

RIVEREAST

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Walking for a Cause... Colchester resident Doreen Erasmus, center, credits her family – including daughters Julie, left, and Jenny – for bringing her to her first Unity Walk for Parkinson's disease. The walk has helped her understand the disease she battles every day. For more on Erasmus and the walk, see the story on page 15.

Public Reviews Possible Portland Park

by John Tyczkowski

Last Thursday evening saw more than 60 residents turn out to Portland High School for a public meeting on the proposed Portland Town Park project.

At the intersection of Route 17 and Strickland Street, the proposed recreation complex could include such amenities as soccer and baseball fields, hiking trails and a picnic area on a 15-acre parcel of land.

The town purchased the 37-acre property decade ago from Nelson Goodrich, a longtime resident. In 2013, the town received a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant from the state to help move the design and development process along.

Master planning began that year, and the town held a preliminary public meeting on the park later in the spring of 2014.

The agricultural nature of the land also necessitates a brownfields evaluation and possible remediation due to pesticides that may have seeped into the ground.

The Route 17 Portland Town Park Committee itself was established when that planning process began. The Board of Selectmen appoints its seven members.

Thursday, talk turned to the latest site plan for the park, which was completed last month. Weston and Sampson engineer and project manager Daniel Biggs was on hand to discuss the specifics of the proposed Town Park site, which preliminary estimates pegged at a \$5 million cost.

"It seems like a big price tag, but we've looked at things several times," Biggs said. "After feedback [last spring], we pulled some things back, added some things, and that's the number we came up with."

The plans call for two baseball fields as well as two grass athletic fields that could be used for football, soccer, lacrosse or other similar sports.

In addition, the park would include a central plaza area that would contain a pavilion with a concession stand, picnic tables, restrooms and an 800-square foot recreation barn that could be booked in advance for use in activities such as summer camp events and private functions.

There would also be outdoor fitness equipment for adults, a playground for children ages six months and up, as well as a splash pad, which would include various directed water stream recreation implements.

Plans also include a .75-mile walking and jogging path around the perimeter of the western section of the park, as well as a green space area on a hill at the western edge of the park which could be used for picnicking, passive recreation opportunities or skiing, sledding and snowshoeing during the winter.

Lastly, the park would include over 220 parking spots.

"The goal of the project is to provide a town park for users of all ages and abilities in town," Biggs said. "We want a wide range of activi-

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Sharing Stories from the Grave

by Geeta Schrayter

Mike Donnelly has a *lot* of neighbors – more than 300 to be exact. But despite the amount, there's never been an issue with noise as one might expect. In fact, as inhabitants of the Old Andover Cemetery at the corner of Hebron and Old Cider Mill roads, Donnelly's neighbors have made nary a peep.

But that doesn't mean they don't have tales to tell. And with Donnelly's help, they're finally able to speak.

Donnelly, who considers himself an amateur genealogist, said he always wondered about the cemetery and its occupants. As a whole, he said, the site is in "terrible shape." Although the town mows the property, he explained it's somewhat overgrown and many of the stones are damaged or missing.

"I was concerned about it" he said, adding he was also struck by the amount of empty areas, since he'd been under the impression the cemetery, which received its first resident in 1750, was filled by the end of the 1800s.

But besides what he saw, Donnelly didn't know much else. That is, until he was asked to head over to try and catalogue who was buried there. That proved to be a task more difficult than simply reading from the headstones; age had taken its toll on the markers, and the ma-

jority were now unreadable. Then there was the issue with the empty patches – and a lack of footstones.

As the name suggests, footstones were used to mark the location of the feet of the deceased. But at the turn of the 19th century, Donnelly said people started to remove them, likely due to cemetery crowding. It eventually got to the point where, in the 1930s, the town removed all of them, piling up on the side of the road for residents to haul away. Donnelly surmised many of the stones ended up as fill for outhouses, since at that time many homes were switching to indoor plumbing. Some of the footstones also ended up being used in masonry or other projects, as was the case with the stones found built into an unearthed terrace at Donnelly's home.

And it's those footstones, he explained, that really made him start to wonder: the names engraved on those at his house didn't match any of the markers that stood in the cemetery, furthering his belief that there were more occupants than were marked. And so, he started to research.

"Finally I decided, well, let's look around for a break and see if I can start finding these people," he said. And that "break" came in the

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There are a number of empty areas in the Old Andover Cemetery and only about 100 gravestones. But appearances can be deceiving, and resident Mike Donnelly has been able to determine over 300 people are buried on the property – people with plenty of interesting stories to share, as his research has unearthed.

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ties for everyone. Also proposed was a bypass to Strickland Street, which would then connect to Route 17 via a right-angle turn with the aim of calming traffic.

“The bypass would be a standalone project from the park,” Biggs said. “But we’ve included it here because we need to provide a safe connection for point access to the park.”

The bypass would require working with the state Department of Transportation because the street connects to a state highway, he said.

The southeast border of the park, along Strickland Street, would be left untouched.

“We decided to do that not only because the area is environmentally sensitive, but also to minimize maintenance requirements on the town,” Biggs said. “We’d only have to mow that meadow area once or twice a year.”

He said the plan for the site should be finalized by late May or early June, and from there the town will develop a plan for funding the project, will secure needed permits and will begin talking with the DOT about the possible Strickland Street bypass.

Residents were then given the opportunity to voice their thoughts on the project.

In particular, resident Norman Ward brought forward the concern that the park design did not include passive recreation features, which were included in the earlier proposal for the park, which was presented last spring.

“From the very beginning, passive recreation was included as part of the park’s plan,” he said. “I don’t see any areas for passive recreation on that site plan tonight.”

“We don’t all play soccer or baseball in this town,” he said.

On that note, another resident pushed for the inclusion of bocce ball and horseshoes in the park’s plan as well.

One resident brought up a concern over light pollution from nighttime lighting on the soccer

fields and baseball fields, but Biggs said only the pavilion areas could be lighted.

“We’re only planning to have the park as a dawn-to-dusk use facility,” he said.

Another resident brought up concern over the environmental impact of the park on wildlife in the area, such as deer and turkeys.

Biggs said the town had done their due diligence and worked with a state wildlife biologist to assess that.

“The area now is agricultural, there’s not a lot of wildlife there,” he said. “Most of the wildlife there is in the wooded area and wetlands area behind the park. We’ll be leaving that additional 17 acres untouched; we’ll be preserving those areas.”

However, some residents offered favorable opinions of the upcoming project.

A woman who identified herself as a stay-at-home mom said the park would be a wonderful thing to add to Portland.

“We as moms have to take our kids to other towns to use parks during the day,” she said. “Also, we have all this water in town, but there’s no public access to it; that splash pad is a start.”

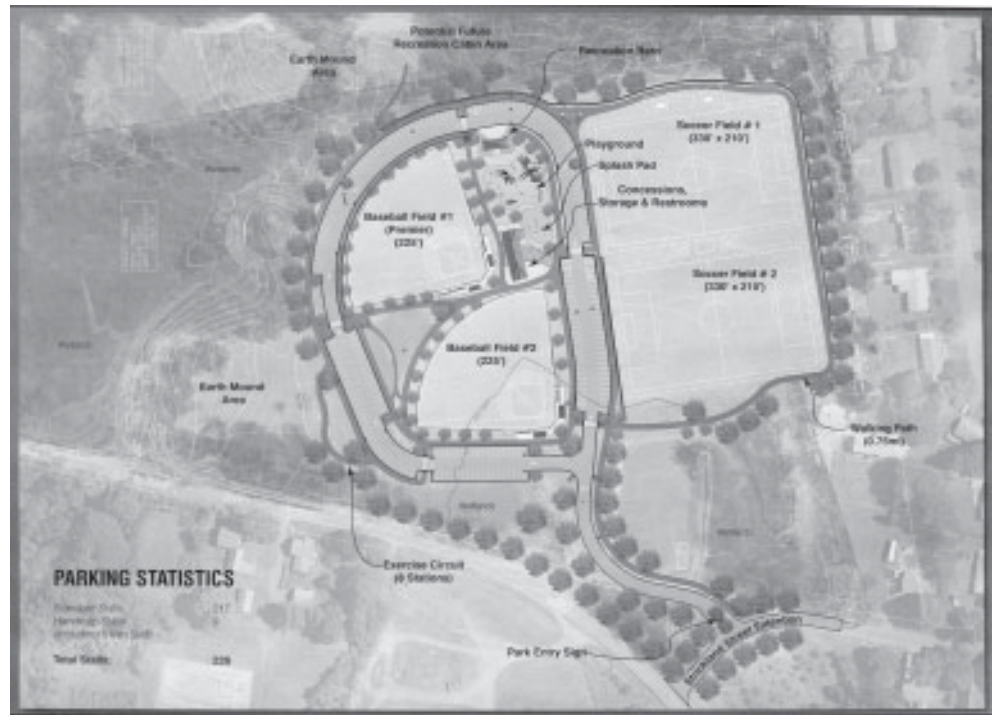
Also, she said the park would bring other benefits to the town as well, such as restaurants. She said she and her family routinely go to a splash pad in Colchester – and then frequent restaurants in that town while they’re there.

