

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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**Here Comes Peter Cottontail...** On April 4, Harrington Court Genesis Healthcare held its annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children and grandchildren of staff, families of residents, and some kids from Mom's Club Daycare in Salem were in attendance, along with Peter Cottontail (a.k.a. the Easter Bunny). The kids hunted eggs in three groups, ranging from youngest to oldest, met Mr. Cottontail, and enjoyed pizza. It was a bit windy outside, so most of the residents watched the Easter Egg Hunt through the window. Mr. Cottontail stayed a little longer to visit with the residents, and many hugs were had. Here, Evelyn Bronzi, 15 months, meets the friendly rabbit. She wouldn't stop hugging him. Evelyn's great-grand-mother is Harrington Court resident Marie Bohman, 104.

## Lake Pocotopaug Gets New Rain Garden

by John Tyczkowski

As part of the annual Lake Pocotopaug Watershed Cleanup Day last Saturday, volunteers helped with a new measure designed to stop excess nutrients and sediment from infiltrating the lake: the installation of a rain garden.

Director of Public Works Phil Sissick, Town Councilor Patience Anderson and about a dozen other volunteers, including EHHS science teacher and environmental club adviser Roger Abraham and club members, worked to plant the rain garden on a slope at Sears Park near the tennis courts.

The rain garden, Sissick explained, entails creating a catch basin that traps runoff from hard surfaces, such as the tennis courts, and keeps the runoff from flowing directly into the lake. Then, plants are able to absorb the excess nutrients as the water filters through the soil, before the rainwater reaches the lake.

Plants in the rain garden include blueberries, iris and dogwood.

"The idea is that the water will infiltrate into the ground rather than going directly into the lake," he said.

In addition, DPW removed a lot of the excess sand that sat on the parking lot downslope from the tennis courts as another way to reduce the risk of additional sediment flowing into the lake, Sissick said.

"We're looking to have multiple methods of making sure sediment and excess nutrients don't flow into the lake," he stated.

Previously, Sissick explained the town created a rain garden closer to the shore. However, he said it turned into more of a basin due to the lack of sufficient plant numbers and sufficient drainage.

"We're going to work with an Eagle Scout this summer to add in more plants," he said, which would include phosphorous-absorbent cattails and pickerelweed.

Sissick said both rain gardens are part of an overall larger filtration system; the new rain garden near the tennis courts would serve as the first filtration stage for runoff and rainwater. Then, that water would be caught in the older rain garden for a secondary filtering stage.

After that second stage, the water would run through a pipe surrounded by sand designed to become saturated with any remaining large particles from the water. The water would then flow into two detention basins filled with rocks and lined with a geotextile fabric, a specially designed cloth which adds another layer of filtration.

That together would provide a third level of filtering before the water finally enters the lake, Sissick said.

"This has been months in the making, and it's exciting to see it coming together," he said.

Sissick added the town's next rain garden opportunity could be on the small strip of lakefront near the Route 66/196 interchange,

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## Three Running for Andover First Selectman

by Geeta Schrayter

On Monday, Andover residents will get to decide whether they'd like First Selectman Bob Burbank to lead the town for another four years, or want to see Democrat Jeff Maguire or Republican Curt Dowling take over the position.

Burbank, who is running as a petitioning candidate after he didn't receive his party's endorsement, said this week he thinks he should be reelected because of his track record.

"I think I've proven myself over the last eight years," he stated. "We've been able to stabilize our tax rate – and again this year there will be no increase."

In addition, "I've improved the infrastructure of this town primarily using grants," he said, mentioning such improvements as an addition to the Town Hall and adding handicapped access, putting up the Rail Trail Bridge, new roofs on the Town Hall, Library and Firehouse "and many other projects."

Burbank mentioned over a dozen grants he's received for the town, explaining, "I write most of the grants and I have many sources of research for them."

This in itself, he said, was a cost-saving mea-

sure since using a grant writer would cost money.

And if re-elected, Burbank said he'd continue along the same vein.

"I'm going to continue to go out and do my best to keep the taxes low [and] to go out and continue to research grants," he stated.

"When I came into office eight years ago this town just got over being in a million dollar debt from a previous [first] selectman and I was able to straighten that out and get the town running efficiently," Burbank explained. "And I think what I see is the candidates that are running against me, neither of them have even been into my office to see what the first selectman does and that scares me – because if somebody wants to take over the reins of this town they should at least know the procedures and how and what they need to do to run the town efficiently and



Bob Burbank

effectively."

But Maguire said this week, "I believe that I have the best qualifications to sit there and carry out the duties of the first selectman."

Maguire explained he's been a business owner for the last 23 years, is a certified public accountant and feels "that I can assist and handle the financial responsibilities of the office."

If elected, Maguire said the first thing he would do is work to get the accounting package the town currently has in full utilization.

"The town has the Phoenix [accounting] system, which is currently not fully integrated with the various departments," he explained.

In addition, Maguire shared "right now the town doesn't have an asset listing so one of the first things that we'll sit there and do is try to ascertain all of the town's assets and then do an



Jeff Maguire

evaluation of what those assets may mean."

Maguire also said "we have to plan for maintenance and plan for the future needs of the town in a better manner."

And before they head to the polls Monday, Maguire said he wanted residents to know, "number one, that they all need to vote; but number two is that I am fully committed to doing the job of first selectman; I have the energy and the qualifications to do the job well."

He concluded, "I am going to put all the time necessary into the job of first selectman to accomplish it."

As for Republican Candidate Curt Dowling, he said this week he was "very optimistic" about the elections, explaining he was confident he and selectmen candidates Cathy Desrosiers and

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Curt Dowling

### Rain Garden cont. from Front Page

which is in the process of realignment.

Along with work on the rain garden, the cleanup day featured more than 100 volunteers, including involvement by scout troops in town, who came to spruce up the lake area.

Teams of volunteers were deployed to various locations around the lake including spots on Clark Hill Road, Christopher Road, Old Marlborough Road, Schoolhouse Bay, and even down to Cranberry Bog to clean up the watershed area that feeds into the lake.

Joe Carbonell, a member of the Conservation-Lake Commission and of the Friends of the Lake, said the list of locations has not stayed constant over the years.

“It’s actually been growing as we gain more volunteers each April,” he said. “It’s just grown and grown each year, it’s greatly expanded from its original scope as a Conservation-Lake Commission event.”

He added, “It used to just be a handful, but we’ve steadily been gaining people, which is important because the day is a stepping stone to educating people about the lake.”

The Watershed Cleanup Day itself goes back nearly a decade, explained Alan Petell, vice chair of the Conservation-Lake Commission.

Petell became involved in managing the event after the two commissions merged about five years ago.

“Then, in 2012, I decided that if we could involve the Friends of the Lake, we would get more financial backing and would be able to do more for the lake,” he said. “[FoLP] has been great at getting donations which helps fund a lot of the stuff.”

As he spoke, Petell worked with a number of volunteers to sort the various objects pulled out of the lake and recovered from the yards of houses in the watershed, which included scrap metal and even a refrigerator. Belltown Motors also arrived to help dispose of the large amount

of tires with rims that volunteers recovered.

“We’ve found docks, engine blocks, all those tires, not to mention the bags of trash we’ve pulled out,” he said. “It’s a great project and I’d really love to see it happen twice a year. It’s not just good for the lake, it’s also good for the town, and lets people give back.”

Petell also explained why the volunteers disposed of junk in peoples’ yards within the watershed area, using the example of the refrigerator.

“Whatever water or contaminants were in that refrigerator would eventually leech into the ground water, and then find their way into the lake,” he said.

John Moore, chair of the Friends of the Lake, praised Sissick and Parks and Recreation Director Jamie Krajewski for their efforts.

“Between [Sissick] and Jamie, it is so good for the town. They’re forward-thinking and they realize that every little bit helps, and they do it,” he said. “To clean up everything perfect at the lake is around \$3 million, and no one’s going to do that. You’ve got to do it in steps.”

“We’ve taken Phil’s lead; wherever he thinks we’ll get the biggest bang for our buck, we go for it,” he said.

In addition, Moore said this year continues expanding the scope of what the cleanup day entails.

“Originally it was just picking up garbage at the lake. Then it turned into, ‘We’ll come to you to pick up stuff if you can’t get it down here to us,’ and now we’re planting a rain garden,” he said. “That expansion is a good trend.”

Carbonell also said he was pleased with how the cleanup day grows each year, especially with more residents’ involvement.

“It’s all about helping the lake and the community,” Carbonell said. “Let’s make this is a banner year for both all around.”

### First Selectman cont. from Front Page

Steve Willard, who are running as a team, “got our message out.”

“The town needs a major change in the administration,” he stated, adding, “The town has been standing still for the last eight plus years and we need to move ahead without increasing taxes.”

Dowling, who is currently fire chief in town, said he felt “more than qualified” for the position.

“I’m very proud to have been here all my life. I’m running for first selectman because I care about the town I live in and I really don’t like what’s been going on.”

For Dowling, an important part of the job would be utilizing the skills of every board member, town employee and volunteer.

“How I think a real leader works is to utilize the people behind him,” he said. “He’s only as good as the people that support him and I don’t think the Town Hall staff, that all of them are being use to their fullest.”

Dowling added, “You need to have faith in your employees.”

He concluded, “I think the people that will support me know who I am and what I’m about. I’m not going in on just name recognition alone, I’m going in because I know I can do the job.”

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The Andover municipal elections take place Monday, May 4, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the community room at the Town Hall, 17 School Rd.

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Shocking. Horrifying. And utterly, utterly unnecessary.

Those words best describe how I felt watching the footage Monday night of the terrible rioting that went on in Baltimore. What began as peaceful protests against Baltimore police – in whose custody Freddie Gray, a black man, mysteriously suffered a spinal cord injury and died April 19 – started to turn violent over the weekend and became utterly chaotic Monday, as police officers were attacked, stores were looted and cars and buildings were torched.

The violence and destruction continued, despite none other than Gray’s family asking the perpetrators to stop, and in the end, the statistics were eye-popping: 144 vehicle fires and 15 structures set ablaze. Watching some of the horror on TV Monday night, I felt like I was watching a war zone – not a city not that far from here, a city I visited, and vastly enjoyed, a few years ago for a friend’s bachelor party. I mean, I know Baltimore’s not exactly an idyllic, peaceful place anyway – but this was over the top. Way over the top.

And I ask you this: to what end? What did all of this accomplish? How did the rioters help their cause? Quick answer: They didn’t. As President Obama himself said Tuesday, they were no longer protesting; they were committing crimes.

“When individuals get crowbars and start prying open doors to loot, they’re not protesting. They’re not making a statement. They’re stealing,” Obama said. “When they burn down a building, they’re committing arson. And they’re destroying and undermining businesses and opportunities in their own communities. That robs jobs and opportunity from people in that area.”

