

RIVEREAST

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Successful Collection... Andover postal carriers collected and delivered more than 700 pounds of donated food to the Andover Food Pantry, from a curb-side collection day held May 9. Anyone who is in need of food or wants to make a donation to the pantry should call Joan Soucy at 860-208-3226. Pictured are postal carrier Lynn Kitchell and Hebron postmaster John Wardwell.

RHAM Budget Heads Back to Referendum

by Geeta Schrayter

Today, RHAM Board of Education members will gather at a district meeting to decide whether to forward the proposed RHAM budget to a second referendum.

If they vote to do so, the budget, which is now \$68,880 slimmer, will go before voters Tuesday, May 26, and the hope is the lower number will be enough to lead to its approval.

The number was reduced after voters in the three RHAM towns rejected the proposal at the May 5 referendum, at which time the budget came in at \$27.84 million. Now, the proposal is \$27.77 million – a 3.43 percent increase over the 2014-15 budget.

The reduction is made up of savings resulting from lower-than-expected health insurance premiums due to staff switching over to high-deductible health insurance plans.

RHAM Board of Education Chairman Danny Holtsclaw mentioned this, and added that “from the initial proposed budget, the board also reduced a little over \$450,000. So the increase is 3.43 percent and I think the board is convinced that is a fair and responsible budget and addresses all of the academic program needs that faculty and administration have presented to the board.”

He furthered, “the hope is that the people in the three towns see the budget for what it’s intended to deliver for services for students.”

Holtsclaw said he was “confident with the budget being fair and reasonable,” but “whether or not I know it’s going to pass – I don’t have a crystal ball.”

Major areas of increase in the proposal include \$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.

Holtsclaw said it was important taxpayers understood the various constraints facing the budget. In addition, he mentioned some of the initiatives that are included.

“One in particular is the one-to-one computing program we’re slowly introducing, first in the eighth grade, which will allow us to have more notebook computers available for students to conduct their assignments, do research, collaborate online with other students and do group projects all while in school,” he stated.

Holtsclaw also mentioned curriculum had expanded to include Google Classroom “and this is one of those efforts that’s part of that to make sure we have sufficient computers available to students not only to do classwork but to take the Smarter Balanced testing and other testing they’re required to take.”

He concluded it was also important to acknowledge the performance of the school and the cost per pupil in the district.

“RHAM is ranked a top-performing district in the state and the achievement is done at a cost per pupil that is materially lower than many

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Latest Plans Presented for Elmcrest Site

by John Tyczkowski

Tuesday evening, more than 30 residents gathered in the Gildersleeve School cafeteria in Portland to hear the latest plans for development of the former Elmcrest Hospital campus.

Those in attendance included First Select-woman Susan Bransfield, Town Planner Deanna Rhodes, members of the Elmcrest Campus steering and advisory committees, property owner Fred Hassan and several members of the general public.

Located at the corner of Main and Marlborough streets, the property was first approved for a mixed-use development called Portland TownPlace in 2009. However, development was stalled during the subsequent recession. The development, which was the idea of Hassan, was eventually deemed “not economically viable” by the town – and little progress has been made on the site since.

Most recently, the town began last fall with the process of a planning study to evaluate the potential of the site for mixed-use development that includes the adaptive reuse of several historic buildings on the site.

The planning study is funded through a

\$50,000 Vibrant Communities Initiative Grant from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Cecil Group, a planning and urban design firm is working with Hassan and the town along with Bartram & Cochran, a real estate consulting firm, and Tighe & Bond, an environmental and transportation engineering firm.

Cecil Group founding principal Steve Cecil led the presentation, detailing three possible guidelines for the property’s development, which were all focused on what Cecil called the idea of “Elmcrest as a gateway to Portland and as a destination,” and on developing the site while preserving its historic character.

The first plan, termed the “Town Center Community,” would devote 36,000 square feet to retail space. It would also provide for 6,000 square feet of office space, and include 240 units of housing.

It would involve a town green, facing Marlborough Street and bordered by the historic homes on the property to the south.

Also, there would be a corner retail space at Main and Marlborough, which could include a

pharmacy. Three- to four-story multi-family housing would be arranged in an L-shape bordering Perry Avenue and the back of the Elmcrest campus.

The second plan, or the “Balanced Mixed-Use Center,” would include a much larger 66,700 square feet of retail space, alongside 180 units of housing. There would be no office space.

In addition to decreasing housing space, this plan would place it to the side along Perry Avenue. The back of the property would encompass retail space, and expanded parking.

The retail corner space would remain, as would the town green border by the historic properties.

The third plan, called the “Village Center Community,” would include only 26,000 square feet of retail space, alongside 5,000 square feet of office space and 125 housing units.

A “scaled-down design,” Cecil said this plan would break up the retail and residential space into smaller units.

“It would be more picturesque in character with smaller buildings,” he said. “It’s a very

different look and feel.”

Major site and traffic changes marked this plan as well. It was also the only plan to lack a town green, and it would move the Marlborough Street access further west, toward the center of the property’s border with the road.

The “Village Center Community” plan would also not include Main Street access.

All plans were drawn up around the specific idea of preserving the historic 19th century buildings on the property: the Brainerd House, the Hart-Jarvis House and the Sage House.

“Those houses are the core of what these plans are all about,” Cecil said. “We’re making sure we hold on to them.”

Those buildings would be targeted for office or retail use, and not residential use, Cecil said. Also, non-historic exterior modifications to those houses, such as staircases, would be removed.

Cecil said a possibility might be to add in some buildings to help form the edges of the town green.

“There could be small businesses, a restaur-

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RHAM Budget cont. from Front Page

other districts – and elementary districts as well,” Holtsclaw said. “That’s very important.”

RHAM’s cost per pupil for the 2013-14 school year was \$12,939, compared to \$12,078 in Marlborough, \$13,248 in Hebron and \$14,039 in Andover.

RHAM Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski also spoke about the budget this week, mentioning the district’s cost per pupil.

“I think that the items put forth are essential to keep the high quality of programming that we have in place here,” he stated. “I think that if you look at our student achievement versus the cost per pupil, which is lower than some of the elementary sending districts, I think we do a pretty good job; we have a cost effective program.”

Speaking to the student achievement, Siminski went on to mention some of the college acceptances that had been received by students in the Class of 2015, which includes two heading to Yale University, another heading off to Boston University and another to Brown University, and 18 bound for the University of Connecticut.

“I think that’s truly a good achievement and I think we’re pretty proud of what our kids did.”

In addition, Siminski shared the school had been ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as the 1,059th best high school nationally and 28th within Connecticut based on students’ performance on state assessments and how well the school prepares them for college.

“We’re hopefully that it will pass,” Siminski concluded regarding the budget. “I think that there’s been a lot of campaigning with parents so I think that if the parent turnout is significant I’m optimistic about the passage of the budget.”

Officials in the sending towns however, weren’t so certain.

Marlborough First Selectwoman Cathy Gaudinski said this week she was hoping the budget would have seen further reductions. The town’s portion of the RHAM budget is \$8.25 million – a 5.92 percent increase over what it is currently paying for RHAM. The increase is driven not just by the RHAM budget, but also by the town’s levy, or the portion of the budget it is responsible for, rising slightly, thanks to an increased percentage of Marlborough students expected to attend the schools next year.

“I was hoping that they would be closer to a 3 percent [increase] at a minimum,” she stated, explaining RHAM’s cost to Marlborough is “really a large percent of the increase for the

Town of Marlborough and we typically don’t have this type of tax increase, so I was hoping that the RHAM board would take this into consideration.”