“Do you know how much business Harry’s in Colchester has from the stay-at-home moms of Portland?” she said. “The park would keep that business in town.”

Closing the meeting, Brian McCarthy, chairman of the Route 17 Portland Town Park Committee, encouraged people to keep giving the committee and town feedback on the plan even after the meeting.

“We can still make some tweaks,” he said. “The project isn’t finalized yet.”

After the meeting, McCarthy said the committee is taking that feedback to heart as they are looking at the project holistically.



The proposed Portland Town Park encompasses 15 acres of the Goodrich property at the intersection of Route 17 and Strickland Street. Plans call for such amenities as athletics fields, a pavilion, a walking trail and green space.

“We want this to be a place that has a lot of different things for a lot of different people,” he said. “We knew from the outset it can’t be all things for all people unfortunately.”

To that end, McCarthy said it’s feasible to look into the passive recreation option further.

“I still think there’s an opportunity to look into adding some trails, we’ll just need to balance that with the challenges of maintaining the trails and concerns for privacy from the residents in that area,” he said.

McCarthy said that, overall, he was pleased with the meeting.

“We had a lot of comments and feedback of

both types, it’s good to see the community engaged and interested,” he said.

From there, McCarthy said, the committee will, including feedback from the meeting, present a finalized plan to the Board of Selectmen during the summer, and create a summary document for the public afterward with more exact information on features and costs.

The Route 17 Portland Town Park Committee meets every second Thursday of the month at 6:45 p.m. at the Buck Foreman Community Center next to the police station.



The gravestones and people buried in the Old Andover Cemetery have plenty of stories to share; the obelisk in the corner for example, marks the grave of T. Wells Post, a young man who died during the Civil War. Unlike the rest of the stones which point west, the Post obelisk sits at an angle, facing what was, at one point, the home of his father Bissell.

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form of a 1934 WPA list.

(The WPA, or “Works Progress Administration,” was one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Great Depression relief programs, which provided jobs of various kinds for more than 3 million men, including cataloguing cemeteries.)

“Evidently the stones were far more readable and there were more in there” at that time, he said, explaining the list contained the names of the families – in alphabetical order – who were buried in the cemetery.

“There just aren’t that many stones over there. There are about 300 people in [the list] and probably, on a very good day, maybe 100 stones, markers and so on” in the cemetery, Donnelly stated.

With that discovery in hand, Donnelly’s curiosity was piqued.

“Now I’m real curious,” he stated. “Where did all these people come from?”

And so, he furthered his research. Using past publications and online data from sites such as ancestry.com and findagrave.com, Donnelly

found more cemetery inhabitants – including some veterans – as well as enough information to compile and organize family trees for most of the people buried there.

“And 98 percent of these family trees make some indication where these people are buried; now I have two lists, and they pretty much agree on who’s buried there.”

As Donnelly continued his research, he discovered a number of interesting tidbits, including how the cemetery came to be after land was donated from one resident to another; how most of the inhabitants weren’t part of the town’s congregational church, which had its own cemetery for members; that people buried in the cemetery include children up through the elderly; and that none of their descendants remain in town.

“Eventually,” he stated, “I got to the stories of these people.”

People like Nathaniel House Jr., whose family Donnelly traced back to England, where, Donnelly learned, his grandfather was an Anglican priest in charge of St. Mary’s Church in Kent. Donnelly also discovered House’s granddaughter Debra married Capt. Timothy Bush of Bristol, the great-great-great-great-grandfather of George W. Bush.

“So the House family next door is direct ancestors of the president Bushes.”

Another individual Donnelly learned about was T. Wells Post, who died during the Civil War. His father Bissell lived up the road from the cemetery, and placed an obelisk over his son’s grave that faces the house, rather than west like the other stones.

Through his research, Donnelly came to learn much more about his quiet neighbors.

“I made family trees of every family on the WPA list and a few others I tripped over,” Donnelly said. “I know, generally, what they did for a living. I know generally where they

lived and where they came from in England.”

And as far as the importance of these stories, Donnelly said they’d provide Andover and the state “with an awful lot of heritage and tradition as far as what made this town.”

He furthered, “These were real-life people. They had businesses, built homes and had families here. And a lot of them had real interesting stories.”

Donnelly continued, “Supposing people in town knew all that I knew about who they were, what they did and what they contributed to the society at that time and what made this town – just look at the heritage!”

Donnelly mentioned other towns in the area – such as Coventry, Wethersfield and East Hampton – have benefitted from embracing their town’s history, and said Andover could as well. He explained all he learned should be considered a research project, with the results in the “relatively early stages.”

He also said the information should be used for “the building of community interest,” although he admitted it “may be an uphill challenge in a cemetery neglected and obscured for so long.”

“It can be frustrating stirring up interest and support,” he said, even “from some I thought would be as thrilled as I am about my work.”

Even so, Donnelly reiterated the potential benefits for the town.

“The stories and heritage represented in this cemetery can enrich our identity as a town.” He concluded, “I’d like to bring the cemetery alive, because these people will tell us what they gave us and what we can tell the world about Andover.”

In short, Donnelly is hoping his neighbors won’t remain as silent as they have been, but will instead, with his help, continue to share some of their stories from the grave – and that more people will listen.

\$23.09 Million Budget Sent to Marlborough Public Hearing

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

After making nearly \$100,000 in reductions, the Board of Finance voted 5-1 last Thursday, April 9, to send a \$23.09 million budget to public hearing later this month.

The slimmed-down spending proposal still reflects a 3.86 percent increase over current year spending, and features a 1.49 mill rate increase, which would translate to a 4.75 percent tax increase. (One mill is equal to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property and under the proposed mill rate of 32.94, a resident with a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$8,235 in taxes.)

Ken Hjulstrom was the lone finance board member to vote against the budget.

The cuts made at the meeting were \$87,000 from the local Board of Education budget, bringing it to \$7.40 million, a \$125,000, or 1.71 percent, increase over the current year; and \$11,000 to general government spending, bringing it to \$4.69 million, a \$76,000, or 1.65 percent, increase over the current year.

However, it was the RHAM Board of Education budget – which the finance board has no direct control over – that cast a pall over the entire meeting. Of the \$27.84 million budget, Marlborough is responsible for \$8.25 million – a \$461,000 increase, or 5.92 percent, from the current year. The spike is driven in part by Marlborough's portion of the RHAM levy increasing. (The levy is based on how many students from each town attend the two schools; for the 2015-16 fiscal year, Marlborough will be responsible for 29.65 percent of the RHAM budget, up from 29.03 percent in the current year.)

At the Board of Finance meeting, a motion to support the RHAM budget failed, by a 1-5 vote. Board chair Evelyn Godbout was the only member to support the budget.

The town's assistant treasurer Hayley Wagner informed the finance board at the start of last week's meeting that, with the RHAM increase, the board was looking at a 5.34 percent tax in-

crease in the budget. That number seemed unacceptable to finance board members – and the cutting scissors came out.

The first thing the board tackled was the local Board of Education budget. Hjulstrom first motioned to lower the increase of the local board's budget by \$50,000. However, board vice chair Cliff Denniss objected, and said he wanted \$100,000.

"You have to just look at the Board of Education, not the other issues," Hjulstrom said, referring to the large RHAM increase as another issue.

The motion to lower the increase by \$50,000 failed 2-3-1, with Denniss, Godbout and Midge Denno against and Erik Young abstaining.

"This [overall town] budget is RHAM-driven, when we should look at everything by itself," Denniss said.