Indeed, while at least 20 officers were injured during the riots, you can argue that what the “criminals and thugs who tore up” the city, as Obama called them, hurt themselves the most. Among the torched and destroyed buildings were a CVS and a senior housing facility that was nearing completion. The cars that were destroyed, the businesses that were looted – they belonged to people in the neighborhood. It’s going to take a long time, and will surely cost millions, to rebuild and recover from the black eye the rioters gave the city Monday night.

And again I state: what did it accomplish? There are problems between Baltimore residents and Baltimore police, no doubt. The *Baltimore Sun* reported last fall that, since 2011, the city has shelled out about \$5.7 million as a result of lawsuits claiming officers “brazenly beat up” suspects. And the prob-

lem with police and black suspects, seen in Ferguson and Staten Island and many other places, remains very real and needs to be addressed.

I understand people are frustrated, and they’re angry. But there’s a right way to go about fixing the problem and a wrong way. And torching a city is very much the wrong way.

A curfew was due to be put in place Tuesday night, and I certainly hope Monday night was – by far – the worst of the violence.

Again: What happened Monday was so utterly, utterly unnecessary. And so very sad.

\* \* \*

Next week is a big week in the *River east* towns, as Andover residents head to the polls next Monday for a big municipal election, featuring a three-man race for first selectman, and Hebron, Colchester and East Hampton taxpayers all get to vote on the 2015-16 town budgets. The proposed RHAM budget also heads to referendum next week.

And here’s where I do my annual climbing on the soapbox to encourage people to get out and vote. Your town’s budget directly impacts the services you receive – everything from road maintenance to your child’s schoolbooks. And, of course, it greatly impacts what your tax bill is going to be. Think there’s too much fluff in the budget? Think your taxes are high enough, and don’t want to see them any higher? Or do you think the figures are just right, and you don’t want to see any further trimming? Well, it’s all up to you. I’ve seen a handful of ‘yes’ votes or a handful of ‘no’ votes decide entire budgets. It’s important to let your voice be heard.

Likewise, in Andover, who you elect, or re-elect, next week could greatly shape what you see in town the next four years. Do you like things the way they’ve been going? Do you want a change? Again, it’s all up to you.

Turnout is traditionally quite low in municipal elections and budget referendums. If around a quarter of the town’s registered voters bother to show up at the polls, it’s a good day. And while in many ways that’s a shame – come on, you have *14 hours* to get your butt over to your polling place and fill in some ovals on a sheet – the silver lining is it does mean one or two votes in either direction can have a profound effect on town spending, or what somebody’s going to be doing with his Wednesday nights the next four years. So you don’t think your vote matters? You couldn’t be more wrong.

\* \* \*

See you next week – and don’t forget to vote!

# Camp Ingersoll in Portland Now a YMCA Outdoor Center

by John Tyczkowski

For the first time, Portland residents will be able to enjoy water recreation access in town all summer long.

The 77-acre Camp Ingersoll, located just off of Route 66, has traditionally only been open to those attending camp, and to YMCA members. However, non-YMCA members can now join the Outdoor Center program and enjoy year-round access to the camp, Outdoor Center director and Portland native Ben Silliman said.

“When I was growing up, I spent summers here with the Family Swim program,” he said. “People would come here pretty much every day with their families, it was a membership. As camp grew, it kind of pushed out that program, and it changed to afternoons and then to weekends. Then they stopped it completely around 10 years ago.”

“We have a beautiful camp here and we’ve been really trying to think of ways to get people out here to use it and enjoy it, and that fuels our Outdoor Center program,” he said.”

Silliman started working at the camp 14 years ago as a lifeguard, his first job, and was named the camp’s director in January.

The camp tried last year to revive their summer family program with limited success.

“It didn’t go as well as we anticipated,”

Silliman said. “We’re going about it differently this year; we’ve put up flyers around town, for example, and we’ve started promoting it earlier.”

The Jobs Pond waterfront will be open from May 30 until Aug. 30, Silliman said, and will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Lifeguards will be on duty during those times.

“People can swim, there’s boating, small kayaks, canoes, rowboats, paddleboards, you name it,” he said. “We realize in Portland, there’s not too many opportunities to have access to water and trails like we have here. This is a great opportunity for everyone in town to enjoy the camp.”

Silliman also said the focus on family programs is due to feedback the Middlesex YMCA has heard through surveys, and from the positive reception of the Family Swim and Gym program at the complex in Middletown.

“We’re trying to bring that here to camp in Portland as well,” he said. “We want families to be able to come and experience nature and each other, to have quality family time.”

In addition to the weekend waterfront access, families will have access to the pavilions, basketball courts, ropes course and other activities from sunrise to sunset every weekday. Fami-

lies will also be able to book birthday parties and events at the pavilions there too, Silliman said.

However, families will have restricted access during the summer camp season, from June 22 to August 1, when camp will be open weekdays from 6 p.m. to sunset.

In addition, Silliman said the camp is partnering with the town’s parks and recreation department to develop even more family activities, starting with the Family Fishing Derby next Friday, May 8.

Tracy Seigle just joined the staff at Camp Ingersoll as the assistant youth and camp director in March, and said that she’s excited to be on board for the Outdoor Center program.

“We feel like this is a great way to get people out here who haven’t been able to check it out before,” she said. “We really want them to see all that we have to offer.”

Seigle started with the YMCA at Indian Valley in Ellington and then moved to a position at Camp Yankee Trails in Tolland as a day camp director in 2013.

“I came to Camp Ingersoll for training the summer before I started at day camp, and I was like ‘Woah, this is what camp should be like, this is where I want to be,’” she said. “This camp

has huge potential, and it was wonderful that I finally got to be here.”

So far, she said she and Silliman have seen both Y members and non-Y members sign up for the Outdoor Center, which she sees as an encouraging sign that families are interested in what the camp has to offer.

“It’s really a great family space here. You can come here and play basketball, or go swimming, or boating, or go for a hike, and do a picnic lunch,” she said. “It’s a place you can come and kind of do everything.”

Seigle said she’s excited to be a part of setting up the Outdoor Center, one of “many” new programs she and Silliman have planned for camp this year.

“This year is a year of growth and change for us here at Camp Ingersoll,” she said. “We’re dreaming big and we think everything we’re aiming for is achievable and realistic, and in line with what the community wants and needs.”

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Those interested can sign up for the Outdoor Center by visiting Camp Ingersoll, with the form available online at [midymca.org/images/YCI\\_Outdoor\\_Center.pdf](http://midymca.org/images/YCI_Outdoor_Center.pdf). Discounts are available for those who sign up for the program before May 15.

## Marlborough Board of Education Makes \$87,000 of Reductions

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Following the Board of Finance’s decision to cut the local Board of Education’s proposed 2015-16 budget by \$87,000, the school board met last week to determine just where those reductions should come from.

The finance board voted April 9 to make the cut, bringing the proposed 2015-16 budget to \$7.40 million, still a 1.71 percent increase from the current year’s \$7.27 million budget, but down from the \$7.48 million spending plan the school board had adopted in February and sent to the finance board.

School board members agreed last week to keep the cuts far from the students, with a variety of cuts in technology, staff development and others. The cuts approved by the board included: reducing the supervisor stipend for a custodian by \$7,946; realizing a \$14,798 savings in health insurance; reducing unemployment compensation by \$2,000; reducing staff development by \$4,200; and saving \$6,000 worth of electricity.

Other reductions included eliminating the \$19,000 for duct cleaning; reducing instructional supplies by \$2,000; reducing technology by \$16,856; reducing by a Smart Board by \$5,200; reducing the amount allocated for playground equipment by \$5,000; and reducing the amount for Future Problem Solvers for students going to competition by \$4,000.

Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz explained the reductions to the board.

“Any cuts are furthest from the classrooms,” Sklarz said.

Regarding the custodian supervisor stipend, Sklarz explained that currently a custodian spends 80 percent of his or her time doing normal custodian work and the other 20 percent doing supervisor duties. Sklarz proposed to bring that down to 10 percent of supervisor duties, since Marlborough Elementary School Principal Dan White and Assistant Principal Kim Kelley have been doing more with the custodians.

A revised amount needed for health insurance was only realized Tuesday, April 21, Sklarz said, so that number was corrected. As far as the unemployment compensation, Sklarz said with no layoffs, that amount could go down by \$2,000.

Sklarz said the administrators chose to cut down on staff development and instructional supplies. Also with new energy-efficient outdoor lights, Sklarz said the administrators have set an “ambitious goal” of lowering electricity costs by \$6,000.

An ongoing debate this budget season has been whether ducts at MES needed to be cleaned during the 2015-16 year. Since no one on the board or in school administration could determine if the ducts needed cleaning, Sklarz decided to take that money out of the budget.

As far as technology, Sklarz and Kelley explained the school will implement its technol-

ogy plans in two years rather than one, resulting in purchasing fewer Smart Boards this year and fewer access points for WiFi.

“It’s a proportional decrease,” Kelley said. She later added, “We put some [access points] in mid-year. At this point, the needs are well covered.”

“We’re just moving a bit slower,” board member Betty O’Brien said.

For the playground costs, Sklarz explained he hopes to get some money from a state grant or have the PTO help out.

Board of Education vice chairman Wes Skorski asked if there will be any issues with cutting the funds for the playground even further.

“We will address it with the money still allocated,” Sklarz said. “My biggest concern is the playground for the preschool and kindergarten.”

Sklarz said that while he’s “optimistic” that by using a state grant, the MECCA (Marlborough Elementary Child Care Association) funds and the PTO the school will be able to fix the playground, just with a multi-year process.

Regarding the money set aside for Future Problem Solvers, usually the school offers \$1,000 to each student going to competition. This year, the school budgeted \$6,000 and had three students go, therefore using up \$3,000. In the original proposed 2015-16 budget, Sklarz

said it was budgeted at \$10,000; however, the reduction brings that number back to \$6,000.

Also at the meeting, Skorski asked Sklarz how many kindergarten students are currently registered – since the amount of students is directly related to the amount of classrooms and teachers needed.

Sklarz told Skorski the school has 70 registered kindergarteners, which, he said, has “defied all odds.”

“They’re coming,” board member Louise Concodello said of the students. But Sklarz quickly reminded the board that “one year does not make a trend.”

Overall, board members seemed pleased with Sklarz’s reductions, feeling they had a minimal impact on the students.

“You’ve come up with a great list that doesn’t touch the kids,” board chair Ruth Kelly told Sklarz.

“I believe [White and Kelley] know where to do it,” member Betty O’Brien said. “It’s fine for me.”

And Sklarz noted some of the cuts could wind up being restored anyway, as school administrators are projecting a \$20,000 fund balance at the end of this school year.

“Some of these would go back in,” Sklarz said.

Sklarz’s list of budget reductions passed 7-0, with board member Mimi LaPoint abstaining.

# Marlborough \$23.08 Million Budget Sent to Town Meeting

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

While an attempt was made to cut local Board of Education spending even further, the Board of Finance Monday voted to send the town's proposed 2015-16 budget to town meeting largely as is, following a well-attended public hearing.

