency apartment on the side of the house in order to rent out the rest of the house to help pay the bills.

Paul went to school in Chatham and after attending Chatham High School for two years, and playing on the high school baseball team his grades were high enough for him to earn a spot and a full scholarship to Deerfield Academy in Deerfield, MA. From Deerfield, Paul earned a full scholarship in mathematics to attend Trinity College in Hartford.

He met Maureen Margaret Joyce one summer on the Cape while he was working as a groundskeeper at Chatham Bars Inn and she was working as a nanny for a family for the summer. They married in September of 1957 and raised a family in Hartford, Amston and Colchester. Married for 57 years, they were a true team and a shining example of a loving and devoted marriage.

Early in his career, he taught math at a high school in Newington and also helped coach the high school golf team. Later in years, he taught computer science courses at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic. After teaching, Paul worked as a computer programmer for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for many years. He and his wife, Maureen, raised their family in Colchester, where they lived for over 30 years, and they were members of Saint Andrew's Catholic Church in Colchester.



He was a hard worker and very capable man, being able to do anything he set his mind to. He enjoyed many hobbies, most especially taking his children when they were young, ice skating, sledding, and vacations on the Cape or in Maine. He was a creative and talented photographer, and has left a treasure trove of family photos spanning twenty years. He enjoyed music, golf, biking, and walks on the beach, as well as sailing and kayaking. He was also a willing landscaper to his wife's gardening endeavors. Together they transformed their retirement house in South Yarmouth to a garden paradise with crushed shell walkways, rock borders, beach stone paths, and flowers, all materials gathered by hand at local beaches.

He walked the Thanksgiving Road Race in Manchester for many years, and enjoyed watching his son, Michael, run many races including the Boston Marathon. He was a skilled carpenter, and during his retirement built two full-size playhouses for his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Maureen Joyce Eldredge, his children, Clyde Robert Eldredge and wife Teresa of Marietta, Ga.; Theresa Eldredge Cleary and husband Michael of Portland, CT; and Michael Christopher Eldredge and wife Deborah of Cheshire, CT. Paul leaves seven grandchildren: Brendan and Desmond Cleary; Reilly, Daniel, and Tarana Eldredge; and Bennett and Natalie Eldredge; and many nieces and nephews on the Eldredge and Joyce sides of the family. He leaves his brother, Robert Eldredge of Colorado Springs, CO and sister, Candace Keller of Unicoi, TN.

He was a gentle soul with the special gift of reaching people of all ages on their own level. His family and many friends have fond memories of times spent with him. Many thanks for the caring staff at Eagle Pond Rehabilitation Center in South Dennis, Mass. who provided such compassionate care in his final weeks.

A memorial mass will be held on Tuesday, July 22 at 10:00 am at St. Pius Church at 5 Barbara Street in South Yarmouth, MA

Donations in Paul's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

## Marlborough

### Bill Heslin

Bill Heslin, 71, of Marlborough, passed away Saturday, July 12. He leaves his high school sweetheart and wife of 49 years, Frederica; three sons, Tony and his wife Shupta, BJ and his wife Susan, and Matthew. He was a proud grandfather to Mark, Marina, Morgan, Chloe, Emma, TJ, Ryan, Jackson and Priya. He is also survived by his sister Ginger Grover and her husband Bill; brother John; brother Patrick and his wife Marie; brother-in-law Tony Uliano; dozens of nieces, nephews, cousins; and hundreds of friends.

He was predeceased by his siblings Alicia and Robert Heslin.

Born March 26, 1943, in New Britain, Bill was the son of William and Gertrude (Walsh) Heslin. As a youth, he delivered milk for The Heslin Dairy and attended St. Thomas Aquinas High School. In 1965, he graduated from Providence College with a degree in economics. Bill was a sales manager for Coty for more than 26 years.

A resident of Marlborough for 45 years, Bill was a founding member of St. John Fisher Church and active throughout the community. He was Marlborough's Judge of Probate for eight years; an active member with Park and Rec.; a dedicated Little League and midget football coach; and a longtime member of the Democratic Town Committee.

Bill loved to travel with his wife, family, and friends. His trips to Korea; Ireland; Holland; and all over the Caribbean were always special memories for him and for those who traveled with him. An avid sports fan, he never turned down an opportunity to attend a game. He celebrated the three Red Sox World Series victories; several UConn women NCAA basketball championships; and frequently boasted of attending Super Bowl XXXIX in 2005 with his three sons, and cheered the Patriots to victory.