"Some of the things in the local Board of Education [budget] are not as needy as RHAM," Godbout said.

Godbout formally made a motion to cut the school budget by the \$100,000 figure Denniss suggested – but finance board member Doug Knowlton balked at that amount.

"I'm having a problem trimming local needs, even when the regional needs are so great," he said.

Hjulstrom reminded the board that the RHAM levy is up, and predictions show it will continue to increase, so RHAM's capital needs each year "are a harder hit."

After Godbout's motion failed, also 2-3-1, Knowlton then introduced something of a compromise, motioning to lower the increase by \$72,000.

However, that too was met by division, with Denniss noting he initially wanted a \$150,000 trim from the school board budget, and that \$100,000 was his compromise.

After that motion failed 3-3, and with it becoming clear things were going nowhere, the

finance board set aside the Board of Education budget momentarily and addressed the general government budget. After ultimately trimming \$11,000 from that spending plan, the board seemed to feel better about a number to cut from the school budget, ultimately agreeing on \$87,000.

During public comment at the end of the meeting, Board of Education Chairwoman Ruth Kelly – stressing she was speaking as an individual – recognized the finance board was in a difficult situation.

"You're in a no-win situation," Kelly said. She said the RHAM budget will continue to come in higher each year than the year before, and the local Board of Education can't remain frozen as a result. "We cannot sustain here."

Kelly continued, "When [RHAM Superintendent of Schools] Bob Siminski presented his budget, he was open that the budget included all of the wants. That's not the case of what we presented. There were no wants, only needs."

The local Board of Education will be meeting April 23 at 7 p.m. at MES to discuss where the \$87,000 of decrease will come from.

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As for the \$11,000 cut from the general government budget, the reductions came in the form of: \$3,000 from the library grant budget; reducing gas and diesel by \$2,000 for Public Works to reflect an employee no longer taking their vehicle home to New Britain; a \$5,000 reduction in town counsel and legal fees; and a decrease of \$1,000 for office supplies across town hall.

However, the \$11,000 amount could have been much higher. After Wagner told the board a \$136,000 decrease to the overall town budget would be needed to get the tax increase to 4.5 percent, Hjulstrom made a motion to cut one of the town's two resident troopers, which would save approximately \$100,000.

However, Knowlton was less than thrilled

with the idea.

"My feeling is that we should not cut a resident trooper," Knowlton said. "Hold that back as a sort of ace in a hole if we really have to trim back [if the budget fails]."

Hjulstrom said he would also prefer not to cut, but it may not be possible.

"I'm not convinced it would make a significant difference in public safety, but it does in the dollars," Hjulstrom said.

But First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski, seated in the audience, interrupted to comment how she didn't believe the Board of Finance could make that kind of decision at all.

"How we determine public safety in this town is not under your jurisdiction," Gaudinski said. "It is the Board of Selectmen. If you do, I feel you would be overstepping your bounds."

The motion went to vote and failed 0-5-1, with Hjulstrom abstaining.

After the motion failed, the board went back and made the \$11,000 of smaller cuts from the town budget.

Hjulstrom also attempted to lower the increase to Gaudinski's administrative assistant to half of the 13.3 percent proposed, but no other member of the board seconded the motion.

* * *

During public comment, selectman Dick Shea, stressing that he was speaking as an individual, applauded the moves made by the finance board.

"Thank you for not cutting the trooper yet," Shea said, adding that with the reductions made at the meeting, "You gave us a fighting chance [to get the budget passed]. I know it's difficult to make the public aware of the RHAM situation."

* * *

The public hearing on the budget will be held Monday, April 27, at 7 p.m., in the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria.

Mulligan Hits the Ground Running

by Geeta Schrayter

State Rep. Gayle Mulligan has only been a member of the General Assembly since January, but she's already delved into the process, and is hoping for positive change in the state as things progress.

Recently, Mulligan, who lives in Hebron and was chairwoman of the town's Board of Selectmen before she was elected in November, took a seat at Something Simple Café in town to talk about her start as state rep.

A Republican representing the 55th District, covering Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Bolton, Mulligan shared some of the issues she considers important and talked about a few of the bills she jumped right in and proposed.

"When I got elected I didn't really know the process," she admitted. "Obviously you get bits and pieces of what you can do; I learned you can put in your own bills [as many as you want] and I was like 'Oh, that's cool!'"

Mulligan said there are a number of major issues facing the state that continue to be her main priority – such as funding for education and youth services and support for small businesses – but she explained when it came to proposing bills, she decided to focus mostly on how the government is run and its inefficiencies.

"I kind of stayed away from the basics that were really big that were going to get the attention they needed anyway," she explained. "Our biggest issue is we spend way too much money and we don't bring in enough revenue, and how do you make that balance?"

Mulligan added, "So when I was thinking about this, I was like, well, maybe I'll go toward some of the issues that may address this more: looking at how you're running things and doing a better job at it; getting rid of fraud [and] looking at the welfare system.

And to that regard, Mulligan proposed a bill that prohibits felons from managing state assistance funds – "If you're a felon, you shouldn't

be managing money," she figured – as well as a bill to prohibit individuals from using their EBT cards outside the United States "to prevent somebody who lives here from filtering money to their family," along with one that addresses fraudulent claims and people who abandon residency.

The latter, she said, is to prevent people who leave the state from continuing to receive Connecticut benefits. Mulligan said she wanted to make sure there was "oversight," adding, "you want to make sure the money is going to the people in need in Connecticut."

In addition, she said "what we need to do is find better ways to get people out of the situation they're in – to get them working, get them help so they become a more vital part of the community and work for their money."

Mulligan was also interested in focusing on veterans in the state. While she said in some ways the state is doing a good job caring for them, more could be done.

"We need to make sure these guys are taken care of," she said, and proposed bills to address that including one to expand mental health services for them, and one to help with affordable housing.

Mulligan added "the taxes and money part are difficult" when it comes to instituting new programs, but there are already some resources and programs in place and "we just need to make sure we do a really good job with them."

Other bills Mulligan proposed include one to expand Learn Here, Live Here, a financial incentive program designed to encourage young adults to stay in the state.

"People are leaving," she said. "My kids aren't coming back, and that's sad."

Mulligan shared she also put forward a number of bills addressing business creation in Connecticut, including one to study and streamline the process as well as an act to repeal the business entity tax.

"You have to pay a tax just to have a business," she stated. "How is that encouraging small businesses?"

Mulligan added after she put forth a bill to repeal that tax, she discovered there were a number of other people who put forth the same or similar bills, "so I think the governor is looking to repeal that, which would be good."

Another bill Mulligan put forth was an act to explore the prevailing wage law, which requires projects over a certain amount to go to bid, with the contractors being paid no less than the prevailing rate determined by the state, which can hurt small towns and businesses.

"A lot of the construction projects for our small towns are hurt by that because they can't afford it; you can find local businesses and workers who will come in much lower than that" rate she said. "But the minimum thresholds are low so a lot of the projects get thrown into that [requirement]."

She said she'd like to see that threshold increase so projects "can move forward without that mandate on them, and can use local businesses and hopefully save some money."

Mulligan also wanted to see the threshold for approving new or expanded unfunded mandates increase from a simple majority to two-thirds majority.

Regarding her list of proposed bills, Mulligan said "pretty much every single one of them either as my bill or someone else's with a similar concept have all been to public hearing. So I'm kind of on target I think with issues that are important to be addressed."

Overall, Mulligan said her start as state representative has been a learning experience and she was looking forward to what lies ahead.

"I definitely have a lot of ideas for next year," she stated. "There is a lot going on and it's exciting. And there are a lot of things that aren't done well [in the state] but there are a lot of



Gayle Mulligan

things that *are* done well and provide a lot of services. It's a great state and we have the ability to make a difference and make it better and I think we have a great group of people that are respectful of each other."

She added, "I'm thrilled to be part of it and I think there's some really good decisions I hope will come forth this session."

Mulligan concluded, "I think people are realizing that we're in a bad situation, and things need to get better for everybody, and if you put the politics aside and your personal agendas and power trips and all that and you kind of focus on what's important it can come about. I'm hopeful."

East Hampton Ordinance Tossed, Building Committee Members Appointed

by John Tyczkowski

The Town Council Tuesday voted to repeal a mass gathering ordinance that had been on the town books since 1985, but rarely enforced.