Marlborough is set to vote on its budget at a town meeting June 1. The proposed spending plan calls for a 4.6 percent tax increase.

As for whether she thought the budget would pass where it stands, “It all depends who comes out to vote Tuesday,” Gaudinski said, adding she thought the change in the way the budget was proposed and reviewed this year may have had an impact on the end result.

In previous years, Siminski would propose a continuation budget and include decision packages for the board to deliberate on; this year however, Siminski had been asked to present a budget with everything included and the board worked backwards from there, eliminating items as they went.

“I think that probably impacted the deliberation of the RHAM board,” Gaudinski stated.

She added Marlborough had held off on its town vote because they thought there would be a greater reduction in the RHAM budget “and I was hoping we could give as much of a tax relief to our taxpayers as possible.”

In Hebron, Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt said he too thought there should have been more of a reduction. In fact, he said he didn’t really consider the \$68,000 reduction a reduction at all.

“I think RHAM now is doing catch-up,” by incorporating the changes in insurance costs.

“So I don’t really feel they’ve made any reductions at this time,” he stated, adding, “I would hope that it is enough for the voters,” but the town had really been looking for more reductions.

Watt concluded, “If it passes, great. If it doesn’t, then my feeling is they’re going to have to take a hard look at [cuts made by] the towns and the elementary schools and make more reductions.”

As for which it will be, that will be decided next Tuesday, when voters in each of the three RHAM towns head to the polls.

* * *

In Hebron, voting will take place at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.; in Marlborough it will occur in the community room at Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Drive; and in Andover voters should go to the community room at the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd. Polls are open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It’s back to the polls next week for taxpayers in Hebron, Andover, Marlborough and Colchester, as the Colchester, Hebron and RHAM budgets return to referendums. It’ll be interesting to see not just if the budgets pass, but how many people show up to vote.

Turnouts at the previous attempts to get those budgets passed earlier this month was pretty low – Colchester saw a little more than 23 percent of its registered voters cast ballots, Hebron saw 16 percent, and just 1,663 people bothered to vote on RHAM from Andover, Hebron and Marlborough *combined*.

Fans of the proposed spending packages no doubt hope more people turn up at the polls this time around, as conventional wisdom says that the lower the vote total, the greater the chances that the budgets fail. But a higher vote total doesn’t *always* mean a passed budget. I mean, 84 percent of the electorate in Hebron didn’t cast ballots May 5. (And it’s important to note the word “electorate.” It’s not like 84 percent of all residents stayed home; 84 percent of registered voters – of people who at one point had decided they wanted to be part of the political process – stayed home. It’s disgusting and sad.) It’d be silly to assume all, or even most, of that 84 percent were in favor of the budget. Case in point: East Hampton had a turnout rate nearly double that of Hebron, and its budget still went down.

So, I guess what I’m saying is, you never know. More people could show up and the budgets could pass, or they could fail again. One thing’s for sure, though: A higher turnout rate would provide a clearer mandate for town officials and/or school board members. After the budgets in Hebron, Colchester and East Hampton failed, town officials did some chopping of the spending proposals. It

was a very expected move, as – and this is something all the referendum no-shows should realize – town budgets almost never increase after voters shoot them down. The only message ‘no’ voters are sending is to cut the budget.

But they were making those decisions based on referendums where, in East Hampton’s case, not even one-third of the town’s electorate had voted. Or, in Hebron’s case, not even one-fifth. And while I can’t speak for all the *Rivereast* towns, I know that in Hebron, town officials told me hardly anyone showed up during any of the town meetings at which the budget was crafted. Barely a soul participated in the process. Trying to craft a budget that will be acceptable to voters is pretty tough when people can’t even bother to offer you any feedback along the way.

No one has a time machine, however. No one can attend all those budget-crafting meetings they skipped during the winter and early spring. But what they can do is show up at the polls in Colchester, Hebron, Andover and Marlborough next week, and in East Hampton two weeks from now, and send a *clear* ‘yes’ or a *clear* ‘no.’ No more of this business where a small minority of the town’s electorate decides whether a budget lives or dies.

I’m not here to advocate for or against any of these proposed budgets. But I am here to encourage everyone to get out and vote, make the mandate for the town officials as clear and decisive as possible.

These are your taxes. These are your town services. These are your kid’s schools. Don’t tell me you don’t have a vested interest in how all this turns out. Get out there and vote.

* * *

See you next week.

Elmcrest Site cont. from Front Page

rant, some new buildings built with facades matching the historic character of the houses,” he said.

In addition, the first two plans would include access from Main Street heading north from Middletown, as well as access from Marlborough Street heading east.

However, the Village Center Community plan would only include the Marlborough Street access.

Regarding parking, Cecil said a possible plan would be to take advantage of the natural slope that the Elmcrest Campus is located on, and put some parking underground in order to increase the amount of greenspace on the property.

Cecil was also careful to emphasize that none of these plans were proposals.

“These are not concrete site plans to be presented to developers,” he said. “We’re trying to have a discussion about what kinds of opportunities and issues might develop for the site plan over time.”

“We’re trying to push things in several different directions to see what could happen,” he said.

Maura Cochran, of Bartram & Cochran, spoke about the feasibility of certain types of businesses.

Pharmacy and smaller retail shops were in, and hotels were out, she said, and that was driven by the location of the Elmcrest Campus.

“This should be marketed as Route 66 East,”

she said. “Route 66 West has a traffic count of 33,600 cars a day. Here, the traffic count is 33,300 cars a day. Retail works at Route 66 West; that should be the focus.”

“If you tell Panera you’re a town of 8,000, it’s going to be a very short conversation,” Cochran continued. “But if you tell them about this traffic count, which is one of the highest in the county for a state road, there should be more enthusiasm.”

After the presentation, residents split into three groups to discuss their thoughts on the plans showcased that evening.

Some conclusions from those groups included wanting to preserve greenspace while providing enough parking, making sure the town green would be a public space and making sure the new buildings’ appearances fit the historic character of Portland.

Residents who lived on Perry Avenue said they would want to look into a traffic light at the Elmcrest intersection to calm traffic, as well as some sort of buffer zone, perhaps with trees, at the Perry Avenue border.

The final public meeting on the Elmcrest property is planned for next month, with the completion of the planning study following by the end of June.

“We’re dedicated to moving this forward,” Cecil said. “And we appreciate this community’s assistance in reaching some conclusions about where to go, this really does help.”

\$53.61 Million Colchester Budget Heads Off to Referendum

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

On Thursday, May 28, residents of Colchester will go back to the polls to vote on a recently-decreased combined budget of \$53.61 million.

The new proposed budget was sent to referendum by voters at a town meeting earlier this week. The previous spending proposal, a combined \$53.86 million package, was shot down by voters May 5 – the town budget by a 1,236-1,125 tally, and the education budget by a 1,285-1,075 total.

Following the defeat, the Board of Finance cut \$150,000 from the education increase, \$100,016 from the town increase, and realized \$22,300 of additional revenue, to bring the budget to its new lighter amount.

The new proposed combined budget would be up 1.37 percent, or \$724,000 from the current year’s spending plan of \$52.88 million.

With the cuts and additional revenue, the new mill rate would be 30.81, up from the current 30.57. This translates to a tax increase of 0.8 percent.

The mill rate is used to determine one’s taxes; taxpayers can do so by multiplying the mill rate by their total assessments and then dividing by 1,000. One mill is equal to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property; thus, and under the proposed mill rate of 30.81, a resident with a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$7,702.50 in taxes.