Above all, Bill will be remembered for his spirit. He held a special place in the lives of countless people he's known throughout his life and he worked hard to stay connected with all of them. His determination and fight overcoming multiple medical hardships was an inspiration for all. His quick wit defined him. He always had a joke or a funny story that was guaranteed to keep people laughing and smiling.

Calling hours were Wednesday, July 16, at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough, on Thursday, July 17.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Bill's name to the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 308, Marlborough,



CT 06447. For online condolences, visit [mulryanfh.com](http://mulryanfh.com).

## Colchester

### Harris M. Kupper

Harris "H" Michael Kupper, 66, passed away Friday, July 11, at Tennova Hospital, Knoxville, Tenn., after a courageous 18-month battle, due to complications of PAN (a rare blood disorder).

Born in Elgin, Ill., July 19, 1947, H lived in Hamden, Colchester and West Lebanon, N.Y., before retiring to Mascot, Tenn., in 2010. He retired from the *Middletown Press* after 25 years as a pressman before opening "The Speedway Family Diner" in West Lebanon, N.Y., where he created the famous "Big H Burger." Being an overgrown kid himself, H also drove a school bus.

Anyone that met H was his friend; he knew no strangers. H was the original "American Picker," specializing in Maytag, jukeboxes, slots, gumball machines, trains, corvettes and street rods. He also loved his family very dearly, especially his lifemate Barbara.

H was predeceased by his parents, Libby (Kowitz) and Gerald Kupper and stepmother, Renee' Weiner Kupper.

H is survived by his fiancée, Barbara Krufchinski-VanSlyke; children, Lauren S. Kupper, Craig Kupper (Tonya), their mother, Patricia Nielson, Jeff Towne, Jacky Towne; five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild; as well as his brother, Fred Schuman (Ellen), sister Carol Stamm (Karl) and special cousins, Ivan Chasoff (Hyla) and Hilary Herring (Chuck); three nephews, one niece and countless friends and family.

The family would like to thank all the staff at Select Specialty Care and Tennova Hospital for their continued care and support. And a special thanks to the Mascot Community, which embraced H as one of their own.

A memorial service was held at Mascot Baptist Church, 1804 #2 Drive on Tuesday, July 15, followed by a reception. There will be a celebration of his life in Connecticut on Saturday, July 19, at Craig's home, 100 Crestview Dr., Colchester, at 2 p.m.

## Marlborough

### Robert J. Letourneau

Robert J. Letourneau, 64, of Marlborough, beloved husband for 26 years of Marcia (Constantine) Letourneau, died suddenly at home Friday, July 11. He was born in Hartford, son of Corinne (Griffin) Letourneau of Florida, and the late Arthur R. Letourneau, and had lived in Marlborough for over 30 years.

Robert was president of East Coast Van Co. for 30 years. He was an avid rock wall builder and he enjoyed ocean swimming. He was a loving husband, father, brother and friend.

Besides his wife and mother, he is survived by a daughter, Robyn J. Letourneau of Marlborough and her boyfriend Joseph M. Davey; his brother and sister-in-law, Mark and Ellen Letourneau of Newington and their children, Mark and Lynelle; his sister and brother-in-law, Cindy and Daniel Chmielecki of North Carolina and their children, Katrina, Christie and Jared.

The funeral was Wednesday, July 16, in St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 433 Fairfield Ave., Hartford. Burial followed in Cedar Hill Cemetery. Friends called at Dillon-Baxter Funeral Home, 1276 Berlin Tpke., Wethersfield, Tuesday, July 15. A Trisayion service was also held Tuesday at the funeral home.

To share a memory with the family, visit [dillonbaxter.com](http://dillonbaxter.com).

## East Hampton

### Donna M. Zieky

Donna M. (Podhayny) Zieky, 61 years of age, of East Hampton, formerly of Glastonbury and Marlborough, beloved wife of 40 years to Elliott Zieky, surrounded by her family passed away Friday, July 11, after a short but courageous battle with cancer.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Alexander and Edna (Maetzing) Podhayny. Donna attended Fairleigh Dickenson University and graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a degree in education. Her life was dedicated to raising her children.

Donna had an interest in art and taught herself how to paint. Her landscape and floral works are displayed in many homes throughout Connecticut. Painting to her was not intended to be a business, but a passion that helped display her infectious smile seen through her paintings.