The ordinance was designed to allow the fire marshal to conduct inspections of indoor and outdoor events five days in advance, and levy fines if needed.

Such inspections would not apply to private, church and fraternal organization gatherings, indoor or outdoor. They would, however, apply to events including but not limited to indoor and outdoor school, college and commercial establishment events.

In a public hearing before the council meeting, several business owners disputed what they called the ordinance's vague wording, its focus on commercial establishments and its potential to relegate the regulation of commercial establishments' safety to the fire marshal alone.

However, those who spoke during the public hearing also agreed the ordinance's purpose to secure public safety was sound.

In a meeting consisting of five councilors, with chair Barbara Moore and councilor Mark Philhower absent, the Town Council voted unanimously to repeal the ordinance and direct

the fire marshal to put a new one in its place.

"It's a necessary thing to have because it allows the fire marshal to impose action when necessary," councilor Philip Visintainer said. "However, the magnitude of this thing is overbearing."

Visintainer had served with the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department for over 50 years, including 22 years as fire marshal and 20 years as fire chief.

However, Visintainer said as a condition of the repeal of this ordinance that the fire marshal introduce a new ordinance addressing the same public safety purpose as the old one.

Councilor Ted Hintz Jr. agreed.

"[The ordinance] appears to be far-reaching, and if there is an issue with communication between the fire marshal and local businesses, that needs to be addressed," he said. "But I don't think throwing a net over everyone who is in compliance is the right approach."

"I think it is time to remove this from the books and replace this with something that does what it was intended to do," he said.

Councilor Patience Anderson said she was

"anxious to see [the ordinance] eliminated and replaced with something workable."

Also Tuesday, councilors also unanimously approved seven candidates to serve on the town's Police Building Committee.

Pete Brown, Tom Burdick, Adam Dawidowicz, Clifford Libby, Ralph Nesci, John Roche and Bill Weir will serve on the committee.

The council interviewed nine candidates for the committee over the past two weeks.

The committee is tasked with working with the police chief and the town, as well as an architect, to evaluate and recommend options for a new police station.

Currently, the department occupies a 2,800 square foot space underneath the town hall, with its police cruisers located off-site on Route 66 near Marlborough.

At a town-wide facilities meeting in January, East Hampton Police Chief Sean Cox said the current facility is inadequate for the town's policing needs, and is in fact a liability to the town.

Options for the police department include moving into Center School alongside town offices, moving into a building located at 195 West High St., moving into the J.C. Barton building on Skinner Street, or moving town offices and remodeling the entire town hall into a police station.

In addition to the seven appointed members, the police chief and town manager will serve as ex officio committee members, and the finance director and a representative of the police union will also be on the committee.

The council did not set a date for the committee's first meeting.

In addition, the council formally set the town's public meeting on the budget for Monday, April 27, at 7 p.m., in the Town Hall meeting room. Red McKinney, known in town as the face of the annual Old Home Days events, was selected as moderator for the meeting.

The Town Council's next meeting is Tuesday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m., in the Town Hall meeting room.

Portland Selectmen Pass Water and Sewer Rate Changes

by John Tyczkowski

Although not without some reservations, members of the Board of Selectmen Wednesday officially passed the water and sewer rate changes they had first adopted last month.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and selectmen Fred Knous, Ryan Curley and Carl Chudzik voted unanimously for the changes. (Deputy First Selectwoman Kathy Richards and selectmen Brian Flood and Howard Rosenbaum were absent from the meeting.)

The selectmen voted in March to phase in the water and sewer rate changes over the next two years. Selectman Fred Knous was the lead proponent of that system, and selectmen adopted those changes along party lines in a 4-2 vote.

Currently, town water and sewer operations combined run a deficit of over \$600,000. On average, the town adds \$3,000 to that deficit

every week, though actual weekly amounts may be lower, Bransfield said at that meeting.

Under Knous' plan, water rates would be raised to \$4.25 in July, followed by the final increase to \$4.62 next April. Sewer rates would be raised to \$5.52 in January 2016, and the final increase to \$6.08 would follow in April 2016.

Selectmen Ryan Curley and Carl Chudzik had opposed the phasing at the March meeting on the grounds that it did not address the deficit and instead allowed it to grow. Curley specifically said that was in contradiction to board's job to balance the budget as specified in the town charter.

Curley echoed that same sentiment Wednesday night when voting to implement the phasing plan.

"I'm going to vote for this [water and sewer] budget tonight because I feel like the board has to, but I don't necessarily agree with it," he said. "We need to follow the town charter, and tackling the deficit is something I hope the board will address this year."

Bransfield said that monthly reports from the finance department would provide the required data on how the plan would be working, and Chudzik agreed that after the first year of the new rates, the board could revisit the plan and "tweak it one way or the other" to address the deficit.

At a previous meeting in March, the board had discussed stepping up the town's collections efforts on delinquent accounts as a way to help reduce the deficit, but had been unable to come up with a concrete method of

doing so.

The board's sidewalk subcommittee will hold a walk-along of several streets in the center of town in order to inspect sidewalks that need repair.

The walk will start at noon on Saturday, April 18 at the Brownstone Intermediate School, and the public is encouraged to attend, selectmen said.

The inspection of sidewalks on streets along walking routes to the town's schools will be the focus of the walk, with the goal of creating a priority list for sidewalk repair or replacement.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will take place Wednesday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Flood Room of Portland Library.

Colchester Orchestra Makes It in the Movies

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The independent film *Boychoir* is currently in very limited release, but if it ever makes its way to an area theater, it's a safe bet members of the Colchester Civic Orchestra will be the first in line for tickets.

And for good reason: they're in it.

Starring Dustin Hoffman, Kathy Bates, Josh Lucas, Kevin McHale, Debra Winger and Garrett Wareing, *Boychoir* is about a boy from the wrong side of the tracks who ends up at the American Boychoir School, a prestigious music school for boys in grades four through eight.

CCO member Lisa Peeling said her group's scene was filmed at Yale University's Woolsey Hall – which, in the movie, is where the boy gets his big break.

Boychoir is not the first time the CCO has been involved in a movie though.

Happenstance Production, a small Connecticut production company, had contacted the CCO for a short film (only three minutes) called *M is for Maestro*. The short was entered into "ABCs of Death," a horror movie contest. The short was about a conductor of an orchestra who loses his mind. Peeling said not a whole lot of orchestra groups thought it would be fun to do the film – but CCO saw the appeal in it.

And it was fortuitous for the orchestra members that they did. One of the men who worked on the short, Alexander Harris, was the background and extras coordinator for *Boychoir* – and contacted the CCO again.

"It was a whole different experience," Peeling said of filming *Boychoir*. "Everything was a little bit intimidating at first, but it was fun. We were like stars that day."

In total, 25 members of the CCO (as well as some people recruited from other groups, due to the relatively last-minute notice for the extras), drove down to New Haven in March 2014 to film at Woolsey Hall. The group included people playing violins, violas, cellos, string bass, trumpets, bassoon, oboe and timpani.

"None of us would be on the stage at Woolsey Hall in our lives," Peeling said. "It was an amazing experience."

Peeling, who also did an additional scene in New York City on her own, said everyone was treated like you're part of the movie and do what everyone else does including a fancy lunch and snacks.

Peeling said one of the orchestra's favorite things was meeting the director, Francois Girard.

"He's really well-known in the world of movies about classical music," Peeling said. "For a lot of us to meet him is kind of like a dream come true. That was just something some people said was the cultural highlight of their lives."

Filming was hard work, Peeling said.

"It's a long day though," Peeling said. "We started out at 7 a.m. and were filming around 9 a.m."

Peeling said it took two hours for everyone to get organized and go through makeup and hair.

"The number of extras in the scene alone would blow your mind," Peeling said. "We were on stage for a good six hours."

Those six hours included a variety of angles and shots, however the CCO wasn't actually really playing their music and that was one of the challenges.

"We were miming the music, sort of like lip syncing," Peeling said. "The track was in the background and we were playing along as quietly as we could."

Peeling said this looked like the instrumentalists were playing, but they weren't recording sound.

"It's a challenge, especially for string players," Peeling explained. "When a bow hits string, you're making sound. They wanted us to be as quiet as possible. You have to hold the bow a lot lighter than you would, which would



Members of the Colchester Civic Orchestra headed down to Yale University last year to film a scene for the Dustin Hoffman movie *Boychoir*.

make you look not as natural."