The reductions the finance board made following the May 5 rejection left the proposed town budget now at \$13.76 million, an increase of 4.09 percent, or \$541,000, from current year

spending, while the education budget sits at \$39.85 million, up 0.46 percent, or \$184,000 from the current year.

First Selectman Stan Soby said last week the town is focusing on keeping in the budget larger items that will provide long-term value. Cuts were made after Soby consulted with department heads on what the priorities are and what the department heads can work with.

“I don’t make any predictions about whether the budget will pass,” Soby said. “I just hope people come out to vote.”

Soby noted that, with the new proposed mill rate of 30.81, for a person with property valued at \$100,000, the increase to someone’s taxes would be \$24 for the year or \$2 a month.

“I hope we’ve trimmed in places to save some money, but also move some things forward and provide the services people want in town,” Soby said. “I’m hoping people will see the increase as a responsible one that does things like repair the roads and provide services to seniors and social services and the little things that matter.”

Soby said that, throughout any resident’s lifetime, a person will use a variety of town services, and he said the town has worked to respond as best as they can.

“I think [the budget’s] modest and reasonable,” Soby said.

The town also has a tax calculator on the town website at colchesterct.gov.

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

Marlborough Resident a True Fighter

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

For Rachael Gagnon, giving up has never been the answer.

The 36-year-old Marlborough wife and mother of two was diagnosed with Stage III breast cancer on Valentine's Day 2012. After radiation and chemotherapy, things were looking up – only for Gagnon to find out exactly two years later, on Valentine's Day 2014, her cancer had returned, and had spread.

After the birth of her daughter in 2011, Gagnon said she felt a lump in her breast, but, considering her age and no family history of breast cancer, she didn't think anything of it. But, after a year, with the lump getting worse, she decided to do something about it. And even then, she said, she had to fight for a mammogram and ultrasound since she is under 40. Under the age of 40, most women don't have a mammogram or ultrasound done regularly.

"I could have caught it earlier," Gagnon said. "My [gynecologist] missed it."

Gagnon had her first surgery four weeks later. She said she opted for a double mastectomy to bring chances down of having the cancer in both breasts.

"From March to October, I had multiple surgeries and breast reconstruction," Gagnon said. "They found [another tumor] in the right breast and in the lymph nodes. The doctors hadn't detected it on any screenings."

Gagnon went through a series of chemotherapy and radiation. Gagnon said she remembers being so weak that a successful day was spending 10 minutes sitting on the porch watching her children swing on the swings in the backyard. Two years later, in 2014, she went through an elective surgery related to breast reconstruction and, during a follow-up scan, doctors found a 9-cm tumor on her ovaries.

"It [had been] completely undetected," Gagnon said. "I had an immediate hysterectomy."

A hysterectomy is the surgical removal of the uterus, sometimes also including the ovaries and fallopian tubes. During the surgery, doctors found more tumors on her ovaries and fallopian tubes, which they removed, along with tumors on her liver and in her bones. Doctors determined the tumors were not ovarian cancer in nature; they were breast cancer, meaning the breast cancer from 2012 had moved to Gagnon's ovaries and in other places in her body.

"On Valentine's Day in 2014, I was diagnosed Stage IV," Gagnon said. Doctors told her she had 24 months to live.

However, this time, remembering her time during chemotherapy when she was weak and felt like a part of her life was taken away from her, Gagnon decided on quality over quantity of life, and went for a second opinion. Gagnon had been going to Yale for treatment, but went to Sloan Kettering for its doctors' thoughts on her treatment. The doctors had prescribed a different medicine for her – but the side effects were terrible.

"Within 28 days, I couldn't walk," Gagnon said. "That's the day I stopped taking that medicine."

Opting instead to infuse natural remedies

with other medication, Gagnon hit a roadblock when insurance wouldn't cover alternative treatments and doctors thought she was crazy. Gagnon fought and put together her own treatment team. Sloan Kettering had said the integrative medicine was not a treatment – only a supplement.

"I wanted it as my main health care," Gagnon said. "I found an oncologist that said, 'Give it a shot.'"

With the integrative medicine she's been taking, Gagnon has been able to halt cancer.

"I stabilized," Gagnon said. Stabilizing in cancer terms means her tumors are not growing. "So far, I've lived against all odds."

On Wednesday, Gagnon had another CT scan to see if the tumors continued to be stable.

"It doesn't normally happen during Stage IV," Gagnon said.

"My kids are 4 and 7," Gagnon said of her daughter Kalena and son Daren. "I want a lot more than 24 months."

Unfortunately, because of insurance, her integrative medicines, totaling around \$500 or more a month, are not covered. That is why Gagnon's family began Rachael's Run.

This year will be the "second and last year" of the run, Gagnon said, because she doesn't like feeling like a charity case. Part of the funds from the run got to her family and part go to the non-profit organization, Little Pink Houses of Hope, which sends cancer patients and their families on a mini vacation in a beach house. Little Pink Houses of Hope "is designed to help families relax, reconnect and rejuvenate during the cancer journey," according to the website littlepink.org.

"Last year we raised \$8,000," Gagnon said. "It was going to cover the entire year."

However, last year, only a few months after she was diagnosed with Stage IV, Gagnon's husband, Daren, suffered a heart attack. The family, which lives on one income, was strained and had to use some of the fundraiser money to get by.

Gagnon hadn't been planning on holding the run this year, but, she said, her friends and extended family members said, "Don't fight with us." Gagnon said her extended family knew about her husband's heart attack and how she had been skipping doctor's appointments because she couldn't pay for them. To Gagnon, her children come first.

Gagnon finally conceded, and the run will take place next week on May 30.

Throughout her fight, Gagnon said she's gone in waves from being positive to having rough, horrible days.

"It's hard, but even on the hard days, I'm breathing, I'm here," Gagnon said. "I don't take life for granted."

With Stage IV, Gagnon said, doctors don't know what to do with her.

"The doctors have no answer – just a pile of drugs," Gagnon said. "It all comes down to me."

Gagnon said she's felt like she's on auto-pilot and just keeps going.

"I don't think about it. I just get up and go," Gagnon said. "I don't look back at the last three years."



Last year's Rachael's Run raised \$8,000 for the Gagnon family and for Little Pink Houses for Hope, a non-profit that gives breast cancer patients and their families a vacation. Pictured from left are, back row, Kalena Gagnon, Rachael Gagnon, Daren Gagnon, Keith Chicoine, Matt Fox and Vanessa Valentine; second row, Angeal Dean, Michayla Chicoine, Seth Valentine, Jane Boston and Dave Boston; first row, Ava Dean, Liana Fox and Daren Gagnon II.

She said people ask "why one more thing?" after Gagnon recently got sick with parasites during a trip to Punta Cana.

"I just say, 'let's fix it,'" Gagnon said. "If I stop, I may crash."

Gagnon credits her support system with helping her through which includes her family, friends and the entire Marlborough community.

"It's hard for the caregivers," she said. "It's a lot of stress and harder on the people around me."

To help people around her, Gagnon began her blog "Rachael's Lady Lumps" (rachaelsladylumps.com) two days after being diagnosed in 2012.

"It's too hard to reply to everything," Gagnon said of the texts, calls and emails she receives from family and friends. She made the blog public and said since beginning it, the blog has snowballed. "I get emails from Tokyo and Australia."

She said she's happy to provide an honest experience to people who may be going through the same thing – especially after she "Googled chemo once, and never did it again," due to the horror stories that she found.

Through the blog, Gagnon connected with a woman in California that was diagnosed a few days after her, and they have since become friends.