She loved walking with her dog Charley, kayaking at Lake Pocotopaug, golfing and playing tennis with her special group of friends. Her greatest enjoyment in life came from spending time and interacting with her family and most recently her beloved grandchildren.

She leaves her husband, Elliott S. Zieky; their children, Ben Zieky of New York, N.Y., Max Zieky and his wife Cortney of Austin, Texas, and Jennifer Corcoran and her husband Todd of Huntington, N.Y.; her grandchildren, Jack and Olivia Corcoran, and Zander Zieky; her brother-in-law, Jeffrey M. Zieky and his wife Stephanie and their

children Dan and his wife Holly, and Sarah Zieky, all of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Donna's family would like to acknowledge and thank the entire staff on the 11th floor ICU wing at Hartford Hospital for the extraordinary care and attention given to Donna over the course of her illness.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 14, in the chapel of the Weinstein Mortuary, 640 Farmington Ave., Hartford, with interment at the United Synagogues of Greater Hartford Memorial Park, 1361 Berlin Tpke., Wethersfield.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in her memory, to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at [stjude.org](http://stjude.org), or the charity of your choice.

For further information, directions, or to sign the guestbook for Donna, visit online at [weinsteinmortuary.com/funerals.cfm](http://weinsteinmortuary.com/funerals.cfm).

## Amston

### Reginald B. Miles

Reginald "Reggie" B. Miles, 75, of Suffield, entered into eternal peace Wednesday, July 9, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.

A son of the late Walter and Susan (Collins) Miles, Reggie was born in Frankfort, Maine, and later had lived in Amston for 20 years. He served his country honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Reggie was retired from P.J. Lodola Electric in Windsor Locks after 30 years. He loved the outdoors, especially fishing and camping.

He is survived by four children, Lance A. Miles of Enfield, Kevin B. Miles and his wife, Cherie, of Somers, Kathy Hall and her husband, Russell, of Enfield, and Tammy Chaplin and her husband, Joseph, of Enfield; a sister, Linda Kline of St. Johnsbury, Vt.; six grandchildren, Lauren Miles, Adam Hall, Ryan Hall, Tyler Miles, and Jake and Justin Chaplin; two nieces, Kelly Prevost and Carrie DeConte; and a great-granddaughter, Riley Hall.

He was predeceased by a grandson, R.J. Hall. Reggie's family received relatives and friends Sunday July 13, at Leete-Stevens Enfield Chapels, 61 South Rd., Enfield. Burial was private.

To leave an online message of sympathy, visit [leetestevens.com](http://leetestevens.com).

## Marlborough

### Flora Francine Koelsch

Flora Francine (Yorker) Koelsch of Marlborough, 76, beloved wife of the late Frederick J. Koelsch, passed away Tuesday, July 8, at home. She was born May 14, 1938, in Winsted.

Flora grew up in Glastonbury, attended University of California at Berkley and received her masters and 6th year at Central Connecticut State University. She taught for 38 years in the East Hartford School system. Her passion was teaching children to read. Flora also taught adult literacy at Mohegan Community College and coauthored numerous books. She cherished time spent with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her sons, Justin and his wife Laura of Willimantic, Jason and his wife Deirdra of Columbia; her sister, Carolyn Harding of Glastonbury; her brother, Thomas Yorker and his wife Ruth of Troy, N.Y.; her grandchildren, Rachel, Nathan, Veronica and Terrance; her nieces and nephews Lynne, Sandy, Amy, Kathryn, Greg and Adrian. She was predeceased by her brother John Yorker.

Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. To leave an online condolence, visit [newkirkandwhitney.com](http://newkirkandwhitney.com).

## Colchester

### Robert J. Youngquist Sr.

Robert J. Youngquist Sr., 69, passed away Wednesday, July 2, at Hartford Hospital. Mr. Youngquist was born Oct. 28, 1944, in Waterbury, the son of the late Elmer and Evelyn (Sweeney) Youngquist.

He was a Vietnam veteran, serving in the U.S. Army. He was raised in Cheshire before living in the Colchester and Rocky Hill areas. He was a past member of the Colchester Hayward Fire Department. He worked as an underwriter for several years for the Hartford.

He is survived by his children, Erin Rosa and her husband Michael of New York, Patrick Youngquist of Boston, Mass., John Youngquist of Cromwell; his brothers Harold "Biff" Youngquist and his wife Cheryl of Cheshire, Donn Youngquist and his wife Patricia of Cheshire; his sister Marcia Mongelluzzo and her husband Michael of Waterbury; several nieces and nephews; as well as his former wife, Katherine.