However, Peeling said when she went to see the movie at a theater in New York City at the beginning of April, it did look like the orchestra was really playing.

"I was very nervous, for some reason," Peeling said about seeing the movie. "I wondered what angle they picked, how did they edit it all together, is it going to be a long scene, did it turn out how we thought it would?"

Peeling said she "can't imagine" being an actual actor and wondering what the producers will use in the movie.

Of the movie itself, Peeling said currently it's only playing in two locations – a theater in

New York City and one in Los Angeles.

Peeling said the orchestra hopes they can get the movie to come to a theater in Connecticut so more people can see it.

"We were encouraged by the American Boychoir [School] to contact the local independent theaters and have them contact the distributor," Peeling said. "Even that's a long shot."

Peeling added, though, the movie will eventually come out on DVD and Netflix.

"It's just a beautiful film," Peeling said. "The boys' voices are amazing. The soundtrack is the actual boy choir in New Jersey the movie is based on. It's unbelievable these kids could make such beautiful music."

Colchester Resident Walks in Parkinson's Fundraiser

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

In the home of Doreen Erasmus in Colchester, Beatles music fills the walls and warmth blankets the house. Upon meeting Erasmus, the only visible sign of her Parkinson's disease is that she moves a bit slower than most – but she doesn't let it get her down.

In 2008, Erasmus was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a slowly-progressive neurological condition that affects over one million people in the United States, according to the American Parkinson's Disease Association. Approximately 60,000 people are newly diagnosed each year.

Some symptoms of Parkinson's are motor problems such as slowness of movement, rigidity and tremor. According to the APDA, balance and gait problems may occur along with a decrease in facial expression, low voice volume, small handwriting and difficulty with fine motor movements, however the symptoms are highly variable from person to person. There is currently no cure, and the exact cause of Parkinson's is unknown.

"At the first diagnosis, I thought the doctor was wrong," said the 58-year-old. "Parkinson's is affiliated with someone old, in a wheelchair, shaking."

All Erasmus knew about Parkinson's was the actor Michael J. Fox, who suffers from the disease.

Erasmus got a second opinion that confirmed she had Parkinson's.

"The symptoms were vague," Erasmus said. "I had a little stiffness, feeling awkward and less dexterity in my left hand."

At the time, her doctor told her to take some pills and come back; however, that only threw Erasmus in a state of denial about the disease.

"I joined a couple of chat rooms on the Internet and Googled it. It was scary," Erasmus said. "I put it in the back of my mind that I had it."

In 2009, Erasmus' family brought her to the Unity Walk in New York City, known as the

second-largest grassroots effort to raise money for research and raise awareness for Parkinson's disease.

"I didn't want to go," Erasmus said. She said she had been worried it would be even more depressing. "It changed everything for me."

Erasmus said being surrounded by the cheer and support the Unity Walk brought helped inform and cheer her up.

"I picked up so much information from the booths," Erasmus said. One of the booths she visited was 'Ask the Doctor,' where Erasmus learned she needed a movement disorder specialist, something her other doctors never mentioned.

"There was a number for the Parkinson's help-line. Since when did we have a helpline?" Erasmus said with a smile, thinking back to that first experience at the walk.

She calls the walk her "lifesaver."

With her husband Dave and two daughters Jenny and Julie, Erasmus raised \$600 the first year of the walk then \$1,000 the next. The team grew until they needed a name which, because of Erasmus' love for the Beatles, became Deen's Day Trippers. Last year the team raised \$14,000, and Erasmus is hoping they get a record-breaking \$20,000 this year.

One thing about Erasmus is that she never lets Parkinson's define who she is.

"I don't want people to feel sorry for me," Erasmus said. "I feel fine. I do everything, just slower. I still have a really good life."

She said there's much more to Parkinson's than people realize.

"I rarely have a tremor," Erasmus said. "I don't want [the disease] to be who I am. I don't let it take over."

One of the ways Erasmus is staying positive is in her humor.

"My daughter [Julie] is getting married and there's no doubt in my mind that I'll be walking down the aisle," Erasmus said. "I'll dance. I may look ridiculous, but I'll dance."

She added, "There's so many blessings in my life and so much to be thankful for. I'm not



Julie, Doreen, Dave and Jenny Erasmus (pictured from left) will walk again this year in support of Doreen, to help raise awareness and funds for research for Parkinson's disease in the annual Unity Walk in New York City.

in pain; I'm just a little bit slow."

During fundraisers and the Unity Walk, Erasmus finds herself talking especially to people who are newly diagnosed and in the position she was back in 2008.

"One man in particular said, 'Isn't it horrible?'" Erasmus said. "It's not the worst thing."

She said she's looking forward to some of the research going on currently.

"A vaccine may be out in two years to stop the progression," Erasmus said. "One hundred percent of the money raised by the Unity Walk goes to research."

She said everyone progresses differently so the prospect of something to stop the progression is important.

"Parkinson's has definitely impacted my life, but a lot of good has come out of it," Erasmus

said. "I tell people, 'You can get through this.' There's new drugs and possibly a cure."

Erasmus said she uses her humor to lighten the mood and also give people hope about having Parkinson's.

"I use humor when I probably shouldn't," Erasmus said. "I have it, it's not going away."

Erasmus said she's been fortunate that she hasn't progressed too much.

And right now Erasmus is looking forward to the April 25 Unity Walk. To help raise funds for research, Erasmus is hosting a fundraiser at Sweet Frog on Saturday, April 18, from 2-5 p.m. at 139 South Main St. in Colchester.

People can also donate online at the Deen's Day Trippers team page at unitywalk.kintera.org/2015/DeensDayTrippers.

Portland Business Starts Online Fundraising Campaign

by John Tyczkowski

Brenda Mierzejewski figured that even after her lip balm, Lip Luxe, was featured in Oscar gift bags earlier this year, her market share would stay small and manageable.

But in fact, that exact opposite has happened, she said, and her side business has grown into a much larger enterprise.

"Everything has gone really well since the Oscars; we boosted our sales and got a lot of new retailers which is great," Mierzejewski said. "But it's also all gone so fast since then. We were not expecting this at all."

She said that since her products were featured for celebrities at the Oscars two months ago, she's been receiving many orders from people all over the country, as well as from stores who want to carry her products.

For example, her products are now featured in 15 stores in Connecticut, as well as in a store in New Jersey, a store in Florida and at the Hotel Viking in Newport, R.I.

As part of the expansion of her line to include products other than Lip Luxe, she said she renamed her brand Mizzi Cosmetics, after her mother's maiden name.

"We wanted to keep it in the family, plus it's pretty catchy," she said.

Now, Mierzejewski said, the next challenge is securing an actual building to start large-scale production of her products, something she hadn't counted on initially.

"We weren't even thinking of getting a business loan, we weren't even going to get big," she said. "But this whole Oscar thing really put things in a different light for us."

In addition, she said the physical expansion of operations is driven not only by demand, but also by a desire to increase her range of product offerings.

"We want things to go organic, for example, and we have a lot of other ideas in the pipeline," she said. "The one thing they have in common is that I can't really do any of them in my

living room."

Now, Mierzejewski has launched a campaign on IndieGoGo, a website where business and other groups can propose an idea, in the hopes that visitors to the site will contribute money, in a process known as crowdfunding.

"It's basically like a fundraiser for your company," she said. "And then you cross your fingers and hope people believe in it."

The fundraiser launched April 7 and, as of press time, Mizzi Cosmetics had raised \$220 out of its \$25,000 goal. The campaign will close Thursday, May 7.

She said she had considered crowdfunding via GoFundMe as well, but ultimately decided on the other website.

"[GoFundMe] isn't usually someone raising money for a business," she said. "It's usually used when a family member is ill, a house burned down, something like that."

"Everything happened so fast here – we weren't expecting this at all – so I had to do a lot of research very quickly about how to fund this," she said.