"[With] Stage IV, it gets harder" to meet people going through the same thing, Gagnon said. "Friends with Stage IV are dying or have died. They chose a different treatment path. I didn't choose clinical trials or chemo pills. I wish I had someone [else] doing something alternative [to talk to]."

No one in Gagnon's family has had breast cancer and Gagnon said it was never genetic.

"I'm blazing my own course," Gagnon said. "A lot of people ask how I know what I'm taking will work, and I say it's been stabilized for over a year."

She said she wanted to be able to live and keep her body as healthy as possible for as long as possible.

For people going through cancer, Gagnon said it's important to be your own advocate.

"Doctors are amazing, but they don't know everything," she said. "If you have a gut feeling, go with it."

Gagnon said people should also keep copies of everything, including every note a doctor makes on you. Gagnon said the only way she knew the issue with the parasites in Punta Cana was an infection because she looked up a term used in a doctor's note and discovered the infection herself. She then went to the doctor and received treatment.

For people that don't have cancer, Gagnon stressed that women check themselves and do a self-breast exam every month.

"My niece started at 16 doing a self-breast exam," Gagnon said. "I found mine after Kalena was born. Something feels off, go get it checked."

A 5K run and walk, Rachael's Run is currently accepting registrations. The run will be held on Saturday, May 30, beginning at 9 a.m., at Blish Memorial Park in Marlborough. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. at the park with shirts offered to the first 100 registrants. Finisher medals will be provided. The pre-registration entry fee is \$30 per person and the Kids 1 Mile Fun Run is \$5. There will be increased pricing the day of the event. To pre-register, go to runsignup.com/race/CT/Marlborough/RachaelRun.

\$10.83 Million Budget Passes on First Try in Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

Only a small portion of Andover's taxpayers headed to the polls Tuesday to vote for the proposed 2015-16 budget, but those who did turn out voted overwhelmingly in favor of the budget, which clocks in at \$10.83 million – and features no increase in taxes.

The budget passed by a vote of 192-41 and comes with a \$180,000 or 1.67 percent increase over current year spending. But despite the increase, the mill rate in town will remain the same, which is the reason Board of Finance Chairwoman Georgette Conrad said she expected the budget to pass.

"I really expected it to pass because we didn't increase the mill rate," she stated Wednesday. "I'm just kind of sad that more people didn't come out – it was a pretty small fraction of the voter list."

A little over 11 percent of voters made an appearance Tuesday, and while First Selectman Bob Burbank also commented on the turnout, he mentioned that was often how it went when voters were satisfied with the proposal.

"Even though there was a low turnout, I'm very pleased because people tend to not turn out when they're satisfied, but if they're not satisfied they seem to turn out in droves," he said, adding, "I think it shows that the Board of

Selectmen and the Board of Finance did a good job putting together a budget that doesn't have too many frills in it and were able to keep taxes the same."

Burbank furthered, "I'm glad it passed. It's always gratifying that it passed on the first try and of course, it was passed overwhelmingly."

Included in the budget are increases stemming from contracted raises as well as a two percent raise for non-union elected officials.

In addition, funds for a number of capital projects are included such as \$13,000 for thermal imaging cameras for the Fire Department; \$45,000 to replace gutters and soffits on the library; \$7,000 for a new furnace for the public works building; \$12,000 to refurbish the Public Works Department's pickup truck; \$8,000 for a new wide-format printer; and \$33,145 for the third year of a five-year lease to purchase for a town dump truck.

Speaking about capital projects in town, Burbank explained there were more it would have been nice to include, but the numbers didn't allow for it this year.

"There are quite a few capital projects that we would have liked to include but we tried to budget them to fit into the budget [and couldn't],

so it was felt by the Board of Selectmen that some of these could wait for a future year" he stated, adding, "But there are always projects that we look at and would like to do immediately but we still want to stay within a tight budget."

For example, he said, "some buildings need some substantial maintenance and we'll be looking at those and putting those in review for the next budget." In addition, "There's always more roadwork that needs to be done and so these are the major expenses that we try to address."

But in general, the approved budget "better be" adequate "or I'm going to be in trouble," Burbank laughed.

He furthered, "It's a tight budget. We hope that we don't have any extraordinary circumstances because there is no frills but we still have a respectable fund balance to fall back on, so if we happen to have another disastrous winter like we did this year we will have plenty of operating funds."

Similarly, Conrad stated, "We can manage." "We have a very small staff running this town so it's hard to get everything done," she continued. "It would be nice if we could have a lot

more money to do the things that need to get done but they'll get done slowly. I think the town is going to start working on buildings and things like that."

Conrad added, "We're trying to do as much as we can without raising taxes on the people because it's still very hard; our economy has not improved really in Connecticut. I think Connecticut is behind the rest of the country as far as the economy getting better and so until such a thing like that happens we're going to try to keep costs down and still maintain the services we have."

She concluded, "Who knows what's going to happen next year but we were very happy we didn't have to raise taxes. We thought maybe we might but we didn't and we were very happy about that."

Conrad had shared last week that as the board began the budget process, the thought was that the mill rate would need to increase from the current 30.72 up to 30.80, but that number then reduced to 30.77 and finally, to remaining the same.

"I'm happy," Conrad said of the budget's approval. "I'm glad that it's over and now we can move on."

Referendum on Revised Budget Next Week in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

Next Tuesday, the revised budget for 2015-16 will head before voters, and town officials are hoping the reductions made – which bring the budget down from a 2.49 percent increase to a 1.74 percent increase over the current year's budget – will be enough to earn the stamp of approval from residents.

On May 5, the initially proposed budget of \$36.65 million fell by a vote of 586-462; next week the number voters will decide upon stands at \$36.38 million.

Reductions to the number include a \$155,000 cut to the Board of Education budget, a \$75,000 reduction to the town government budget, and the decision to use \$110,000 from the town's fund balance, all made by the Hebron Board of Finance.

Along with the above, \$40,000 was added to expected revenues on the town side as the finance board became aware of an anticipated reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) due to this past winter's snowstorms.

In addition, the total includes \$68,880 in reductions made by the RHAM Board of Education.

But Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt said this week he wasn't sure the RHAM reductions would suffice.

"I'm not sure if the RHAM cut is going to be enough for the voters but I'm hoping it is," he stated, mentioning, "RHAM is the biggest part of the budget, but also had the smallest reduction."

Meanwhile, the cut to the town government budget brings that portion to \$8.89 million for a 2.54 percent or \$220,000 increase over the current year. However, just where most of the cuts will come from is yet to be determined.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said this week the selectmen would discuss some options for cuts at their meeting which was scheduled for Thursday after press time, but he said nothing would be finalized.

"We don't want to get anyone too excited until the next referendum where the budget passes or doesn't pass," Tierney said. "If we were to decide which to cut now, it could go by the wayside if the budget doesn't pass again."

At Thursday's meeting, Tierney said the board was likely to entertain cutting some of the initiatives that had been included in the budget "but I think overall they will wait to see what happens on the 26th and then make recommendations on June 4" at the selectmen's next meeting.

Watt shared similar thoughts, explaining the board planned "to start listing off possible ar-

eas we can make reductions [at the meeting] but we're feeling that there's going to be a lot of questions on some of those areas and we're probably not going to have a consensus on the whole \$75,000 reduction."

He furthered, "But we're going to get a good jump on it, then after we hear the results I think we'll be able to indicate what those areas will be to make up that \$75,000 that the Board of Finance cut."

Similarly, the Board of Education hasn't decided where all of the cuts will come from to reduce the education budget to \$11.99 million, making it even with current year spending.