Besides his parents, Mr. Youngquist was predeceased by his son, Robert Youngquist Jr.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 8, from the Alderson-Ford Funeral Home of Cheshire, 615 South Main St., to Church of the Epiphany for Mass. Burial followed in Cheshire Hillside Cemetery. Calling hours were held Monday, July 7, at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, 150 Cambridge Park Dr., Suite 202, Cambridge, MA 02140.

For online condolences or to share a story, visit [fordfh.com](http://fordfh.com).



## Marlborough Police News

7/9: Marlborough Police said a 17-inch black laptop Inspiron computer and an additional software drive were reported stolen from a business on North Main Street. Police said there was no forced entry and the items were believed to have been taken while the business was open. Anyone with information is asked to contact Marlborough Officer Randy Ransom at 860-465-5400.

7/10: State Police said John DuFour, 34, of 143 Meadow Ridge Dr., Lebanon, was arrested and charged with reckless driving and DUI.

7/12: State Police said a vehicle driven by

## East Hampton Police News

7/3: Tyler Maxwell, 30, of 17 Sherry Drive, turned himself in pursuant to an active arrest warrant held by the East Hampton Police Department stemming from an April 29 motor vehicle accident. Maxwell was charged with failure to drive right, operating under the influence and evading responsibility, police said.

7/5: Douglas Mentlick, 57, of 344 Haddam Quarter Rd., Durham, was arrested for failure to drive right, driving under the influence and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

## Hebron Police News

7/9: State Police responded to a residence on Wellswood Road for a reported criminal mischief complaint. Police said the complainant reported that his right front passenger window was broken by a beer bottle that was thrown by an unknown male in the area of Joel Drive. Police said the complainant also reported being chased by two vehicles. One of the vehicles was described as a dark-colored Volkswagen sedan with a partial Connecticut license plate number of Z8T or 68T. Anyone with information regarding this incident should contact Trooper Xavier Cruz at 860-465-5455 ext. 4002.

Genevieve Rubb Bogaczyk, 43, of 93 Crouch Rd., Amston, was entering onto the exit 13 on-ramp for Route 2 west when her vehicle went off the road and struck a metal beam guide rail with its front end. Police said 50 feet of guide rail was bent. Bogaczyk was issued an infraction for failure to drive in the proper lane and failure to carry insurance card as well as failure to wear seat belt. Police said Colchester Hayward Fire Department transported Bogaczyk to Hartford Hospital for complaint of pain.

## Colchester Police News

7/7: Colchester Police said Crystal Guntulis, 32, of 87 Cirillo Dr., turned herself in on an arrest warrant for second-degree failure to appear.

7/11: State Police said Robert F. Meraviglia, 20, of 23 Trumbull Highway, Lebanon, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under a suspended license and failure to keep right.

7/12: State Police said Patrick Willette, 51, of 48 Wall St., was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order.

# Tolland Woman Killed in Marlborough Crash

by **Melissa Roberto**

A car crash on Route 2 eastbound last Thursday afternoon claimed the life of a Tolland woman and injured two others, state police said.

According to state police Troop K, the crash occurred at around 2:30 p.m. five-tenths of a mile west of exit 15. Police said a 2008 Hyundai Sonata being driven by Kevin Gauthier of Norwich left the roadway, struck a wire rope guard rail, traveled down a steep embankment and struck several trees.

Police said the car's front seat passenger, Jessica Bryant, 26, of 13 Goose Ln., Tolland, sustained fatal injuries in the crash, while Gauthier and the car's other passenger, Elizabeth Gauthier, 1, also of 13 Goose Ln., sustained injuries and were transported to Hartford Hospital.

Marlborough Fire Chief Kevin Asklar said the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department responded to the call, and received mutual aid from the Colchester, East Haddam and East Hampton fire departments. Asklar said the road was closed for approximately 20 minutes as LifeStar touched down.

According to state police, Elizabeth Gauthier was flown by LifeStar to Hartford Hospital, while Kevin Gauthier was transported there via East Haddam Fire Department for left arm injuries.

Following LifeStar response, Asklar said the highway was reopened, but only to one lane.

Police said the accident remains under investigation. Any witnesses to this accident are asked to contact Trooper Philip Soucy at 860-465-5455 ext. 4015.