After a slight reduction Monday of \$6,000, to reflect a more accurate number for health insurance, the budget proposal sits at \$23.08 million, an increase of \$852,000, or 3.83 percent, over current year spending.

The largest single component of the spending package is \$8.25 million for the Marlborough portion of the RHAM budget, an increase of \$461,000, or 5.92 percent, from the current year. The proposed local Board of Education budget checks in at \$7.40 million, up \$125,000, or 1.71 percent, from the current year, while \$4.68 million is proposed for town operations, up \$70,000, or 1.52 percent, from the current year.

Rounding out the spending package is \$20,000 for contingency, \$213,000 for capital and \$2.52 million for town debt.

The budget also calls for the mill rate to rise from 31.45 to 32.93 mills, which would translate to a 4.72 percent tax increase. The mill rate is used to determine residents' taxes; a resident can determine their taxes by multiplying the mill rate by their total assessments. One mill is equal to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property and under the proposed mill rate of 32.93, a resident with a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$8,232.50 in taxes.

The local Board of Education spending request has already been cut \$87,000 from what the school board initially adopted in February. At Monday's Board of Finance meeting, member Susan Leser moved to cut the school budget by an additional \$53,000, a motion seconded by board chair Evelyn Godbout. Leser stressed she is not "anti-education," but balked at the school board's expansion of all-day kindergarten for the 2015-16 school year, a move that is responsible for \$140,000 of the school board's budget. Leser pointed out all-day kindergarten is not yet mandated by the state.

However, Leser's motion to cut the \$53,000 failed 2-4, with only her and Godbout voting in favor of it.

"It's very clear we have to cut," Leser said. "If we send this budget [to town meeting], it will be defeated."

"I do feel good that we gave it our best effort to cut," Godbout said, and added that "it will be interesting to see" if the proposed RHAM budget passes at referendum next week.

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During the public hearing preceding the meeting, residents offered comments and concerns on a variety of topics.

Wendy Nichols questioned the proposed 13 percent increase in the salary of First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski's administrative assistant. Gaudinski explained this is to bring her up to what union employees receive.

Deb Bourdeau drew applause with her critiques of the budget.

"How do I stay in this town?" Bourdeau asked. "Looking at the RHAM portion, it's a significant portion to seniors. I just don't know how to do it."

"A lot of people are talking just like me," she added about the fight to stay in town.

Bourdeau also wondered why there's money for new HVAC controls for the library in the proposed budget. She said the unit itself had been paid for by a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant, and didn't understand why the town now has to pay for its controls. "We're now paying for what we got a grant to do?" she said.

The answer to that question was not made clear at the meeting.

Bourdeau also questioned why the sewer systems were put in residential neighborhoods instead of near business such as the Marlborough Commons to better improve the tax base in town.

A senior resident echoed Bourdeau's thoughts about town spending, saying she has lived in town 54 years and has always supported the budget. But, she said, she is feeling "real constraint" this year.

"I'm wondering if I can stay," she said. "I have worked in town over 33 years. I would like to finish my life here."

The resident said she can "just imagine" how many other retirees can't afford to stay in Marlborough and said "a little more could be done and I hope it will."

Resident Patricia Koshko said she understands other residents' concerns.

"If the retirees are moving out, what's going to happen?" Koshko questioned. Koshko also questioned if there has been an update about

the long-discussed, but never officially proposed, grocery store.

"I don't have an update," Gaudinski said. "It's in the property owner's hands. He has a marketing firm helping and there is activity out there."

Gaudinski also said she understands everyone's anxiousness regarding the former Marlborough Tavern. Plans to renovate and reopen the tavern fell through over a year ago – after construction had already started.

"No one is more disappointed," Gaudinski said, adding the town has worked with the property owner to at least improve the exterior of the building. Still, the property sits tenant-less.

After one resident criticized teachers' salaries in the district, another resident, Rich Storrs, expressed his anger at the criticism – and at the Board of Finance's earlier cuts of the school budget.

Board of Finance members "are making suggestions of how education in this building should happen," Storrs said. "I have noticed that everyone has ideas on what's best, but I don't think hitting on the easy target of teachers which is the most important job ever is ok."

Storrs commended the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen for appealing to experts in fields such as when the boards need to make decisions about education and engineering.

Storrs said the town does need a better tax base; however, residents can't criticize adding businesses if the citizens don't want to pay higher taxes to make up for the lack of businesses.

"The town needs to move forward and build a tax base," Storrs said. "If some people don't want it, [those residents] can't speak against other ways of getting funds."

Criticized at the meeting was the idea of cutting one of the town's two resident state troopers – a concept that was discussed, but ultimately rejected, at a prior finance board meeting.

"With the way the world is today, that's the worst thing I have ever heard," the resident said. "It's an absolute terrible thing."

Godbout said the Board of Finance looks at "everything" during budget season. Board vice chair Cliff Denniss noted the town is currently paying 70 percent of the resident troopers' salaries, with the state paying the rest, and Gov.

Dannell Malloy has proposed towns pick up 100 percent of the costs, starting with the next fiscal year. Denniss said Malloy's proposal would be "a significant increase for Marlborough" if approved.

Finance board member Ken Hjulstrom – who first brought up the idea of cutting the trooper at an earlier meeting – encouraged the resident to contact his state legislators regarding the matter.

The resident also criticized the town allowing one of its Public Works employees to take a Public Works truck back to his New Britain home every day.

Godbout said the finance board agreed the truck should not be used to go to New Britain and back, and said "we decreased the allowance for fuel [in the budget] to discourage that."

However, Godbout noted it was up to the Board of Selectmen to prohibit the employee from taking the truck to New Britain.

Gaudinski said that, while it's been common practice for supervisors to have use of a vehicle, the one going back and forth to New Britain has been stopped. She mentioned another employee is allowed to take a second Public Works truck to their home, as per a condition of the employee's contract, but she said that employee lives in Colchester – which is a much shorter commute.

At the end of the public hearing, selectman Dick Shea encouraged residents to come out to more budget meetings earlier in the process rather than waiting until the public hearing to speak up.

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At the finance board meeting after the hearing, Denniss made a motion to send the budget onto the voters.

"It shouldn't be, but it's RHAM-driven," Denniss said of the budget. "Frankly I don't know where to go" in terms of cuts.

Hjulstrom suggested if the budget fails, the board may have to revisit cutting by one resident trooper.

Meanwhile, board member Doug Knowlton called the budget a balancing act between affordable and peoples' needs.

The board voted 5-1, with Leser against, to move the budget onto the voters.

The town will vote on the budget at town meeting Monday, May 11, at 7 p.m., in the MES cafeteria.

## \$53.89 Million Budget Heads to Colchester Voters Tuesday

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Taxpayers will head to the polls next week to vote on the combined \$53.86 million Colchester budget proposed for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Combined, the town and school budgets reflect an overall increase of \$862,935, or 1.63 percent, over the adopted 2014-15 budgets of \$52.995 million.

The budget calls for the mill rate to rise from 30.57 to 31.04 mills, which would translate to a 1.54 percent tax increase.

The mill rate is used to determine residents' taxes; a resident can determine their taxes by multiplying the mill rate by their total assessments. One mill is equal to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property and under the proposed mill rate of 31.04, a resident with a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$7,760 in taxes.

The general government budget and the Board of Education budget are voted on separately. The general government portion totals \$13.86 million, a \$529,000, or 3.97 percent, increase over current year spending. Some of the biggest initiatives for the town are increased funding for roads and snow removal, funds for the fire department strategic plan and a MySeniorCenter data tracking program.

The education budget totals \$39.995 million, a \$333,575, or 0.84 percent, increase, over the current year. One of the school's big initiatives is the hiring of a full-time Board Certified Behavior Analyst to aid students in all of the schools rather than a one-day-a-week contracted employee.

Voting takes place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

## Two Colchester Residents Arrested After Wallingford Pursuit

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Two Colchester residents were arrested after a Wallingford man spotted the pair asleep in a stolen car in his parking space early Monday morning.

A resident of a condominium complex on Danny's Way in Wallingford called Wallingford police Monday morning after returning home at around 1:20 a.m. and finding a car parked in his spot with two people, later identified as Nicole Klusek, 24, of 67 Park Ave., and Sean Carey, 22, of 43 Broadway, inside sleeping.

Police responded, and when an officer knocked on the window, police said, Carey became "frantic," and Klusek screamed "go, go, go!" The two sped off in the stolen car and hit a police cruiser, police reported.

The two led police on a chase for about 10 minutes, attempting to avoid stop sticks and swerving onto the lawn of a home on East Main Street in Wallingford, police said. The car struck a shed and Klusek and Carey fled on foot. Police arrested Klusek shortly after, but Carey got away.

Klusek was charged with criminal trespass and interfering with a police investigation.

Carey, meanwhile, stole another stolen car in Wallingford following the pursuit, police said. That car was recovered in Wethersfield by Tuesday morning, police said.

On Wednesday, Colchester Police reported that Carey was arrested in relation to a domestic disturbance on Broadway. Police said Carey damaged property inside the home. He was charged with disorderly conduct, second-degree criminal mischief, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of heroin. Police said Carey also has arrest warrants pending in regard to the motor vehicle thefts and police pursuit from Wallingford.

The two were arrested previously in Colchester on April 2 for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of narcotics. According to Colchester Police, in that incident, a routine Department of Probation check found the two in a car parked in the driveway with heroin, drug packaging and a syringe in plain view in the center console.

## Colchester Woman Found Dead in Moodus

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

A Colchester woman was found dead last Thursday, April 23, at the Moodus Reservoir.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection confirmed the woman, 55-year-old Louise Coulombe, suffered an untimely death.

A representative of the DEEP said

Coulombe was found in the upper reservoir. The reservoir is common for fishing more than any other recreational activity, the representative said.

The death is still under investigation by the DEEP.

Coulombe's obituary appears on page 39.

# Hebron Budget Vote is Next Week

by Geeta Schrayter

Next Tuesday, Hebron residents will have the opportunity to vote for the proposed 2015-16 budget, and town officials are not only hoping the majority will vote “yes,” but that they’ll head to the polls to vote in the first place.

The proposed budget clocks in at \$36,649,895, for a spending increase of \$889,491 or 2.49 percent over the current year’s budget. If it passes as it currently stands next Tuesday, the number will result in a mill rate increase of .80, bringing the anticipated rate in town to 36.55 mills; for a home valued at \$200,000, this would translate to a \$160 tax increase, bringing the taxes to \$7,310.

Included in the above number is \$12,145,093 for the Hebron Board of Education budget, which is a 1.29 percent increase over the current schools’ budget; \$15,542,879 for the town’s portion of the RHAM Board of Education budget; and \$8,976,923 for the general government budget.