At the board meeting last Thursday, Finance Director Richard Huot reported he had found \$15,000 in savings after an adjustment was made to insurance costs along with another \$40,000 from a retirement and staff shifting after the budget was completed.

As for reductions going above and beyond that, the board decided to wait for the new superintendent to be hired before deciding where the remaining \$100,000 in reductions will come from.

If the budget is approved next week, as town officials are hoping, the number will result in 0.25 mill increase over the current year (down from a 0.80 increase) making the proposed mill

rate 36.00. For a home assessed at \$250,000 this would equate to \$9,000 in taxes.

Speaking on his hopes for next week, Tierney stated, "I think that the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen heard the people that voted loud and clear. I think the cuts made were significant to the school and town and I think it brings the budget down to where it's a responsible budget. We still need to take care of things in town and services. It's a tight budget - if it goes through we will make it work."

But, he added "if it doesn't, we look at cutting into some services which we really don't want to do. And that's not a threat, it's just a fact."

Similarly, Watt said, "Certainly my hopes are that it does pass. I think the Board of Finance really felt that voters that came out gave a strong indication to make some reductions to both the Hebron Board of Education and the town and I think they did a good job of making some big reductions."

But, he acknowledged, "It's going to be a challenge for both boards to make up for the money they cut."

* * *

The referendum takes place Tuesday, May 26 from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.

Colchester Commission Adopts Plan of Conservation and Development

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The Planning and Zoning Commission Wednesday adopted a new Plan of Conservation and Development – a revised document designed to both address the town's past and its future.

Beginning the meeting with a public hearing regarding the plan, the commission introduced Glenn Chalder of Planimetrics, the company the town hired to facilitate the plan. Chalder also worked on the 2001 version of the plan.

"This is something we've been looking at for some time," commission chairman Joe Mathieu said. "This is what we've arrived at."

The commission began on the plan in July 2013, when the Board of Selectmen agreed to enter into a contract with Planimetrics. By October of that year, Chalder held his first public meeting asking for feedback and thoughts from the community. The first draft was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission last September, and had been in revision since then.

"The POCD is an advisory document intended to identify a vision for community,"

Chalder said. Chalder described the plan as an update to the 2001 version. According to new state laws going into effect on July 1, a plan must be updated every 10 years. If the commission had not adopted the plan before July 1, the town would not have been eligible for certain grants.

The plan is divided into five sections: context or demographics, heritage, future development, future needs, and recommendations for implementation.

Part of the importance of the demographics section, Chalder explained, is that Colchester is expected to continue to grow, however the population will be aging into more of an older population as the baby boomers age.

The plan, Chalder said, goes over honoring Colchester's heritage, protecting water resources and other resources, preserving farms and farming, preserving open space, implementing the 2006 open space plan, preserving community character through a design review process, enhancing quality of life by physical character and spirit, sustainability and resiliency

such as preparing for storms and going green, guiding growth and change, maintaining the town center and Westchester, strengthening the center economically and physically, supporting economic growth, and striving to be a regional center.

Chalder said the town also needs to maintain residential character, address future housing needs and other options with an aging population, identify and prioritize future facility needs, maintain and enhance roadways and sidewalks and enhance utility services.

Chalder suggested the town implement a Plan Implementation Committee made of people from multiple boards and a Capital Improvement plan to guide the town.

Leslie Curtis, an alternate member on the Agricultural Commission, questioned how the plan is approved. Curtis asked whether the commission adopts the plan or it goes to town vote.

Chalder explained because the POCD is seen as an advisory document to the planning commissions in each town, the commission adopts

it and uses an inclusive process to get the community's feedback. This inclusive process has taken place over the past months including hearings and meetings to get feedback.

Chris Bourque, chair of the Agricultural Commission, asked the commission to include on the resource maps the locally important farmland soils.

Chalder said he suggests adding it on and "can't imagine any downside."

Bourque then asked the commission to also add something in about the partnership between local farms and agriculture and the schools. However, during the motion to adopt the plan, Planning and Zoning Commission member Mark Noniewicz said he felt that could be covered by the Agricultural Commission and that it was not necessary.

Mathieu also asked for any opposition for the plan to speak, and no one did.

The commission then made a motion to adopt the plan and passed it unanimously with an effective date of June 21.

Colchester Town Planner to Depart

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

In August, Town Planner Adam Turner will bid farewell to Colchester and hello to Martha's Vineyard.

Turner, who has been town planner since 2007, accepted a position last month as executive director of the Martha's Vineyard Commission, the regional planning agency of the six towns in Martha's Vineyard, as well as two neighboring towns.

First Selectman Stan Soby spoke highly of Turner, stating he has been "fundamental in our zoning regulations revisions and really helping us envision what the new concepts are in how to look at zoning."

Soby said some of Turner's achievements during his eight year time in Colchester has been helping to look at the village district in the center of town, zoning in the Westchester area at the four corners, and bringing in future developments in the area of the New London Turnpike and Lake Hayward Road. Turner also helped bring Tractor Supply to town.

"He was important when the [Department of Transportation] came about the building

maintenance facility and working to provide water and sewer," Soby said. Turner helped with the Small Towns Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant that aided in the engineering for those utilities. Along with that STEAP grant, Soby said Turner has helped with many STEAP grants including the sidewalk streetscapes.

"Adam's had a big hand in that and working on a grant to extend the sidewalks further up Lebanon Avenue," Soby said. "He's worked on the walkability concept for the village concept."

That walkability concept, Soby said, has become popular in town.

"Part of the process with Planning and Zoning is making the process more user friendly, not letting the standards down, but making it easier for developers to come in and get assistance in putting up a project and meeting the needs and contributing to the grand list," Soby said.

He said Turner has helped make applications in the planning office go more smoothly for developers and easy to understand.

The most recent project Turner has aided in

is the Norton Mill project. The Norton Mill project is just getting underway now with combined funds from the Nature Conservancy and a STEAP grant to bring down the dam and make the historic property into a park named Norton Park.

"Adam's had his hands in a lot of things," Soby said. "We'll need to look at what comes next and what kind of talent we can attract here."

Although Soby said he realizes the town will not be able to quite replace Turner because of his unique skill sets and talents, Soby touted the town's new zoning regulations and the just-adopted Plan of Conservation and Development, saying they should be able to help the new town planner.

The Plan of Conservation and Development, which was adopted Wednesday, "sets a path forward to continue the work and provide some guidance to someone coming in in terms of how to proceed and continue the work," Soby said.

Soby said a lot of groups have helped put the plan in place.

"The kinds of things we've been doing to increase the economic vibrancy of the town while not losing the characteristics of the town have attracted so many of us here," Soby said.

Soby said Turner will be greatly missed.

"He's just a really good guy to work with," Soby said. "I just really appreciate the commitment and energy he has brought to the job and in helping get us on a sustainable path going forward."

Soby said the town is moving forward with finding a replacement.

"We will post the position and then we'll see what happens from there," Soby said of hiring a new town planner. "We'll have a panel to do preliminary reviews of applicants."

Soby said the town will also ask for assistance from another municipality to have a look at the applicant. This is a typical process, Soby explained, and the town has helped other municipalities the same way.

"We'll go through the process, and hopefully have someone on board to train before Adam leaves," Soby said.

Unified Sports Comes to Portland

by John Tyczkowski

Gisela Rice, a mother of two in the Portland public schools, wanted to find a way for her son could participate in extracurricular activities like her daughter.

"My son, Brandon, is almost six, and has special needs," she said. "I knew that he needed more, an extracurricular like all the other kids in the town have, like my daughter.

"So I approached Mike [Pelton] about something small like a karate program for special education kids," she added.