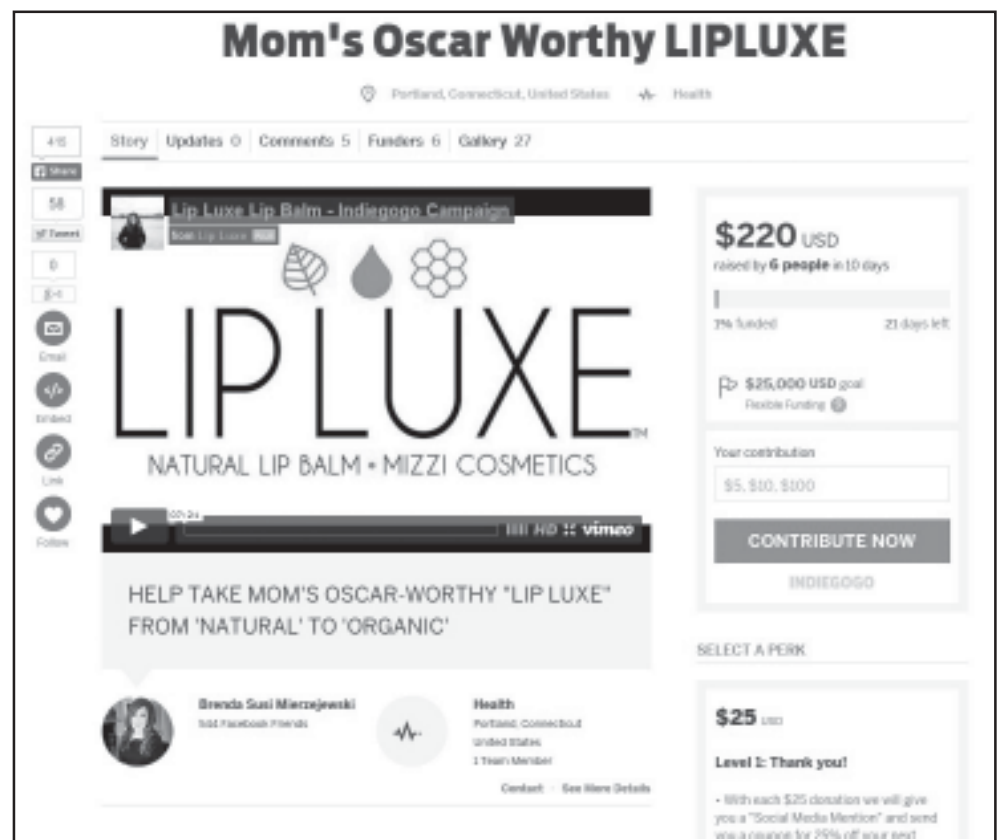
Mierzejewski said, however, that despite her expansion plans, she wants to keep her business in Portland. To that end, she said, she's already found a spot in town.

"People have been very kind – over at Promold Plastics, they have space they're willing to sublet," she said. "Our goal is to move into there."

Mierzejewski said once she's able to secure a production space, she'd like to start creating jobs in town as well.

"How great would it be to hire some stay-at-home moms who are looking for something to do and still be able to pick up their kids when school's over," she said. "When I was looking for a job I couldn't find anyone looking to hire me for the hours I was available. I'd like to help other moms in that same situation."

However, Mierzejewski said there's another, more personal reason why she's looking for



Resident Brenda Mierzejewski has launched an online fundraising campaign to help grow her budding business – and secure local factory space for the operation.

ward to expanding her business.

Her four-year-old son, Brady, needed open-heart surgery to correct a congenital heart defect as well as the secondary heart problem it caused. The Mierzejewskis turned to the Cromwell chapter of the national non-profit Little Hearts for support and resources throughout that time.

Currently, Mierzejewski said, a portion of the proceeds from Lip Luxe sales goes to the

organization. But she said she wants to do more.

"Quite simply, the more money we make, the more money we can get out to them," she said. "They were incredibly helpful and I wanted to do something big for them."

Visit www.indiegogo.com/projects/mom-s-oscar-worthy-lipluxe for more information on Mizzi Cosmetics' crowdfunding campaign.

Obituaries

Amston

Daniel Savage Jr.

Daniel Savage Jr., 81 of Amston, died Thursday, April 2, surrounded by his family at Middlesex Hospital. He was born May 24, 1933 in Middletown, son of the late Daniel and Rose Savage.

Dan was a resident of Amston since 1983. Prior to that, he lived in Middletown where he and his wife Marie owned and operated City Ambulance Service. In 1977, they moved to West Palm Beach, Fla., where he worked as an electrician's apprentice and also at Electrolux Vacuum repair. After moving back to Connecticut, he worked in the laborers union until he retired.

Dan had a love for life. He owned five-plus acres on Amston Lake and always walked the property looking for arrow heads he believed were left by Native Americans that once resided on his property. He also loved collecting old coins and watching his favorite sports and had a love for movie comedies. Dan had a great sense of humor and was always quick with a joke – always trying to make someone crack a smile. He will be missed dearly but never forgotten.

Dan was predeceased by his wife Marie S. Savage and a daughter, Rose Marie Roberts. He is survived by his daughter Dawn S. Carriera and husband Peter of East Hampton; two sons, Daniel Savage III of East Hartford, and Eric Allen Savage of Marlborough; five grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



East Hampton

Willard Henry Kemp

Willard Henry "Bill" Kemp, 91, passed away peacefully Monday, April 6, at the home of his son, Thomas Kemp of East Hampton. He was born Nov. 10, 1923, in Stamford, and was the son of Willard Henry and Adelaide Mildred (Wright) Kemp. He had attended Springdale, Burdick and Stamford High School (1939).

He was proud of his heritage and had traced the family back to his 3rd great-grandparents, James and Anne (Lang) Kemp of Corradownan, County Cavan, Ireland. The family has lived in Stamford since his great-grandparents William and Frances (Stark) Kemp emigrated here from Ireland in 1853. Five of his ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War: Robert Wright; Shubael Cunningham; Sylvanus Brundage; William Ward and Joseph Appleby. They were all from Westchester County, N.Y.

He met Eleanor Huse while they were attending the University of New Hampshire. They were married in 1945. He received his B.S. in 1947 and lettered in football, hockey and lacrosse. He was a member of Kappa Sigma. He also attended the University of Bridgeport – M.S., 1952 and Fairfield University – Certificate of Advanced Study, 1959. They had been married for 68 years when she died April 7, 2013.

During World War II, he was a 1st Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. On Dec. 7, 1944, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt awarded him the Distinguished Flying Cross for "heroism ... extraordinary achievement ... in the face of enemy fire" ... "Against heavy opposition from both aggressive and persistent fighter aircraft and intense, heavy and accurate enemy anti-aircraft fire, with their planes frequently seriously damaged by enemy fire, he and his comrades have battled their way through to their targets, defeating the enemy in the air and destroying his vital installations on the ground. Through severe and adverse weather conditions, over treacherous mountain terrain..."

He had flown 50 missions in the European Theater of Operations and was awarded the Air Medal with 3 Bronze Clusters; European Campaign Medal - with two Bronze Stars and one Silver Star; WWII Victory Medal and a Presidential Unit Citation. He served in the 15th Air Force, 450th BG, 723rd Bombardment Squadron.

Bill Kemp taught at Stamford High School from 1948 to 1977 – teaching Advanced Placement Chemistry. He was SHS Head Basketball Coach from 1950-1965. During his 15-year tenure the Black Knights reached the state tournament 11 times. His teams had overall records of 197 victories and 118 losses. His last two seasons the team won the FCIAC Western Division Championships – his 1963-64 team went to the state quarterfinals.

He was an elder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Cromwell.

He is survived by his sons Robert Kemp of Stamford, Peter Kemp of Wesley Chapel, Fla., Thomas (and Vi) Kemp of East Hampton, and Bill (and Luisa) Kemp of Stamford; grandchildren Andrew, Sarah, Chris, Laura, Billy, Kelly and Dennis Kemp; and numerous great-grandchildren. His brother Robert C. Kemp (1926-2004) of Rocky Hill predeceased him. His stepsister Barbara A. Rabb lives in Toledo, Ohio.

He will be buried with his wife at the State Veteran's Cemetery, Middletown.

Colchester

David P. Joseph

David P. Joseph, 59, passed away Tuesday, April 7, at Backus Hospital, after a courageous battle with cancer. David was born in New London Dec. 13, 1955, to the late Richard and Mary (Itts) Joseph.

David was a loving husband, father and good friend; he married Melody Toledo on Sept. 23, 2001. He worked as a project superintendent for Weston and Sampson, he enjoyed deer hunting, fishing and NASCAR.

In addition to his wife, Melody Joseph, David is survived by his son, Tyler Joseph; brothers Terry Joseph, Ronnie Grimes; and his sister Donna Parrish.