Several initiatives are included in the proposed general government budget, but town officials have repeatedly explained some of them are offset by revenue reimbursements. For example, included is \$25,000 for an EMS responder, but that cost will be fully offset by ambulance revenue. Also, an additional \$14,000 is included in the budget to go toward the cost of a shared building inspector with Marlborough totaling \$130,050; however, Marlborough will provide \$52,000 in reimbursement.

Lastly, \$8,000 is included in the town budget plus another \$105,660 from the Parks and Recreation revenue fund for a turf management

agreement between Hebron and RHAM; the cost of the agreement is to be fully reimbursed by Region Eight.

If the initiatives with offsetting revenues are taken into account, the increase to the budget would actually be 2.17 percent.

Also included in that increase is \$105,000 for 27th payroll, also known as payroll creep, which is when employees paid biweekly receive an extra paycheck – a 27th pay cycle – as a result of an extra day creeping into the pay calendar each year. There is also a \$55,300 increase for health insurance, which has gone up 9.9 percent – this is less than what was presented at the April 7 public hearing, where the finance board expected insurance to increase 12.6 percent or \$70,300.

Another increase in the proposed budget is \$22,500 for a computer replacement plan as well as \$15,000 for an overview of the town’s comprehensive zoning regulations, which Town Manager Andrew Tierney said haven’t been reviewed in 30 years.

Also included in the general government budget is a \$125,000 contribution to open space; a \$50,297 contribution for capital projects; a \$50,000 contribution to revaluation; a \$5,000 contribution to capital non-recurring projects between \$5-25,000; and a \$602,404 contribution to the capital improvement program.

The latter amount will be used to help fund a number of CIP projects including \$253,346 for road resurfacing and road improvements; \$130,124 to replace the roofs over the 1947 and 1988 wings of Hebron Elementary School; \$95,000 to replace a dump truck for the Public

Works Department; \$76,370 for the lease payment on a replacement fire truck; and \$52,000 to replace a dump truck for Parks and Recreation.

In addition, \$40,000 will go toward a command vehicle for the Fire Department; another \$25,132 will be used to relocate the emergency operations center; \$15,600 will be utilized with matching funds from a grant to replace a Dial-A-Ride vehicle for the senior center; and \$10,000 will go toward the replacement of carpet/flooring in the Douglas Library.

The CIP requests total \$731,291 and the remaining balance will be covered with \$69,933 in Local Capital Improvement Program funding, \$46,954 remaining from previous appropriations’ and \$12,000 from the sale of the old fire truck.

Regarding the town budget, Tierney said this week, “I think it’s a good budget. We really spent a lot of time on it and we looked at every nook and cranny on the town’s side, so I feel comfortable that what we put forward should be a budget that could get approved.”

Tierney added he felt the budget process had been “very transparent.”

Likewise, Board of Selectman Chairman Jeff Watt stated, “The main driver has been insurance, I think, for both the elementary schools, the town and RHAM at this point, so I think all of the boards have worked hard to get down to a budget that we’re all hoping the town will accept.”

When it comes to the local Board of Education budget, the majority of the increase can be

attributed to the \$162,664 rise in insurance, bringing that account to \$2,101,664. Without the insurance increase, the schools’ budget would actually be a decrease of \$8,025.

Also included in the school budget is the reduction of four classroom sections and one reading specialist. There is also an addition of one section in fourth grade; combined with two teacher retirements, those changes translate into two staff reductions.

Speaking on the school budget this week, Board of Education Chairwoman Maryanne Leichter said, “I’m really hoping that people come out and vote in favor of the budget. I think it’s reasonable. We cut two teachers from this budget and we’re hoping that we don’t have to cut any more services that will impact our children.”

She added, “I hope people come out and vote – that’s the big thing.”

Watt felt similarly.

“We’re hoping everyone comes out to vote,” he said, adding, “I’m looking forward to the results.”

Likewise, Tierney stated “I just hope that we get people out to vote.”

He mentioned there are two sides to the ballot this year, explaining “we want to pay special attention to that, making sure people fill out both sides when voting.”

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The referendum on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-16 will take place Tuesday, May 5, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.

# RHAM Budget Heads to a Vote

by Geeta Schrayter

Next week, residents of the three towns that make up Region 8 – Hebron, Marlborough and Andover – will be deciding the fate of the proposed 2015-16 schools budget of \$27,839,655.

The amount equates to a 3.68 percent increase over the current year, and is paid for with funds from each of the sending towns; the amount each town is responsible for is based on the number of students they have enrolled at the two schools.

With the largest population, Hebron is responsible for the greatest amount, 55.83 percent, which would amount to \$15,542,879 if the proposed budget passes next week. Marlborough is responsible for the second largest amount, 29.65 percent, or \$8,254,458. Finally, Andover would be responsible for 14.52 percent, or \$4,042,318.

Major areas of increase in the proposal in-

clude \$381,575 in transportation costs, \$343,117 for operations and maintenance, \$241,051 for special education tuition and \$151,200 for special education transportation. In addition, there is a \$57,665 increase in textbooks and a \$57,335 increase in instructional supplies.

There is also a 2.8 percent salary increase for teachers with no step, a 1.9 percent increase for administrators as per the second year of their contract, and non-certified staff is currently in negotiations.

Speaking on the budget this week, Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said “I think that when you look at the budget, there are many things that the board had no control over.”

He mentioned special education costs as one of those areas, explaining the amount of Excess Cost money expected from the state had

to be reduced.

In addition, he said money for fuel needed to be increase “because the past couple of winters have been so darn cold. And obviously we had to increase the amount for snow plowing simply because there’s been a lot more snow.”

Siminski also said there was an increase in transportation due to the fact the school has to provide an additional bus to transport students to Glastonbury who are a part of the vocational agriculture (vo-ag) program.

“The bus runs for the Lebanon vo-ag and Windham Tech, but students are so spread out we had to add an extra bus [to Glastonbury] otherwise students would have to be picked up very, very early in the morning,” Siminski said.

He added efforts had been made to mitigate some of the increases, such as refinancing the bonds which saved about \$130,000 and switch-

ing teachers over to a high-deductible health plan with \$30,000 in savings projected.

In addition, three special education positions have been reduced in an attempt to ease the increases in that area; a speech/language pathologist and two paraprofessionals, for \$80,517.

Board of Education Chairman Danny Holtsclaw said this week, “I think the budget is a fair representation of the needs of the students. There’s certainly not anything in there that is not needed or necessary or requested. In fact, there are a number of items or initiatives that were requested that didn’t make the budget, but I think it’s a fair budget. I think it addresses a lot of class needs and allows us to continue to expand our [current] initiatives with STEM and helping our students have a better chance of competing in the global economy once they get out of RHAM.”

# Memorial School Chosen for EHHS Graduation

by John Tyczkowski

Due to the construction project at East Hampton High School, the Board of Education Monday opted to hold this year’s high school graduation at Memorial School.

The graduation ceremony will take place Sunday, June 21, at 5 p.m.

“The high school is in the middle of a construction site which does prohibit us from our usual activities,” Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas said. “We did ask the students and parents, and the seniors we spoke with said it didn’t matter where as long as everyone could be there and the traditions could be followed.”

In addition, she said the public schools looked at several other venues inside and outside of the district, but Memorial School ultimately “made the most sense.”

Also, Dugas said despite the logistical issues of switching the venue to Memorial School, there would be a “minimal cost difference” to put on the event this year.

“The companies that work with us have been very gracious,” she said.

In case of rain, the ceremony would be moved into Memorial School’s gym.

Project Graduation, the all-night drug- and alcohol-free celebration for seniors, will also be June 21 – though the location will remain the same: the Groton submarine base, which EHHS has used since its first Project Graduation in 2009.

“Due to the number of snow days we and other districts have had, we and five other schools were on a waiting list for the usual location. We couldn’t get the Friday we usually do, the last day of school, but we could get the Sunday,” Dugas said, adding that the change “gives the graduates a bit more time to take pictures instead of rushing to get on the bus, and that will make things more nostalgic.”

Board of Education Chair Ken Barber noted incidentally that the Sunday date is also Father’s Day.

“Now [the graduates] don’t need to worry about what they’re going to get for dad,” he quipped.

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Dugas also updated the board on the status of the high school renovation project.

She said snow had thrown off the construction schedule by eight weeks, which necessitated a second look at the phased construction schedule.

Phase II, originally slated to begin Sept. 1, will now start Nov. 1, Dugas said, and at that time the auditorium will be under construction. However, the auditorium will be inaccessible from the inside starting Sept. 1, when construction begins on the hallways connecting to it.

Because of that timeline, the high school convocation will take place at the middle school instead. However, the plan is to have the auditorium ready for use before the end of the calendar year, Dugas said in response to a question from board member Bill Marshall.

“We’re hoping we can reopen the auditorium by December, prior to Christmas Day, to the concerts and other events we have,” she said. “That’s what we’re aiming for right now.”

The high school is still set to be completely vacated by Monday, June 22. At that time, Dugas said, school staff will move to a temporary location at Memorial School, where they will stay all summer until the week before the school year begins in August.

“The high school will be completely inaccessible over the summer,” she said. “The front of the school will be demolished and repaved, for example.”

Effectively, this means the auditorium will be inaccessible from the end of June until December, Dugas said.

Dugas thanked the Memorial School staff and high school staff for their cooperation and the technology staff for rewiring high school phone lines to the new location.

“We really appreciate everyone’s flexibility on this,” she said. “It’s a challenging process.”

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The next Board of Education meeting will take place Monday, May 11, at 7 p.m., in the EHHS library.

# East Hampton Woman Promotes Budget Vote

by John Tyczkowski

Tania Sones is a relatively new resident of East Hampton, but she says that hasn't stopped her from becoming actively involved in its politics and budget process.

"This is a once-a-year opportunity for residents to make their voice heard," she said. "We need to make it count, and I couldn't just stand and watch."

And residents like Sones can head to the polls next Tuesday, May 5, to vote on East Hampton's proposed 2015-16 budget. The spending proposal totals \$41.71 million, which would be an increase of 3.53 percent increase over the current year's budget.

The Board of Education proposed budget stands at \$29.22 million, a 3.39 percent increase over current year spending. The general town government budget proposal is at \$10.11 million, an increase of 3.48 percent over the current year.

The mill rate would be set at 28.39, which would be an increase of 1.25 mills over the current rate. That would equate a tax increase of \$2.61 per week or \$135.72 per year for a home assessed at \$100,000, an increase of \$3.91 per week or \$203.32 per year for a home assessed at \$150,000 and an increase of \$5.21 per week or \$270.92 per year for a home assessed at \$200,000.

Voting this year will take place at East Hampton Middle School, due to the construction project at the high school. Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

Sones, a single mother of two boys, consult-

ant for Accenture and owner of Tania Sones Photography, moved to town from Glastonbury in July 2013. She said she chose to move to East Hampton because of its smaller size.

"I wanted a community where my voice could be heard, and a community with good schools but smaller class sizes for my boys," she said.