Pelton is the owner of Inner Circle Family Martial Arts, and a member of the Board of Education.

The weekly, one-hour Friday class began in January and numbered eight regulars from kindergarten to fourth grade, double the size that Rice and Pelton had anticipated.

"Then we started running with it," Rice said. Another key player in starting the program was Portland resident Lou Pear, who has experience working in the Special Olympics and who is a retired Unified Sports director.

Valley View Elementary School gym teacher Matt Fox has also been recruited as a Unified Sports coach.

Rice said she's seen big changes for the better in Brandon over the past five months.

"When he first started coming, he would cry the first two weeks," she said. "But he got so much more comfortable, and I even saw him at a birthday party being social with the other kids."

And Brandon exemplifies the goal of Portland Unified Sports, she said, which is to encourage teamwork, partnership skills and friendship, as well as the sense of being part of a team.

Sports the organization competes in include basketball, volleyball, soccer and track and field.

Unified Sports itself is a partnership between the Special Olympics' Connecticut chapter and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC), pairing student athletes with and without disabilities on the same teams.

To support its month-long pilot program from April 24 to May 21, the organization applied for and received a grant from Dylan's Wings of Change, a nonprofit founded to help children with autism.

The foundation was founded by the parents of 6-year-old Dylan Hockley, one of the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in December 2012, who had autism.

"They donated \$800 to help get us started," Rice said. "And Dylan's parents are very heavily involved in getting new programs for children with autism started in smaller towns like Portland."

"What I want for my son is what they wanted for their son – to be involved in sports in the community," she said.

Up until this point, the only such unified sports program in town was held at Valley View for preschoolers, held for three weeks at the end of the school year.

"This new program will be a year-long program, and we'll go to unified sports events in other towns as well," Rice said.

Most recently, the organization held a walkathon at Valley View on May 2 in order to raise money for Portland Unified Sports. More than \$5,800 was raised.

"We had 113 people registered to walk, but we actually had 276 people walk," Rice said. "It more than doubled."

In addition, two students from Hartford who attend Portland Public Schools through the Open Choice program were at the walkathon.

"Their parents drove them all the way from Hartford so they could be members of the school community at the Walkathon," Rice said. "I thought that was awesome."

Pelton said he was happy to help when Rice approached him, and when the option came to expand the program beyond the walls of his gym.

"What makes this program different is that it's a town-wide, comprehensive thing," he said. "We've talked to principals at all of the schools, and they've all bought into this idea."

"This spring was our pilot program to see if it worked, and it's been flying at 30,000 feet," he said.

In particular, Pelton said the interest level among students to become peers in the program has been exceptional.

"They're so interested in being a part of this program, we have a lot of kids emailing us and asking how they can get involved," he said.

Rice said she's seen for herself how devoted



At the Portland Unified Sports Walkathon on May 2, Erin Hunter, Melina Rice, Jordan Shortell, Sara Wild, Ava Maselek and Emily Murphy (pictured from left) donated money to the organization they received as tips from painting temporary tattoos. The girls raised \$26.50.

the peers are.

"They really try to help the children; I saw with basketball last week, they were picking up the kids to make the basket, or whatever," she said. "The volunteers are really great."

The number of peers began with eight, selected by principals, and has since expanded to 12.

However, Rice said there are professional volunteers as well, such as Meara Bransfield, an occupational therapist, as well as parents who became involved due to their kids' peer volunteering.

Portland Parks and Recreation Director Sean Dwyer soon became involved in the program in February, and worked to help it grow.

Dwyer has integrated the unified sports program with this summer's parks and recreation offerings as well.

"It'll be a six-week program during the sum-

mer that'll give some continuity to the school year program," he said. "Unified Sports won't be something that just ends in May and then starts in October."

The program will be at Portland High School from 4-5 p.m. on Wednesdays, within the Summer Playground program, beginning July 8.

Dwyer said he's been "very impressed" with Portland Unified Sports' progress since the winter.

"Just to see it all come together, and so fast, has been so terrific," he said. "It's a true community effort."

Those interested in learning more can visit the organization's website at facebook.com/portlandunifiedsports. Also, photos from the Portland Unified Sports culminating event held yesterday, May 21, can be found at facebook.com/rivereastnewsbulletin.

Cellar Savers Fire Museum in Portland May Close

by John Tyczkowski

Wednesday evening, Portland Cellar Savers president Mike Tierney spoke before the Board of Selectmen about one of the town's Main Street fixtures.

"In March, the Cellar Savers did vote to close the museum," he said. "Since then, we've been in contact with the fire department and I've been asked to hold off on any proceedings with closing the museum until we can explore other options."

Tierney said motivation for this vote came from an overall trend of declining membership due to illness and the death of key members, as well as financial hardships.

Its number of dues-paying members has dropped to 27 from a high of close to 100 several years ago, with 10-12 active members.

"As many organizations are, we're facing difficulties in terms of funding and membership, and trying to keep up with things with smaller numbers of people," he said. "We've tightened our belt too. For example, everyone has a cell phone now, so we gave up our own phone line."

The Cellar Savers lease the museum building, which had been both a firehouse and a police station, from the town for \$1 each year. However, the Cellar Savers pay for all utilities and for the upkeep of the building and the items in the museum's collection.

He said he started discussions a few weeks ago with fire chief Bob Shea to see what the fire department may be able to do, as many Cellar Savers members were or are active in the fire department.

Tierney said he enlisted the help of longtime friend and selectman, Ryan Curley, to secure some support for the organization.

Curley said he asked Tierney to speak at the meeting.

"This is such a great Portland organization, and when I found out they were in trouble, I thought just the publicity of speaking at a meeting is a start," Curley said. "We don't want to lose these guys in town."

Tierney stressed that even if the museum closes, the Cellar Savers will not disband. How-

ever, he said that a closure would leave popular holiday events, such as the model train display, "up in the air."

"Even if the museum closes, some of things that we do, such as involvement with the parade, the electrical set up for the family day, we'd still do that," he said.

To secure ideas from other residents at large, Tierney said the Cellar Savers will be holding a public meeting at the fire museum on Thursday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m.

"We want to see who's interested and helping things keep on going," he said. "We're hoping that'll be very successful."

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said she has been meeting with Shea as well, and would report back to the selectmen with updates from those meetings at the next board meeting.

"You have conducted the museum in a very professional way, and maintained the building well. And we're grateful for what you do for Portland," she said to Tierney. "We'll address this and see what we can do to provide some assistance."

With expansions to Riverfront Park on the horizon, and with the town preparing to renegotiate its contract with the Brownstone Exploration Park, one Brownstone Quorum member fielded a proposition to marry the two together.

Selectman Howard Rosenbaum, who first disclosed his membership, presented an informal proposal that would have the town allocate some of its percentage of the exploration park's revenues to the Quorum.

"I would suggest that a certain percentage go to the maintenance of the park and of the Brownstone Arch Pavilion," Rosenbaum said. "Otherwise, if there's not a specific way of doing this, these things will deteriorate. In addition, there are always improvements going on at the park as well."

Most recently, the Quorum has cleared out a section of the park in anticipation of installing a labyrinth for meditation, Rosenbaum said.

"The Quorum is going to do the actual work, but we need help with providing the materi-

als," he said.

Currently, Portland receives 15 percent of the profits from the park. From January 2007 to December 2014, the town earned \$1.47 million through this arrangement. The town has already turned a profit, as it purchased the quarries and associated riverfront in 1999 for \$1.05 million.

In addition, Rosenbaum recommended that any arrangement include the proviso that if the Quorum should disband, the moneys would be directed to the parks and recreation department for upkeep of those properties.