A 4 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated today, April 17, at St. Andrew Church in Colchester. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

The Belmont Funeral Home has been entrusted with David's care.



Colchester

Francis Coughlin Jr.

Francis "Terry" Coughlin Jr., 75, of Colchester, went home to Heaven Sunday, April 12. Born Nov. 2, 1939, in Waterbury, he was a son of the late Francis and Sara "Sally" (Leahy) Coughlin Sr.

He attended Waterbury schools and went on to study at Quinnipiac University before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1958. Terry served proudly and was stationed in Naples, Italy, being honorably discharged at the rank of Yeoman 2nd Class in 1963.

While living in Vermont, he had worked as a tour director and later as a desk clerk for the Clarion Inn in Manchester (Conn.) until his retirement. He was a faithful communicant of St. Andrew Church in Colchester and was a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

His passing is mourned by his best friend and companion of 41 years, Robert "Bob" Ladika of Colchester; two brothers, John and wife, Phyllis of Milford and Brian of Waterbury; five nieces and nephews, John, Jr. (and Debbie), Mary Fran Finnell, Patrick, Cortney (and Josh) Bedard, and Terry; two grandnieces and four grandnephews.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Eileen.

The funeral liturgy was celebrated Thursday, April 16, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial with full military honors will follow at the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. The family received guests that morning at the church, prior to Mass.

Donations and/or Masses in his memory may be made to St. Andrew.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

David Frank Godwin

David Frank Godwin, 66, of Tampa, Fla. (formerly of Portland and Middletown) was found Oct. 10, 2014, after being reported missing during a brief visit to Connecticut. Born in Portland Dec. 25, 1947, he was the son of the late Frank Godwin and the late Thelma Edith (Barrett) Bergstrom.

David grew up in Portland and attended local schools, graduating from Portland High School.

He worked for Middlesex Hospital in Middletown; Saint Vincent Hospital in Bridgeport; and he helped out at the Griffin Hospital in Derby before retiring to Tampa, Fla.

David leaves behind his two sons, Jeffrey and wife Rebecca of East Hampton; David and wife, Jennifer of Portland; six grandchildren, Jacob, Danyel, Gabriel, Christopher, Alyssa, and Ryan Godwin; stepmother, Grace Godwin of Portland, CT; aunt, Arlene Perts of Bristol; sister, Judy Caminitie of Thonotosassa, Fla.; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was predeceased by his stepfather, Roy Bergstrom.

Graveside services will be held Friday, April 24, at 10 a.m., at the Middlefield Cemetery, Middlefield.

Doolittle Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. To share memories or send condolences to the Godwin family, visit doolittlefuneral.com.



East Hampton

Richard Harmon McDonough

Richard Harmon McDonough, 75, of East Hampton, devoted husband of Michael Haze, died Monday, April 13, peacefully at home. Born April 4, 1940, in Lowell, Mass. "Dick" was the son of the late Raymond P. and Isabelle L. (Harmon) McDonough.

He was also predeceased by his longtime former spouse, Richard Michaud, and brother, Donald McDonough, and is survived by his brother Jack and his wife Janice McDonough, as well as several nieces and nephews, countless loving friends and his adorable dog Little Boy.

Dick circumnavigated the globe serving his country in the Navy during the Vietnam era before working at Aetna Insurance for 26 years as a computer programmer.

Dick was a sports fanatic, especially enjoying his Red Sox, Patriots and UConn women's basketball. Anyone that met Dick enjoyed his happy-go-lucky playful personality. A celebration of Dick's life by everyone shall commence immediately and last forever.

Private services will be held at the discretion of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Second Congregational Church, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, CT 06456.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Andover

Arthur D. Cashman Jr.

Arthur D. Cashman Jr., 83, of La Vernia, Texas, formerly of Andover, passed away Wednesday, March 25. He was born Jan. 2, 1932, in Plattsburgh, N.Y., to Arthur Sr. and Grace (Mayette) Cashman.

Arthur is survived by his loving and devoted wife of over 55 years, Joan (Wallan) Cashman; son, Arthur Cashman III; daughters, Catherine McGuire and husband, Kevin, Sharon McCarthy and husband, David, Michelle Cummings and husband, James; brothers, Gilbert Cashman and wife, Louise, Alan Cashman and wife, Diane; sisters, Nancy Niedzwiecki and husband, Daniel, Carol Aylward and husband, Thomas, Janet Pichette and husband, Gerald; grandchildren, Ashley, Juliann and Rene Cummings, Lindsay, Tyler and Kyle McGuire, Karl and Anna McCarthy.

Arthur was a veteran of the United States Navy. He was employed for 34 years at Pratt & Whitney as a carpenter in both Rocky Hill and East Hartford locations, retiring in 1996. Throughout his life, many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, friends and pets brought him much joy. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and hikes through the woods with family and friends. He was a handyman, collector and backyard farmer who was quick-witted and always had an amusing story to share with others.

A memorial and celebration of his life will be held at Church of the Assumption Saturday, April 18, at 10 a.m., 29 South Adams St., Manchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave. Floor 17, Chicago, Illinois 60601 or at alz.org, or to the New Century Hospice, 8207 Callaghan Rd., Suite 353, San Antonio, TX 78230 or at newcenturyhospice.com.

You are welcome to sign the online guestbook at finchfuneralchapels.com.



Hebron

Melva Kowaliw

Melva "Mavis" Kowaliw, 89, of Hebron, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 20 at Marlborough Health and Rehab. Better known as "Mavis," she was born Feb. 9, 1925 in Greensboro, Vt., the daughter of the late John and Beatrice (Fuller) Gebbie.

She was married to the late Francis Lunt in June 1943. They moved to Connecticut in 1949. Mavis worked at Mansfield Training School as a food service director until her retirement. She was re-married to Stephen Kowaliw in 1986. Mavis loved to bake and cook everything from breads to cheesecake. Her family looked forward to her "famous rolls" at holiday time. Mavis also enjoyed watching the Boston Red Sox and UConn boys' and girls' basketball.

Beside her parents and husbands, she was predeceased by a son, Paul Lunt, daughter, Corrine Lunt, and brothers Harry and Durwood Gebbie. She is survived by her daughter, Lana Horton and son-in-law, Edward Horton; son Francis Lunt, Jr.; sister Ruth Lucky; sister-in-law, Clemma Gebbie; three granddaughters Carolynn (Horton) Wellman and husband Richard Wellman, Susan (Horton) Costanzo and husband Nicholas Costanzo, and Heidi Lunt; and four great grandchildren, Ricky Wellman, Austin Wellman, Nicholas Costanzo, Jr., and Joel Costanzo.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held graveside at St. Peters Church Cemetery, 30 Church St, Hebron on Saturday, April 25 at 10:30 a.m. Family and friends are invited to St. Peters Hall following the service.

Portland

Patricia Lee Long

Patricia Lee Long, 78, of Cromwell, beloved wife of Harold Edward Long, died Wednesday, April 15, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born Feb. 18, 1937, in Portland, daughter of the late Watson and Mae (Dingwell) Hale.

She grew up with her three siblings, Harriet, Shirley and Andrew (Skip). Pat met the love of her life, Harold, and was married May 28, 1960. She enjoyed many things: knitting, gardening and going out on Saturday nights with close friends, Myrna and Jack Yanovich. She loved country music, dancing and playing cards.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her three children, Edward Long and his wife Nancy, Cynthia Long Granata and her husband Robert and James Long and his wife Kelly. She was blessed with seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The funeral service will be held Monday, April 20, at 10 a.m., at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Burial will be at Rose Hill Memorial Park. Friends may call Sunday, April 19, from 4-6 p.m., at Biega Funeral Home.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to the Cromwell Volunteer Ambulance Association, 82 Court St., Cromwell, CT 06416 or the Cromwell Fire Department, 1 West Street, Cromwell, CT 06416 or Weiss Hospice Unit c/o Dept. of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Haddam Neck

Frederick W. Brooks Jr.

Frederick W. Brooks Jr., 72, of Virginia Beach, Va., passed away Friday, April 3. He began life in Windsor, growing up on Union Street and spending time at the family's summer cottage, the 'Shack,' in Haddam Neck.