Sones also said this is her first time becoming involved in the budget process and in town meetings, both of the council and the school board.

"What opened up my eyes and motivated me to become active was a survey [Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas] sent out last year asking parents who had sent their children off to schools outside of East Hampton why they did that," she said. "And the top reasons were curriculum, programming and technology."

"I looked at this year's proposed budget and thought, 'If anything's cut, we're just feeding into the cycle of having kids leave the East Hampton school system, and that's not right,'" she added. "And why are we renovating our high school if we're not going to be keeping out students here?"

However, that concern has extended into the general budget for the town all around, Sones said.

"We need East Hampton to be sustainable," she said. "We've been reactive in the way we approach things in this town, and we really need to be much more proactive."

"I don't want my taxes to go down or stay

the same," she added. "For a few dollars extra a month we can add that extra patrolman, for example, and provide the other services our town needs."

The average taxpayer in town, whose property is assessed between \$100,000 and \$200,000, would see a weekly tax increase of between \$2.61 and \$5.21 per week, to fund the proposed budget.

Sones has also been active in posting in the 788-member 'EHHS Renovate to Educate' Facebook group, where she has mobilized with several other citizens to provide information pertaining to next week's budget referendum.

"A lot of people don't have time to attend the meetings, and they sometimes get their information from commentary," she said. "I wanted to be able to provide people with information from meetings so they could come to their own conclusions."

Also, to promote information about the venue change to the middle school this year, Sones said she and other residents have posted signs at key intersections in town and along Route 66, and have been spreading the word online as well.

Sones also stressed that when people ask her questions about the budget, she answers only with the facts.

"I always point them to the numbers, and to the documentation of what happened at the budget meetings," she said. "That's the next best thing to being at the meetings."

In addition, she said she's seen people in town talking about the budget and talking about voting as well.

"I think getting awareness of the budget and the vote out is working, and it's really exciting to see," Sones said.

Overall, the political awareness campaign is "a slow movement," Sones said, "but I'm hoping it's a steady movement for years to come."

In the future, Sones said she'd be interested in pushing for the town to reexamine its 1971 charter.

"We need to look at our town-wide processes and say, 'Are they working?'" she said. "It might be ruffling some feathers, but I want to encourage that wake-up call."

Sones also said she'd like to see if there's a way to make attending public meetings more accessible to the general public as well.

"Maybe we could livestream the meetings, or use Skype," she said. "The more informed people are, the better they can understand what's happening in town and the better they can participate in and improve their community."

"I just want to make sure people have a number of chances to look at the facts before they vote so they can make an informed decision," she said.

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Residents can find more information on the budget and next week's referendum on the town website, [easthamptonct.org](http://easthamptonct.org).

# East Hampton Alert System to Notify Residents of Vote Change

by John Tyczkowski

The Town Council voted along party lines Tuesday to use the town's Everbridge alert system to notify residents of a change in venue for the budget referendum vote.

The four Democrats voted in favor of using the system for that purpose, while the council's three Republicans voted against it.

Traditionally, voting in town elections and referendums has taken place at the East Hampton High School auditorium. However, due to the construction project at the high school, next week's town budget vote will take place at the middle school gym. The construction project at EHHS has resulted in restricted parking and the presence of large pieces of construction equipment, and the town considered the building unable to handle the large flow of people the referendum usually gathers.

The questions over the use of the Everbridge system came from the town's need to notify residents of the venue change; in fact, councilors said they couldn't recall the town ever using a voting location other than the high school.

So far, the town has placed signs around town, including one at the corner of Route 66 and South Main Street, headed to the Village Center, notifying residents of the referendum date. However, the signs do not mention the location change.

Councilor Ted Hintz Jr. said using the Everbridge system for such a notification was improper, because the system was set up to

deliver emergency notifications only, according to state statute as well as Town Council policy.

"[These include] tornado warnings, hurricanes, winter storms...emergency evacuations, road closures more than two hours, other emergency situations identified by the chief of the fire department and the chief of police and approved by the director of emergency management," Hintz read. "And nowhere does it define an emergency as a change in location of a referendum."

In addition, Hintz said because not all residents in town have access to the Everbridge system, using it to notify a certain segment of the population was equivalent to attempting to influence the referendum.

"If we're going to do a notification, it has to be available to all residents, not just those with a landline," he said.

Council chair Barbara Moore pointed out that anyone in town can sign up for Everbridge notifications via the main page of the town's website, and defended the use of the system.

"People are easily confused. I see no reason why we shouldn't help them out and let them know which school to go to," she said. "That's all it is."

Councilor George Pfaffenbach also objected to Hintz's statement.

"Telling them where to vote is in no way telling them how to vote," he said. "I see no prob-

lem whatsoever in using the system to notify them."

Councilor Patience Anderson cautioned the council against the use of the system, citing that the council never intended such a use for the system.

"I just think that it's bad policy to not follow a policy that we've set," she said. "Everbridge offered to package some other services, like town-wide events notifications, but the council at the time specifically chose to use the system only for emergency alerts."

"I'm not in favor of using the emergency alert system for the [referendum location change]. If we want to, then we need to change the policy and alert everyone of that," she said.

Hintz suggested the town put up a large banner in the Village Center listing the location change as well as the date and time of the referendum. Anderson also pointed out that there were several other methods of notifying the public of the location change without using the Everbridge system.

"We could use the flashing light signs and put one out there by the high school that tells people that the vote's not happening here, we could put balloons down at the middle school," Anderson said. "We don't have to go and change a policy that's in place to suit just this one situation."

"I think you're going down a slippery slope,

and you're going against a state statute," she added.

However, Moore said that she had already talked to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco about drafting a statement with the aid of the town attorney that could be used to notify residents via the system without violating the state statute.

Council vice chair Kevin Reich stated how he was in favor of using the Everbridge system to notify residents of the location change.

"This is an extremely unique situation. There will be numerous challenges just because of the size and location of the middle school, and in getting on and off of Route 66," he said. "I'm not saying this is an emergency, but it is imperative on us to do everything we possibly can to notify them about this change."

Reich also said the town might want to reexamine its policy on Everbridge as well.

"In addition to examining how we use the system, we need to look at who has and hasn't signed up, and at whether there are opportunities for people to easily sign up," he said.

Councilors drafted a motion using the town attorney-approved language that made it clear that the Everbridge system would be used only once, on Monday, May 4, at 7 p.m., for the specific purpose of notifying residents of the referendum location change and the hours of the referendum.

# Five Running for Andover School Board

by Geeta Schrayter

When Monday rolls around, along with deciding who will help run the town on the Board of Selectmen, voters will be choosing who to help run the school on the Board of Education.

Vying for a spot on the board are Democrats Danielle Maguire and Shannon Loudon, Republicans Fred Oliver and Mike Russo, as well as Republican Jay Linddy, who served on the board previously but resigned earlier this year and is running as a petitioning candidate. Voters can choose any two of the five to fill four seats.

Linddy is also running for a position on the Board of Selectmen. He explained regarding his resignation that he had some obligations to attend to, but they're now complete, which he said means he'll be able to give his all to the position as he's done in the past.

Speaking on why he should be elected back on the board, Linddy said, "I've been on that for many, many years. We were fortunate when I found [superintendent] Andrew Maneggia to come to work for us 12 years ago. He retires at the end of the school year," which means another superintendent will need to be found.

In addition, Linddy said some projects needed to be completed surrounding school facilities, including replacing the school roof.

"The reason I want just one more term is because we have to start replacing the roof and that is a major undertaking," he stated. "We need to make sure we go after grants to keep [the cost] down and complete it in four to five stages. That's a priority – it has to be done."

Linddy said he and the board "have always gotten any possible grant we could get." In addition, he said, over the last eight years, the school board has returned more than half a mil-

lion dollars to the town.

"And I tell you, not too many school districts do that," he said.

Also running for a seat on the board is newcomer Mike Russo, who said he felt he would bring a "new perspective" to the board.

"I've been involved in the community with the soccer program, and my track record has just been to include the voices of everybody," he said. "I think it's important that voices are heard. I'm also a big supporter of making sure there's a good quality of education provided to students."

Russo said he was qualified for the position through his ability to listen and make decisions based on fact. In addition, he said he was "able to collaborate with other parties to make the best decision. I'm not one-sided, I like to listen to all opinion, all people in town, and making the best decision for the town and not my own agenda."

Russo works as an account manager for an insurance company in Hartford along with volunteering for the soccer program and the local youth hockey program. He has two children at Andover Elementary School and said he wants to keep the kids "challenged and making sure we're providing the best opportunities with the growing changes of technology, and providing opportunities so they can continue to excel when they move on to RHAM."

Similarly, Fred Oliver, who is a teacher and parent, said he had a "strong vested interest in education. I also feel a responsibility to contribute to the town of Andover, so a spot on the Board of Education feels like a natural fit for my knowledge and experience."

Oliver said his educational background quali-

fied him for the board, mentioning his training to be a research scientist, which made him a more critical thinker, as well as his experience teaching young children – and with his own kids – which "have enhanced my ability to view the world from different perspectives."

Oliver added he regularly works with teachers and school leaders to discuss issues "and make decisions for the benefit of the organization."

And, as a member of the Andover Youth Soccer Association, he said "I balance conflicting demands for resources with the need to work within a budget in order to best serve the players, their families, and the financial health of the association."

If elected, Oliver said he would "listen carefully to board members and school leaders and do my best to contribute to discussions with forethought and integrity."

He added, "If I am elected I will educate myself about the school and the workings of the board, work with the superintendent and board members to identify improvements that can be made, and contribute to positive change to the best of my ability."

Similar to Oliver, Maguire said she'd bring two perspectives to the board, "that of a parent and an educator."

"I feel that both of these perspectives are important when looking at the future of the educational system in Andover," she stated.

Maguire – whose husband Jeff is running for first selectman – shared that, as a parent, "I have had the pleasure of being a room mother and watching my children grow in a small and welcoming school." And, as an educator, her daily life consists of the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, technology in the

classroom, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium testing, working with and training teachers on new instructional strategies and differentiated learning for students.

"I feel that I can assist the [Board of Education] in the implementation of these things" at the school, she stated. "I understand that every educational initiative has a financial component. I believe that we have to be thoughtful of the financial impact when considering how all of these areas are implemented, and I feel that I could be an asset when doing that."

In the end, Maguire said she hopes "the residents of Andover go to the polls Monday and vote for the candidates that truly have the children's best interests at heart."

Also hoping for a seat on the board is Loudon, Oliver's wife. She said this week she was excited about the election and the amount of discussion in town surrounding the candidates and different issues.

Loudon said she felt qualified for the position since she is the parent of a 5th grader at the school and has experience with education issues from her time as a legislative aid and her present work as a matrimonial lawyer.

"I deal with complex budget and financial issues and emotionally charged situations," she explained, adding she felt such experiences made her "uniquely qualified" for the board.