"I think it's important to get this going because the Arch Pavilion desperately needs a new coat of paint right now, and the park is expanding," he said. "We don't have to discuss the details now, but given that the contract is up for renegotiation, I wanted to give a heads-up."

Bransfield said the contract is up for negotiation because "things have changed considerably" since its inception in 2006.

"There are some areas of the agreement that need to be revisited because of that," she said.

Sean Hayes owns the Brownstone Exploration Park, as well as Powder Ridge Mountain Park and Resort in Middlefield.

Selectmen also heard a presentation from Amy Vaillancourt of Tighe & Bond, an environmental engineering firm, on the progress being made with the town's recently acquired parcel of land along Middle Haddam Road.

The board voted unanimously to acquire the 22.7 acres of open space land, located south of the Air Line Trail, from Central Connecticut Sand and Gravel in March for \$172,000.

The town has been active over the past year in its efforts to expand the presence of the Air Line Trail, with the creation the Air Line Trail Steering Committee.

This particular piece of land contains the rail bed of the old Air Line Railroad on its northern edge, which would be used as the bed for the trail.

Vaillancourt, a licensed environmental professional and brownfields specialist, said Phase

I of the environmental review of the land revealed "only a couple concerns."

One of these was a refueling pad at the site, which had a grate for stormwater drainage.

"The drain was supposed to be covered during fueling, but there's nothing to say that occurred," she said. "There could have been an overflow like at gas stations, which could have gone into the drain."

Also of concern was a wash pad for hosing down diesel trucks. Contaminants could have been washed off the trucks and seeped into the ground, Vaillancourt said.

Another consideration is that the land was used as a quarry throughout the early 20th century, since about 1893. The concerns were about what materials may have been used to fill in the quarry.

"Fill material is definitely a concern," Vaillancourt said. "Sometimes that material was industrial waste."

The same was a concern for fill material used for the Air Line Trail railbed.

Ultimately, Vaillancourt said her recommendation was that the town proceed on to Phase II of the study.

"We recommend some soil sampling to see exactly if the property is clean," she said. "And if there are soil impacts, we'd have to see if they impacted the groundwater."

Selectmen agreed to proceed with Phase II, which would cost approximately \$12,000-\$15,000 a day to take 10-15 samples. How many days the sampling takes depends on whether the soil is contaminated.

On a related note, the selectmen set a date for a special meeting to transfer money into the capital fund for the purposes of land acquisition. This would require residents' approval at a public hearing, which was set for 7:15 p.m. before the regular board meeting on Wednesday, June 3.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will take place Wednesday, June 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Flood Room at the Portland Public Library.

East Hampton School Board Member Resigns Suddenly

by John Tyczkowski

Monday evening, the Board of Education accepted member Bill Marshall's resignation, effective Friday, May 15.

Marshall had served as the chair of the transportation, buildings & grounds and finance committee, and was a member of the personnel committee as well.

Marshall said in a phone interview Tuesday that his decision has nothing to do with "anything going on with the board of education or town government."

"It's entirely personal; circumstances required that I take that action," he said. "I plan to continue to remain active with the town. I'll still be involved with the Chatham Party, and I hope to be running again in the fall."

Marshall also said he "has nothing but good things" to say about the board of education and its leadership.

"The board's been doing great work, and everyone's been working very hard for the kids and their best interests," he said.

Those interested can submit letters of interest and a resume to Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas by Friday, May 29. A special meeting will follow on June 2, to appoint an interim member of the board.

The board's vote accepting Marshall's resignation came after a five-minute executive session, normally reserved for, among several other uses, discussing employee performance matters.

However, Dugas said the board had obtained an opinion from legal counsel that the use of executive session was permissible.

At the same time, the state's Freedom of Information Act does not appear to explicitly permit the use of executive sessions to discuss elected officials' actions.

Chatham Party Chairman Kyle Dostaler said the interim member appointed to Marshall's

spot doesn't necessarily have to also be a Chatham Party member.

"There's not a hard-written rule that the person has to be from the same party," he said. "But that's always the way I tried to approach it when I was on the Town Council."

* * *

Board members also discussed possible areas that could be cut from the budget in the face of the \$200,000 in reductions mandated by the Board of Finance and the Town Council.

Some of these areas included the expanded summer school offerings at the high school and Memorial School, and a teacher "in a grade we're not going to mention," Barber said.

Reducing one teacher in that grade would increase class size from 20 to "about 23 or 24," Barber said.

Barber mentioned that there were no guarantees about the upcoming June 2 vote, and that the board should keep that in mind.

"The other thing you have to factor in is, what happens if it goes down again, and we're faced with another \$100,000 or \$200,000 cut?" he said. "Where do you go from there?"

"We're coming in right on the wire on this one, it's going to be real tight," he said.

Barber also said that the board and Dugas "did exactly what the Town Council told us to do."

"It was very a responsible, minimal increase budget, but that's what happened," he said of the failure to pass the overall budget.

Dugas reminded the board that this was still only a discussion, as the town must first pass a budget before the board decides where to cut from.

"There will be meetings after the budget passes for those discussions, to ultimately meet

the dollar amount that is decided upon," she said.

Still, Dugas said that there might be possible savings in areas such as money coming back from the state and health insurance open enrollment. However, she said, the latter could also result in an increase depending on the number of people who do or don't sign up.

"The Board of Education budget is based on variables, and you give your best guess estimate based upon what information is available to you at that time," she said.

* * *

Two high school and two middle school students were honored at the meeting, under the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Student Leadership Awards program.

Each received a plaque from Barber and Dugas.

"These students were each recommended by their teachers, by administrators and by their peers," Dugas said.

Several characteristics the students shared were a willingness to take on the challenges that come with leadership, a willingness to work hard to solve problems, the capacity to make difficult decisions and showing concern for those around them, Dugas said.

The students were honored one by one as Barber read summaries of their accomplishments that had been submitted by those who recommended them.

Erin Provost, a senior who also served as a student Board of Education representative, balanced being a four-year varsity athlete with numerous volunteer efforts around town and around the state, including the Special Olympics in New Haven.

"She has been an outstanding academic stu-

dent and has been a strong leader dedicated to her school and community, while maintaining her strong academic presence," Barber read.

The next honoree happened to be Barber's son, Nicholas, who was honored for his contributions to East Hampton's Unified Sports program over the past two years, his four-year membership on the student council and his National Honor Society leadership, in addition to being a four-year soccer player.

"He is an outstanding member of the Class of 2015 who has grown and developed throughout his high school career to become a fine young man and strong leader," Barber read of his son.

From the middle school, Amelia Zhao, grade eight, was honored for her consistent status as a High Honor Roll student, and her involvement in sports on the basketball and cross-country teams, and as captain of the volleyball team.

"Amelia is definitely a scholar and a leader," Barber read. "'She is one of the hardest-working, best-spoken students I have ever had the pleasure of working with,' said one middle school staff member."

Ethan Valencia, also in grade eight, was honored for his academic performance, his Good Citizen status for his "good behavior and grades" and his community service with the Boy Scouts.

"Ethan leads by example; as he himself put it, 'I stand up for those who need to be stood up for,'" Barber read. "He is a worthy scholar and leader at East Hampton Middle School."

* * *

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m. in the high school library.

Nine-Point Watershed Plan Details East Hampton Lake Fixes

by John Tyczkowski

The Conservation-Lake Commission and the Friends of the Lake are coming together with Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR) to create a concrete plan to heal Lake Pocotopaug.