As a teenager he worked at the Cozy Corner Restaurant, the Windsor Theater and as a volunteer fireman. In 1960, at the age of 17, he gave up his black leather jacket and slicked ducktail hair for the United States Marines. He spent 14 years in the USMC and 12 years in the Connecticut Army National Guard. He retired as Sergeant First Class in 1986. He was a life member of Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 20 and the 2nd Marine Division Association.

Fred met his sweetheart of 50 years on a small town park pond while ice skating. They married on Sept. 19, 1964, at St Gabriel's Church. He was owner-operator of his own trucking company for 20 years. He lived his life one day at a time. He enjoyed traveling and sampling food at every stop, reading military historical fiction, fishing in the Salmon River, the Gulf of Mexico or the Chesapeake Bay and lying on the beach.

He is preceded in death by his parents Frederick Sr. and Adele G. Haraburda Brooks. He leaves his wife Betsey B. Brooks; son William G. Brooks, daughter and son-in-law Lorie and Jonathan Holter; son and daughter-in-law Jeffrey F. and Jennifer R. Brooks; grandchildren - Joshua, Samantha, Haley Brooks; Daniel and Eleanor Holter; Gina and Zachary Brooks; sisters and brothers-in-law - Elizabeth and Robert Bowen; Beverly and Michael Pietrarroia; and several nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank all those who prayed for, assisted in various ways and uplifted Fred and his family during his three-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in memory of Fred at Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (pancan.org) for further research and to create hope.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 16, at 2 p.m., at St. John's Episcopal Church, 92 Main St. East Windsor.

Marlborough

Robert J. Chervenak

Robert J. Chervenak, 74, of Marlborough, husband for 44 years to Sheila (Mastronicola) Chervenak, died Monday, April 13, at Yale-New Haven Hospital, surrounded by his family. Born March 24, 1941, in Passaic, N.J., son of the late Peter and Helen (Adametz) Chervenak, he lived in Marlborough for the past 42 years.

Prior to his retirement in 1999, he was an electrical engineer at Pratt & Whitney. Bob was a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University. He subscribed to the Hartford and Boston Symphonies and enjoyed spending summers at Tanglewood listening to classical music. He also enjoyed bike riding on the rail trail but most of all he enjoyed being with his family, especially his beloved grandchildren.

Besides his wife he is survived by a son and daughter-in-law Bryan and Kerri Chervenak of Manchester; a daughter and son-in-law Nicole and Chris Ketchen of Walpole, Mass.; a sister, Kathy Chervenak of Ringwood, N.J.; five grandchildren, Kelsey, Abigail, Nathan, Sophia and Bryce; a sister-in-law, Margie Carlock and her husband Brian of Waxhaw, N.C.; two nephews, Christopher and Jason Czura; and a niece, Brea Carlock.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated today, April 17, at 10 a.m., in St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, 285 Church St., Hartford. (Everyone please meet directly at church.) Friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, on Thursday, April 16.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Smilow Closer to Free Fund, P.O. Box 7611, New Haven, CT 06519 www.giveclosetofree.org.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

Portland

Louise Cecchini Logano

Louise Cecchini Logano, 93, most recently of Mooresville, N.C., died peacefully at her home Friday, April 10. She was born in Middletown Jan 17, 1922, the daughter of Cesare and Catherine (Lisi) Cecchini.

Louise grew up in the north end of Middletown where she attended St John's School. Before graduating high school Louise left school to nurse her ailing mother. During World War II, she worked in one of the many factories in Middletown helping to support the war effort.

After the war, she met and won the heart of Salvatore (Butch) Logano, and they were married Oct. 25, 1947 in Middletown. They were married for 62 years and resided in Portland. Salvatore founded, owned and operated S. Logano Waste Removal and Louise was by his side, helping manage the business for many years.

Louise was a communicant at St Mary's Church of Portland and was actively involved with the St Mary's Guild. She also had volunteered at Middlesex Memorial Hospital and at the Newington Children's Hospital. Louise's greatest joy in life was raising her family. She reveled in the accomplishments and achievements of her sons and their families, and of her many nieces and nephews.

Having learned at such a young age to sacrifice and care for others, it was natural for her to love and support all her family and friends. Louise leaves behind a wonderful legacy for her children and grandchildren; son Robert Logano and his wife Karen Paradee Logano of Cape Coral, Fla., and their three children, Matthew of Boston, Mass., and Carissa and Brianna of Fort Myers, Fla., and son, Thomas Logano and his wife Deborah Biduk Logano of Concord, NC; and their children Danielle, of Charlotte, N.C., and Joseph and his wife Brittany of Cornelius, N.C. Louise is also survived by a wonderful extended family and many caring friends. Louise was predeceased by her husband, Salvatore; brothers, Charles Cecchini, Alphonse Cecchini and John Cecchini and sisters Molly Monte and Florence Russo.

The funeral was held Wednesday, April 15, from the Coughlin-Lastrina Funeral Home, 491 High St., Middletown, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Mary's Church, Portland, that afternoon. Burial was in the family plot in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Friends called at the funeral home Tuesday evening, April 14.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Louise's memory be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

Portland

Marcia Rush

Marcia (Toft) Rush, 66, of Portland, beloved wife for 36 years of Thomas P. Rush, died Tuesday, April 7, at Hartford Hospital. Born in Hartford April 21, 1948, she was the daughter of Joyce (Brewer) Toft and the late Robert L. Toft.

She was a graduate of Rocky Hill High School, Class of 1966 and Connecticut College, Class of 1970. Marcia worked in materials management at Pratt & Whitney for 27 years at various locations: East Hartford, North Haven, Southington O.R.O. and Cheshire. She enjoyed sailing, fishing, powerboating and traveling, especially to the Florida Keys, west coast, the Caribbean and Ireland. Despite the illness that affected her, Marcia was the bravest, most optimistic person who loved life and lived it to the fullest. She will be dearly missed by her family and many friends.

In addition to her husband and mother, she is survived by two brothers, Richard L. Toft and wife Dolores of Las Vegas, Nev., and Douglas L. Toft of Rocky Hill; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Joseph and Carmen Rush, Cathy and Gary Borne, Margaret and Edward Inman and Patrick and Maggie Rush, all of New Jersey, and Daniel and Stephanie Rush of Virginia, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be Saturday, June 27, at 11 a.m., at Rocky Hill Congregational Church, 805 Old Main St., Rocky Hill. Burial will follow in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. There are no calling hours.

Donations in Marcia's memory may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 1463 Highland Ave., Cheshire, CT 06410.

Funeral arrangements are by the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, Wethersfield. To share a memory of Marcia with the family, visit desopo.com.

LifeStar Responds to Toddler Fall in Colchester

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

A 3-year-old child was flown by LifeStar to Hartford Hospital Wednesday night around 8 p.m. after a fall, state police said.

The incident occurred on Woodbine Road and an ambulance was dispatched however paramedics determined the child needed ad-

ditional care and LifeStar was called.

State police said there is no criminal aspect of the case and the child's condition is unknown. There was no additional information available by press time Thursday about how the child fell.

East Hampton Police News

4/1: A 16-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, East Hampton Police said.

4/2: Donovan Antalik, 21, of 18 Lakewood Rd., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree criminal mischief, third-degree assault, failure to stop upon request, unreasonable speed and operating an ATV without a valid registration, police said.

4/4: Elias Antonaras, 50, of 8 Barbara Ave., was issued a summons for operating a motor

vehicle with no tail lamps, improper headlamp and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

4/6: Shawn K. Lamarr, 36, of 44 Midwood Farm Rd., was taken into custody pursuant to an active arrest warrant. Lamarr was charged with possession of narcotics, police said.

4/6: Thomas A. Gribbin, 51, of 10 Crescent St., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, police said.

Hebron Police News

4/9: State Police said they are investigating after a home burglary on Burnt Hill Road. Police said various tools were taken between 5 p.m. April 8 and 10 a.m. April 9. Anyone with information should contact Trooper Christopher Pariseau at 860-465-5400.

Marlborough Police News

4/12: State Police said Nicholas Bourque, 28, of 19 River Ridge Rd., Danielson, was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

Colchester Police News

4/8: State Police said Eric Januszewski, 47, of 108 Hagen Rd., Salem, was transported to Backus Hospital with injuries after he struck a telephone pole on Lebanon Avenue.

4/13: State Police said Gilbert Nunez, 21, of 1 Miner St., Providence, R.I., was arrested and charged with DUI, speeding, and possession of less than half an ounce of cannabis.