Loudon said she would join the board "with a clean slate and an open mind" and wanted to become a member "to ensure the children of Andover continue to receive the excellent education as well as the growth opportunities that my son has received. I've been very pleased with what has been afforded to my son and want to make sure that continues."

# Six Running for Andover Board of Selectmen

by Geeta Schrayter

Next week, Andover residents will head to the polls to decide who they'd like to see seated on the Board of Selectmen, choosing four members from a slate of six, including Democrats Joan Foran and Julia Haverl and Republicans Elaine Buchardt, Cathy Desrosiers, Jay Linddy and Steve Willard.

This week, Haverl said she was looking forward to the end of the campaign, "but I feel that I've worked very hard and I have experience that's relevant and I look forward to serving with a new board."

Haverl has lived in town for 45 years and shared "I was involved right from the start as a young person and I really enjoy public service."

Haverl has been on the Board of Selectmen since 2011, though she also was on the board in the mid-1990s. She has also served stints in town as first selectwoman, chairwoman of the Recreation Commission and chairwoman of the Board of Assessment Appeals.

"I am an excellent candidate with talents to bring to the board and the experience of long-time involvement," Haverl stated, "and I have experience in completing projects and in fair and open government, and in believing that information is important for democracy to work; if it's not freely available it makes it difficult for people to truly know what's going on."

She added she was hoping to be part of a new board that was more inclusive than she felt the current one was.

"I would like to be a part of a board that's inclusive and is interested in using my experience and abilities to supplement those projects that we're working on," Haverl stated.

As for Desrosiers, who has been on the Board of Selectmen since 2011, she said she was feeling positive about Monday.

"I've served on many boards within the community and most people that I speak to, whether Republican or Democrat, seem to be in support of my election, so I'm feeling positive," she said.

Desrosiers said she wanted to be re-elected to help move projects in town forward and update some of the programs and systems used that are a decade old.

"We need to address those and move those

forward so it's for growth and a little bit of change in Andover," she stated, adding she understands the tax burden, "but I do believe there's ways that we can move our town and change it slowly in the right direction at a low cost to no cost for the taxpayers."

Desrosiers said she doesn't have an agenda, and wanted to ensure residents' voices are heard. In addition, she said she believed in "government for the people by the people and I believe working together with whoever is elected, we can do the best for our community."

Buchardt on the other hand, a Republican who is running as a petitioning candidate after she didn't receive her party's endorsement, explained this week she was feeling frustrated.

"I'm just frustrated because only certain people know about the job that I've done," said Buchardt, a nine-year member of the Board of Selectmen. "Only a few people come to the Board of Selectmen meetings or any of the other committee meetings that I'm on and all of those people are in support of me, but there's a lot of people in town who have never come to the meetings who don't really know what's going on and they're just going to go by... actually, I don't know what they're going to go by [to vote]."

Some of the boards and commissions Buchardt has been – or currently is a member of – include the Economic Development Committee, the Farmers Market Committee, the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, the Vernon Area Cable Advisory Committee, the Commission on Aging and the Senior Transportation Committee.

"I've enjoyed working on the board and we've accomplished quite a few things," Buchardt said. "Trying to get things done is a slow and tedious process but it's something that I want to continue to do."

She added, "I'm a hard worker, I care about the town and I'm a good listener."

Also seeking re-election – in a way – is Republican Jay Linddy. Linddy served as vice chairman of the board until February when he resigned, explaining he wanted to focus on other things. However, Linddy then decided to put his name in the race, running as a petitioning

candidate to return to his seat on the board.

"I had other obligations and I followed that up and I'm all done with that now and so now I'll be able to do the things that I've always done, and I've always given 24/7 to this job [of selectman]," he explained.

He added he felt he should return to the board because "I listen to what the people want and that's important. I follow through – that doesn't mean they're always happy, it's not always what they want to hear but they understand."

If elected, Linddy said he plans to continue to listen to voters' concerns and would focus on issues such as accounting and taking care of the town's roads.

"We need to make [the roads] a priority but we also have to be sensitive to the taxpayer's needs," he stated.

And before heading to the polls Monday, Linddy said people "really should ask and seek information and understand that there's a lot of stuff that's been out there that's not true. I think it's important you speak to the right people in the office."

\* \* \*

While this is Willard's first election for the Board of Selectmen, he's not exactly new; he's currently getting a feel for what it's like to be a selectman as he was appointed to the board in March to fill Linddy's vacated seat.

Willard said this week he felt he should be elected to a full term because "I've been working so hard. In the short time that I've been on as a selectman, I found it's really something I love to do and I think I would be a huge asset to the town. The fact that I'm a younger member of the board I think gives me a different perspective."

Willard added he thought his time on the board was going "very well."

"People have been happy with how I've been handling myself at the meetings and I got a lot of encouragement for how I've been doing what I've been doing."

Willard, who has lived in town for 40 years, runs his own business in Manchester and has been with the fire department for almost 30 years, said, "I think those are three great qualities for being a board member."

He added if elected, some of the key issues he would focus on are communication across all boards and commissions, and working to create a plan of development for the town.

Willard said he wanted residents to know "that I will work tirelessly to make sure that the quality of life in town is increased as my term goes on."

As for Foran, who is also the chairwoman of the Democratic Town Committee, she shared this week she wanted to join the board because she was concerned with how things were currently being run. She added she felt qualified for the position because of the "extensive training" she's had in governmental process, meeting management, Robert's Rules of Order and the Freedom of Information Law.

"My background with environmental law has provided me with a strong foundation for understanding state statutes and the charter," she explained. "I have participated in salary negotiations and binding arbitration hearings and have testified before state legislative hearings. I have chaired and served on building committees and have prepared environmental impact reports. I am able to develop and understand large million dollar budgets and have been previously responsible for budgets."

If elected, Foran said she would be "respectful of all those I serve with and all those with whom I work. I will be a collaborative leader and seek out the appropriate professional guidance and expertise in all aspects of town government."

Foran added she would "engage our citizens and encourage participation in the community. I will welcome all points of view and provide the meaningful exchange of ideas."

Foran concluded "people should vote for me because I am honest and trustworthy and will make good decisions based on relevant facts, and pertinent information."

But as for just who people will vote for to be their next selectmen, that has yet to be determined. The municipal elections take place Monday, May 4. Voting occurs from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. in the community room at the town office building.

# Meet Andover's RHAM Candidates

by Geeta Schrayter

Three Andover residents are hoping to serve on the RHAM Board of Education for the next four years – each looking to move the district forward and represent Andover on the 11-member board.

Incumbent and current chairman Danny Holtsclaw is hoping to continue his time on the board, while Republican David Gostanian and Democrat Heidi Donnelly are hoping to make their debut.

This week, Holtsclaw said he wanted to continue representing Andover's interests at RHAM and said he felt the board had come a long way in the eight years he'd been a member.

Holtsclaw said his current experience on the board, as well as four years he spent on the Andover Board of Education, qualified him for the position. In addition, he mentioned his professional business management and risk management experience.

Holtsclaw also pointed to his current position on the board, explaining "it's been a long time since Andover has held the position of chairman and I think that's a reflection of my

ability to work with my peers on the board which I think is important."

Holtsclaw said he wanted to continue on the RHAM board in some sort of leadership capacity that would, among other things, "allow us to start doing some critical planning for infrastructure for the district."

As for Donnelly, she said she was hoping to join the board to ensure the students at RHAM had adequate opportunities to not only learn, but to be challenged and excited.

"I want to be there to help maintain the programs and make sure that their classes maintain that degree of challenge, and save programs students can excel in."

Donnelly said she didn't want to "just maintain the bottom line for the sake of maintaining the bottom line."

She furthered, "We have to be able to send kids out and have the academics to excel in the broader world."

Donnelly added she's worked with children for years through her time with social services, and was active in the community when raising her own sons. She also said she has experience

creating and working with budgets and, as a senior, she said she's "conscious of the tax side of things."

"I think I'm as qualified as any of the other candidates," she concluded.

Gostanian felt similarly.

"I think I have the right skill set for the job. I have 25 years of insurance experience, [information technology] experience and my wife has been a teacher for 25 years so I understand how that works and what teachers and students really need."

In addition, his own children went to RHAM, "so I understand the school" and the demands of the position, he said,

And now that his kids have graduated, Gostanian felt he had the time to meet those demands.

"I'm hoping to do the right thing for the board," he stated. "You need to really balance the needs of the school with the abilities of the towns to be able to support it."

\* \* \*

In addition to the selectmen and school board candidates profiled in this issue, there are sev-

eral other people running for office next week. And they are:

**Republicans:** Linda Fish, Ted Sakelarakis and Adrian Mandeville, Board of Finance; Wallace Barton III, Evie Russell and Dave Hewett, Zoning Board of Appeals; Peggy Wright and Jim Dake, Board of Assessment Appeals; Wallace Barton and Curt Dowling, Fire Commission; Michael Palazzi, Planning and Zoning Commission; Ed Sarisley, Planning and Zoning Commission Alternate;

**Democrats:** Eric Shevchenko, Daniel Warren and Dennis Foran, Board of Finance; Elaine Buchardt and Emily Timreck, Board of Assessment Appeals; Eric Anderson and Scott Person, Planning and Zoning Commission; John Cochrane, Planning and Zoning Commission Alternate; Dorothy Yeomans and Donald Keener, Zoning Board of Appeals; Wayne Thorpe, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate; Mark Williams, Fire Commission.

Election Day is next Monday, May 4. Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at the Andover Town Hall community room, 17 School Rd.

## Annual Andover Budget Meeting Next Week

The annual town budget meeting is scheduled for next Thursday, May 7.

During the meeting, those present will be able to discuss the proposed budget for 2015-16 before voting to send the proposed number to referendum.

In addition, those in attendance will determine whether or not to increase the salary of elected officials by 2 percent

Voting by absentee ballots is not permitted for this meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. in the town office community room, 17 School Rd.

## Marlborough Police News

4/21: State Police said Scott Stewart, 25, of 16 Clay Ave., Norwich, was arrested and charged with operating under suspension, reckless driving, disobeying an officer, DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane.

4/22: State Police said Racheal Allen-Foley, 27, of 75 Johnson Rd., was arrested and charged with possession of narcotics, possession of paraphernalia, operating under suspension, and driver use of a cell phone.

4/25: State Police said Peter Meade, 25, of 155 Village Square Dr., New Britain, was arrested and charged with DUI and reckless driving.

## Colchester Police News

4/21: State Police said Kristophe Kahle, 31, of 37 Davidson Rd., was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right.

4/22: State Police said Michelle Duthrie, 43, of 4 River Rd., was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

4/22: State Police said Francesca Colonna, 26, of 118 Deer Run Dr., was arrested and charged with failure to appear, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of heroin.

4/22: State Police said Anthony Alos, 30, of 416 Lebanon Ave., was arrested and charged

with first-degree criminal mischief.

4/22: State Police said Jennifer Heilweil, 32, of 71 Reservoir Rd., was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

4/23: State Police said Nathaniel McCann, 21, of 193 Lake Rd., Andover, was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to keep right on a curve and speeding.

4/25: Colchester Police said Derek Farrington, 29, of 335 Windham Ave., was arrested and charged with DUI and making an improper turn.

# Obituaries

## Andover

### Barbara Yeomans

Barbara Badmington Holden Yeomans, 99, of Newport, N.H., formerly of Andover, passed away at her home Thursday, March 19, at the age of 96. She grew up in Hilliardville, where her father was a mill manager and her mother a church organist. She first came to Newport in 1947 to help her family run Sugar River Fabrics, a maker of fine woollens and clothing.

She had two long and loving marriages. She was married to the poet and writer Raymond Holden from 1949 to his death in 1972, and together they purchased and stewarded the Newport land and home they named Whippoorwill Hill.

In 1974, Barbara married David Yeomans, whom she had met in high school and who was then actively engaged in Connecticut civic life, especially as Andover's first selectman. They lived in Andover for six years until David stepped down, and then came back to Whippoorwill Hill where they lived together until David's death in 1990. David, it turned out, already had a deep connection to North Newport. Together they shared all of Barbara's passions for land, literature, library, birds and entertaining, as well as David's passion for international travel. They enjoyed birding with the naturalist and author Edwin Way Teale.

David and Barbara left a large tract of land in the care of the New Hampshire state conservation program. As she wrote once to her husband David, "Men and women die, but land and love live on."

She is survived by two stepchildren and nieces and nephews.

Friends and family will share memories and celebrate her life on May 9 at her home.

## Portland

### Glenn E. Rice

Glenn E. Rice, 80, of Middletown, formerly of Portland, husband of Joan (Clark) Rice passed away Wednesday, April 22, at Portland Care and Rehab. He was the son of the late Carroll and Marion (Damren) Rice.

Born on March 17, 1935, in St. Albans, Maine, he was a loving father and grandfather.

He was a carpenter and master craftsman cabinet maker who loved his work. He was always willing to help others and shared the love of his work. He enjoyed square dancing with his wife, fishing, camping, going to Maine and spending time with his family.

Besides his wife of 55 years Joan, he leaves three daughters, Susan Robinson, Sheila Rice and Sandra Feitel, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 or to Portland Care and Rehabilitation, 333 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

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

## Portland

### Chad Wilson Latham

Chad Wilson Latham, 22, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, April 26, at his home. Born March 2, 1993, in Middletown, he is the son of Charles Latham of Meriden and Katherine Latham and her partner Kevin Ritchie of East Hampton.

Chad was a graduate of Portland High School, Class of 2011. He attended Wentworth Institute of Technology. Chad worked at Tri Town Foods in Portland. He was an avid Boston Red Sox fan and New England Patriot fan. Chad will be greatly missed.

Besides his parents, Chad is survived by his maternal grandmother Constance Boyko and her husband Leo of Portland and an Uncle William Schmidt and his wife Kathleen of Tolland. He was predeceased by his maternal grandfather William J. Schmidt and his paternal grandparents Kenneth and Frances Latham.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects today, May 1, from 4-7 p.m., at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

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

## Colchester

### Louise H. Coulombe

Louise H. Coulombe, 55, entered eternal peace Thursday, April 23. She was born in Middletown Oct. 8, 1959, daughter of Maurice and Margaret Coulombe of Colchester.

Louise graduated from Bacon Academy and earned her associates degree from Manchester Comm. College. Louise was a devoted and loving mother; she was an avid outdoors person who loved to be out kayaking, biking, hiking or just taking in nature with which she held a great appreciation for. She loved animals, especially dogs, and ran her own business "Happy Paws." Louise was unselfish and could be found volunteering any way she could and was a member of her condo association.

In addition to her parents, Maurice and Margaret, Louise is survived by and will be greatly missed by her sons, Matthew Raczewski of Vail, Colo., and Nathan Raczewski of Columbia; her brothers, James Coulombe and Bernard Coulombe; her sisters, Christine Lefebvre and Janine Brothers; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were held Wednesday, April 29, at Belmont Funeral Home, 144 So. Main St., Colchester, followed by a funeral service that evening. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Louise's memory may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society.

## East Hampton

### Roy W. Cavanaugh Sr.

Roy W. Cavanaugh Sr. of Bellwood Court, East Hampton, passed away Friday, April 24, at Middlesex Hospital. Roy fought a courageous battle. His spirited will to live will be remembered by many.

Roy lived most of his life in East Hampton. He worked for Artistic Wire and then went on to become a mechanic for Strongs Alignment of East Hartford for many years.

Roy was predeceased by his parents, James and Mildred Cavanaugh, and three siblings, Joan, Walter and Richard.

Roy is survived by his four children, Gail (Carbonell) Cavanaugh of East Hampton, Dale Cavanaugh of Bremerton, Wash., Roy W. Cavanaugh Jr. of Piney Flatts, Tenn., Theresa Lojewski of Clearwater, Fla; five grandchildren, Allison Iudiciani, Jack Cavanaugh, Dakota Cavanaugh, Jazmin Smola and "Grandpa's girl" Vanessa Cavanaugh; and two great-granddaughters, Briella and Milania Iudiciani; and his remaining siblings, Nancy Atkins of California, Patricia Shortt of Moodus, Thomas Cavanaugh of Maine, Shirley Clark of East Hampton; and many nieces and nephews.

There are no calling hours and burial will be private.

Roy's daughter would like to extend sincere gratitude to the seventh floor at Middlesex Hospital and the Visiting Nurses for the care and compassion they showed to him during his last few months.

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

## East Hampton

### Margaret J. Payne

Margaret J. Payne, 90, of East Hampton, widow of Frederick H. Payne Sr., died Sunday, April 26, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born Nov. 5, 1924, the daughter of the late Franklin and Margaret (Chapman) Jones. She had lived in Simsbury and then retired to East Newport Maine, before moving to East Hampton in 1998.

Margaret is survived by her two sons, Frederick Payne Jr. of Newington, Franklin Payne of Colbat, three grandchildren Michael, Anthony, Victoria and one great-granddaughter, Angelina. She was predeceased by her son, Stephen Payne.

A graveside service will be held today, May 1, at 10 a.m., in Simsbury Cemetery on Plank Hill Road, Simsbury. To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Colchester

### John Michael Fedishen

John Michael Fedishen, a lifelong resident of Colchester, died peacefully in his home Wednesday, April 22, at the age of 93, with family members by his side.

He was a combat veteran of World War II, loved animals and would often bring home baby "critters" to nurse back to health. John was very lucky to have lived his whole life in the quaint New England town of Colchester where he was known by many people.

He leaves behind two daughters, Carol McCrum of Montana and Lorraine Domijan of Norwich; stepdaughter, Joanne Halpern and her partner, Steven Labonosky of Colchester; a beloved nephew, Richard Wilson of Norwich. He was the husband of the late Annette Marie (Beaudette) Fedishen; brother of Joanna Hough and stepfather of David Lemieux.

Private burial with full military honors was observed at the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown.

The family would like to thank the VITAS Hospice for their care extended during John's final illness.

## East Hampton

### Beverly W. Blau

Beverly W. Blau, 93, of East Hampton, died peacefully in her sleep at the Atria Hamilton Heights Assisted Living Community in West Hartford Friday, April 10.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, William F. Blau Sr., in 2006 and by her son William F. Blau Jr., who died March 10, 2015, at East Hampton.

She is survived by her daughter, Sherry Blau Wintory of Tucson, Ariz.; her son, Barton W. Blau of East Hampton; her seven grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Beverly was the daughter of Marjorie Gay House and Howard W. House of East Hampton. Her younger sister, Audrey House Clarke, lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, and her older sister Barbara House Fitzgerald also died at age 93.

Bev attended grade school in East Hampton, then Middletown High School until her senior year, when she moved to Gilford and graduated from Gilford High School. She graduated from Middlesex Hospital School of Practical Nursing with honors to become an LPN, and was president of her graduating class.

Bev married Bill Blau in 1940 at the age of 18 and after World War II, they raised their children in Portland, spending the summers at their cottage on Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton, where they were avid sailors competing in the Lake Pocotopaug Sailing Club. They were the owners of Blau Furniture stores in Middletown, Manchester and Saybrook. After retiring from the furniture business they worked together in their new family business, New Trends Decorating and Design, from which they both retired.

They became word travelers after their children were grown with trips to over 30 worldwide locations for sightseeing and pleasure. They experienced it all. Bill and Bev sold the cottage in 1970 and purchased the Meeks Point home on Lake Pocotopaug, where they lived for 46 years together and then Bev spending nine more years living on their very favorite place on earth.

Bev was strong, smart, and independent and always spoke her mind. Hail and farewell!

A family memorial celebration will be held later in the spring, when the lake is the most beautiful, the leaves are green and the air is fresh and clean.

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

## East Hampton

### James Alan Curtis Sr.

James Alan Curtis Sr., 74, of East Hampton, husband for 52 years to Irene M. Curtis, passed away, peacefully, Saturday, April 25, with family by his side. He was born in South Glastonbury Feb. 18, 1941, to the late Nathan and Mildred Curtis. Jim was predeceased by a brother, Nathan.

Jim and Irene lived in East Hampton on the shore of his beloved Lake Pocotopaug for 45 yrs. Jim attended High Street School and graduated Glastonbury High School in 1959.

He is survived by two sons and their spouses, James Alan Curtis Jr. and Maureen of East Hampton; and Kevin Matthew Curtis and Regina of Coventry; three wonderful granddaughters, who were the light of his life, also survive, Ashley and Britney Curtis of Coventry and Kaelyn Curtis of East Hampton. Jim is also survived by sisters Norma (and brother-in-law Tom) McCann of Enfield, and Elizabeth Silva of Warehouse Point. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews and cousins.

Jim worked initially at Roskin Distributors, and was a very proud employee of General Electric in Manchester for 25 years, and also worked for Sherwin Williams Co. before retiring. He met his wife Irene of 52 years as a new co-worker at Roskin's, when she went into the warehouse for a package that arrived at the shipping/receiving office and heard his incredible voice singing "Maria" that reverberated everywhere throughout the warehouse, while he drove a forklift around. He was always moving ahead and assuming more responsibility as an appliance serviceman, the GE Service call center manager, and manager of major appliance distribution all in Manchester. He knew so many of the Independent Appliance store owners, and enjoyed showing the younger guys how tough and strong he was when training them.

Jim was an acolyte at St Luke's Church in South Glastonbury, and sang in the Nayaug Chorus from same area. He was self-taught to play keyboard, guitar and harmonica and had a lifelong passion for all music. He'd personally accomplished so many improvement projects for our home, so talented.

Jim was a man of great integrity; a kind, loyal, awesome husband who always supported my endeavors, and our children and grandchildren's academic and sports activities...and then sometimes he could be 'grumpy gpaw' after the initial three strokes 11 years ago resulted in frustrating limitations. A friend to all, always willing to help, he volunteered many hours for the beach neighborhood's organization, the Princess Pocotopaug Corp. Jim enjoyed our neighborhood's family friendly environment and our sons loved growing up "on the lake." Jim spent many hours driving the ski boat for the boys. Jim and Irene shared memorable trips to many places in the United States.

The family would like to especially thank the nurses and staff at Harrington Court Rehabilitation Unit in Colchester, and the doctors, nurses and staff at Hartford Hospital for their compassionate care. Following a hemorrhagic stroke, Jim had lived at and received wonderful care at Harrington Court these last 16 months. Jim wanted to be an organ donor, but too many months of infections/antibiotics precluded that, regrettably.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Saturday, May 2, at 10 a.m., followed by a service at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the East Hampton Ambulance Association or CPTV or American Lung Association.

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



## Obituaries continued

### Andover

#### Frank J. Cataldi

Frank “Butch” J. Cataldi, 94, of Andover, formerly of East Hartford, passed away peacefully Sunday, April 26, with his caring family by his side. Frank was the loving husband for 49 years of the late Eleanor (Anderson) Cataldi. Born in East Hartford May 22, 1920, a son of the late Antonio and Dorothy (LaGiorgio), he had resided in East Hartford for most of his life prior to moving to Andover 10 years ago.

Frank was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Prior to his retirement, Frank was employed for 30 years by Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, East Hartford. A talented leather craftsman, Frank worked part-time at Tandy Leather Shop on Main Street, East Hartford. He also enjoyed woodworking, and following the New York Yankees, New York Giants and UConn sports.

Most of all, Frank was a family man and a proud devoted husband, father, and grandfather who enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

Frank is survived by his three children, Sandra Cataldi of South Windsor, David J. Cataldi and his wife Valarie of Merrimack, N.H., Georgette St. Jean and her husband Roger of Andover; seven adored grandchildren, Michael Borillo of Orlando, Fla., Jennifer Lombardo and her husband Steven of Colchester, Thomas Cataldi and his companion Aimee of Merrimack, N.H., Peter Cataldi of Wilmington, N.C., Daniel Cataldi of Wilmington, N.C., Cecile St. Jean of Andover, Jacob St. Jean of Andover; three cherished great-grandchildren, Julia and Ryan Lombardo, Anthony Cataldi; several nieces, nephews and dear friends.

The funeral service was Thursday, April 30, from the D’Esopo-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated that morning at St. Mary’s Church, corner of Main Street/Maplewood Avenue, East Hartford. Burial with military honors followed at Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford. Relatives and friends called at the funeral home chapel Wednesday, April 29.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Frank’s name may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association - CT Chapter, 2075 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66676.

For online expressions of sympathy to the family, visit [desopo.com](http://desopo.com).

### Colchester

#### Elizabeth Calkins Mazzola

Elizabeth Calkins Mazzola, 87, of Colchester, formerly of Willimantic, passed away peacefully Wednesday, April 22, surrounded by her family. She was the daughter of the late James and Helene Calkins, sister of the late James and Mildred Calkins. She was a devoted wife to her late husband Joseph whom she shared 51 years of marriage.

She leaves her son Charles J. Mazzola and his wife Dawn of Colchester, Joseph A. Mazzola and his wife Kellie of Ellington and Jeffrey C. Mazzola of Enfield; her granddaughter Courtney and her fiancé JJ, granddaughter Marissa and grandson Corey. She also leaves her sister-in-law Gloria Morris, her brother-in-law Charles Mazzola and his wife Andrea, her godson Leo Morris, dear nephew Lee Michon and many nieces and nephews.

Elizabeth graduated from Norwich Free Academy and received her bachelor’s in education from Connecticut Teachers’ College, now known as Eastern Connecticut State University. She was a dedicated early childhood education teacher who taught for over 30 years at schools including St. Joseph’s School, Natchaug School and in Coventry. She loved teaching children, singing, playing piano and cooking for her family and friends.

She was also very proud of her family history as she was a member of the Mayflower Society, Daughters of the American Revolution and the Elder Brewster Society. Over the years she helped her husband Joe with many of the charities he was involved in including the March of Dimes and the Orders of the Sons of Italy of America, of which she was also a member.

Elizabeth will be greatly missed by her family, friends and those whom lives she touched.

Her funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday, April 25, in St. Joseph Church in Willimantic. Calling hours were Saturday morning at Potter Funeral Home in Willimantic.

To sign the online memorial guestbook, visit [potterfuneralhome.com](http://potterfuneralhome.com).

### Colchester

#### Alexxis Lauren Barrios

Alexxis Lauren Barrios, 21, of Kittery, Maine, formerly of Mystic and Colchester, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, April 22. She was the daughter of Jerry “Jay” Barrios II and Jennifer Hendrickson, born July 24, 1993, in New London.

While growing up in Mystic, Lexx shared her life with her former stepfather, Kenneth S. Kliphon Jr. and brother, Hunter Kliphon. She attended Fitch High School and was a cheerleader for the Groton-Mystic Falcons. She also played volleyball and softball. Lexx became an integral part of an elite dance group called East Coast Intensity. It was there she thrived with her love of music and dance.

Lexx graduated from Bacon Academy in 2011. She went on to attend Three Rivers Community College in Norwich. She was employed at Foxwoods Resort and Casino. She recently moved to Kittery to live with her mom and began working at York Hospital in York, Maine. It was during this time that Lexx showed an interest in pursuing a career in nursing.

Lexx had a contagious personality and electrifying smile. No matter where she was or who she was with, she always made them feel special. She was known for putting others before herself, almost to a fault, but she wouldn’t have had it any other way.

Lexx never judged anyone and always loved unconditionally. She listened to music on her iPod, no matter what she was doing. She shared her love for animals, with her German Sheppard, Bella. She enjoyed bowling with her dad, uncles and grandpas. Bowling was in her genes, and she excelled at it. They often bowled on leagues and in tournaments together. Lexx enjoyed spending time at camp with her mom, stepdad, Stephen Hendrickson, and brother, Mikey, at Mousam Lake in Maine.

Lexx, will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her mother, Jennifer; father, Jay; stepdad, Steve; and former stepdad, Kenneth; uncles, Jeffrey Santos, Daniel Santos, Joey Barrios, Brandon Barrios, Thomas Hendrickson, Ted Engel and Bert Bowden; aunts, Michelle Barrios, Jessica Santos, Katherine Hendrickson, Shannon Barrios, Rhina Barrios, Lisa Schrader and Angela Kiddy. Her god parents were uncle Jeffrey Santos and aunt Michele Barrios. Lexx was lucky enough to have the love of many grandparents, including Lamberto and Shirley Santos, Jerry and Linda Barrios, Kenneth and Leonida Kliphon, Jeffrey and Gail Hendrickson and Melody Topalis.

Her funeral Mass was held Wednesday, April 29, at Saint Patrick’s Church in Mystic.

### Colchester

#### James Butova

James “Jimmy” Butova, 54, of Uncasville, went home to the Lord Wednesday, April 22, after a valiant battle with cancer.

Jimmy was born Sept. 19, 1960, in Norwich, to Peter and Theresa (Nye) Butova. He graduated from Montville High School in 1978 and worked for the former Thermos Co., United Nuclear, Pfizer and finally found his niche for the past 23 years at P&H Construction, where he worked until his illness.

He was a fun-loving guy who enjoyed fishing at Race Point Beach in Provincetown, Mass., and listening to classic rock from the 70s. Many summers were spent driving dune buggies with his father and brother on the Cape and everyone will remember his ’66 Vette. He was an avid Red Sox and New York Giants fan.

Jimmy always made himself available to family, friends or anyone who needed his helping hand.

Jimmy is survived by his mother, Theresa “Topsy” Butova, sister-in-law, Martha Butova and his beloved nephew, Christopher Butova. He was predeceased by both his father and brother Peter H. Butova in 1995.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. John the Evangelist Church on Maple Avenue, Uncasville, Saturday, April 25. Burial was private at the convenience of the family. Visitation was held at the Montville Funeral Home of Church & Allen, 53 Norwich-New London Tpke., Uncasville, Saturday, prior to the Mass.

The family extends a special thanks to Dr. Slater, the staff at E.C.H.O., the nursing staff of A-2 at Backus Hospital, Sister Rita, and the wonderful caregivers at Harrington Court in Colchester.

Donation in Jimmy’s memory may be made to Eastern Connecticut Hematology & Oncology, 330 Washington St., Suite 220, Norwich, CT 06360.

### Hebron

#### Lorraine Murphy Weil

Hon. Lorraine Murphy Weil, 68, formerly of Hebron, entered eternal life Sunday, April 26. Lorraine was born Sept. 8, 1946, in Flushing, N.Y. She was the daughter of Caroline and Edward Murphy. Edward died shortly after Lorraine’s birth. Some years later, Caroline married John Murphy, who Lorraine referred to as Dad.

Lorraine is survived by her husband Ronald Sr., her daughter Mary Weil Tufaga and her husband Sapati Tufaga, her son Ronald Jr. and his wife Jennefer; granddaughters Logan and Carol Ann Tufaga; brother-in-law Larry Hulack and his wife Ariel; nephew Lance Hulack, his wife Sue Ann, and their daughters Cameron and Rylee. Lorraine was predeceased by her sister, Carol Ann Hulack.

Lorraine graduated from Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1964. In September 1964, Lorraine entered New York University’s College of Arts and Science, where she met Ron. Lorraine and Ron were married in August 1966. They spent the next two years in Furth, Germany, where Ron was stationed while serving in the US Army.

Upon return to the United States, Lorraine worked at United Technologies Research Labs as an engineering aid until her daughter, Mary, was born in 1969. At that time, the family moved to Hebron. Ronald Jr. was born in 1973. Lorraine and Ron continued to reside in Hebron until 2002, when they moved to their current residence in Hamden.

Lorraine graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University and the University of Connecticut School of Law with high honors. Upon graduating from law school, Lorraine clerked for the Hon. Robert Krechevsky prior to joining the law firm of Hebb & Gitlin, where she specialized in bankruptcy and financial restructuring. In 1991, she became the first female member of the firm. In 1999, Lorraine was sworn in as the first female United States bankruptcy judge in the District of Connecticut. In 2013, Lorraine retired as the Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court of the District.

Lorraine was a lifelong fan and aficionado of thoroughbred breeding and racing. She loved to travel. Among her many honors, she was very proud of her appointment as a Kentucky Colonel. That said, her greatest treasure was her family.

Her funeral procession left the North Haven Funeral Home, 36 Washington Ave., today, May 1, at 9:15 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Joan of Arc Church, 450 West Todd St., Hamden, at 10 a.m. The visiting hours were Thursday, April 30. Interment will be private at a later date in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, [trfinc.org](http://trfinc.org), or the Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School Development Department, [blmhs.org](http://blmhs.org).

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