The ultimate goal is to apply for a federal 319 grant on which could be used to fund efforts to actively clean the lake, for education efforts or for lake monitoring, so named for the relevant section of the Clean Water Act, Sabina Perkins of NEAR, a lake management and research firm, said.

The first step toward that goal is the creation of a nine-point watershed management plan, which is a federally mandated prerequisite.

And Perkins said the nine-point plan would actually be implemented, instead of serving only as a bureaucratic exercise.

"Previous plans have identified areas to be fixed, but nothing yet has been done to fix those areas," she said. "You can suggest making improvements, but if you don't have a concrete plan it won't go anywhere."

"There are more things we need to know about the lake before we do anything, and this plan will shed light on those," she said.

The plan will also revisit several initiatives that have been "done before at the lake in partial form," Perkins said. That would include more regular stormwater sampling, for example, she said.

"We're optimistic that this will also go beyond reports that have been written about the lake in the past," she said.

However, the plan will not revisit options that haven't worked in the past, such as alum treatments and sonic destabilizers that shatter algae cell walls, she said.

Overall, the plan will include monthly collection of water samples between June and November 2015, and April through June 2016. Also included will be a collection of inlet flow water samples to determine the extent of nutrient loading, or how much phosphorous is present, in the lake.

Also included will be increased blue-green algae-monitoring efforts, comprehensive sur-

veys of the shoreline, aquatic plants and the watershed, sampling of the lakebed, and identifying the three watershed areas most in need of attention in order to reduce the flow of nutrients into the lake with the creation of plans to fix them.

Members of the Commission and the Friends have been especially pushing for further study since an unusually harsh algae bloom season this past September.

Lake Commission member Marty Podskoch spoke at an April meeting as to why investing in further study would be crucial to developing an action plan to present to the council.

"In 25 years [since the last major study] the lake has changed," he said. "Water is coming into the lake from different places, and we have to find where the phosphates are coming from."

"We can't fix what we don't know about," he said.

In many cases, phosphates have been identified as the agent responsible to causing algae blooms in the lake, as those organisms use such nutrients as a food source.

At the same time, some Town Council members have expressed disinterest in funding more studies for the lake with no immediate concrete action.

However, funding for the nine-point plan and lake monitoring made it into this year's proposed town budget and has not been cut by the Board of Finance or Town Council, even after the May 5 defeat of the budget at referendum.

It has also been mentioned at Town Council several times in the past few months that the health of the lake influences property values of the houses on the water.

Perkins also emphasized the importance of monitoring in lake efforts, which she said is a critical component of efforts at any lake.

"In order to be able to tell whether or not our implementation efforts are working, we will need to continue monitoring and developing a monitoring protocol to do that," she said. "You have to tell what you're doing over time, otherwise you won't know if what you're doing is working, or if you're addressing the right thing."



Continual questions about the exact details of Lake Pocotopaug's nutrient-loading issues will be addressed in a nine-point watershed management plan to be developed by Northeast Aquatics Research in concert with the Conservation-Lake Commission and the Friends of the Lake.

Alongside that plan, another initiative is to inform the town government and residents more in-depth about the lake's challenges and how to maintain it.

Joe Carbonell, a member of the Friends and the town's Conservation-Lake Commission, said education is crucial to solving the lake's problems.

"The lake is a complex body of water, and it's very sensitive to changes," he said. "We want everyone on the same page with how lake management works. And it's going to take a while."

Perkins echoed his sentiment.

"There's no quick fix, no magic bullet," she

said. "This isn't going to happen overnight, this is a long-term process. It's going to take some time to reduce the nutrient loads into Lake Pocotopaug."

Some of those education efforts could include public presentations, flyers on how homeowners in the watershed can contribute to lake health and advocating for larger efforts such as the recent installation of the new rain garden at Sears Park.

"Everybody lives in a watershed, and it's something that kind of gets lost when you don't live directly near a body of water," she said. "Whatever you do will always influence some body of water."

Obituaries

Portland

Joan Dickinson

Joan (DeGraff) Dickinson, 76, of Portland, devoted and loving wife of Richard Dickinson, Sr. died Friday May 15, 2015 at Hartford Hospital. She was born in Buffalo, N.Y., the daughter of the late Joseph A. and Alice (Robida) DeGraff Sr.

Joan was employed by several local businesses, and retired from Aetna. She was an active parishioner of St. Mary Church, Portland, enjoyed traveling, shopping, and spending time with her family.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her daughters, Cynthia Bennett (Ted) of Lebanon, Denise Corder (Matt) of Colchester; sons, Richard Dickinson, Jr. (Theresa) of Niantic, Michael Dickinson, Ronald Dickinson (Carrie), all of Portland; son-in-law, Nicholas Ranno of Middletown, a brother, Leo DeGraff (Marie) of Portland, and a sister-in-law, Barbara DeGraff, of Florida; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; also several nieces and nephews, extended family and friends. She was predeceased by a daughter, Cheryl Ranno, a brother, Joseph DeGraff Jr., and a grandson.

The family wishes to express their deep gratitude to her doctors, Dr. Kluger, Dr. Aithal, Dr. Crespo, their staff and also to the staff at Hartford Hospital.

Her funeral liturgy was held Wednesday, May 20, at St. Mary Church, Freestone Avenue, Portland. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. There were no calling hours.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480 or St. Jude Children's Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Middle Haddam

Robert W. Noyes

Robert W. Noyes, 88, of Middle Haddam and East Hampton, husband of the late Phyllis (Kingsley) Noyes, died Wednesday, May 13, at his daughter's home, surrounded by his loving family. Born Oct. 4, 1926, in Portsmouth, N.H., he was the son of the late Carl and Laura (Knox) Noyes.

Robert proudly served his country in the Navy during World War II. He was a member of the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam. Robert retired from Pratt & Whitney where he had worked as a forman. Robert loved vacationing in Maine especially with his grandchildren, where he taught them how to fish and took many day trips to Screw Auger Falls.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Cindy and Gary Smith of Middle Haddam; three grandchildren, Benjamin Smith, Stacey Czepiel, Adam Smith; three great-grandchildren, Madison and Brayden Czepiel and Harrison Smith.

He was predeceased by his daughter, Lynn Noyes; his brother, Charles Noyes; and his sister, Dorothy Hogan.

A private service will be held at the convenience of the family. Burial will be in Rock Landing Cemetery.

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

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Thomas D. Hart

Thomas D. Hart, 72, passed away at home following a courageous battle with cancer. He was born on June 22, 1942 in Queens, N.Y., to the late Thomas P. and Rose (Bradley) Hart.

Thomas grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. He married Carol Ann Moer April 18, 1970, and they moved to Colchester in 1974 to raise their family; she predeceased him in 1998. He worked for Amtrak for 30 years and enjoyed collecting trains and World's Fair memorabilia. Thomas was a communicant at St. Andrew Church, a member of the Irish American Home, the Ancient Order of the Hibernians and St. Joseph Polish Club.

Thomas is survived by his loving daughters Elizabeth Hart of Hamden and Jennifer Hart of Colchester. In addition to Carol Hart, his loving wife of 28 years, he is predeceased by his father-in-law Walter Orr.

Calling hours were Monday, May 18, at Belmont Funeral Home, 144 So. Main St., before proceeding to a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Andrew Church that day. Burial immediately followed at St. Joseph Cemetery in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Thomas' memory may be made to St. Andrew Church 128 Norwich Ave. Colchester, CT 06415.

Cobalt

George A. Ellis, Sr.

It is with great sadness to announce that George A. Ellis Sr. of Cobalt flew into God's loving arms on the wings of angels Friday, May 8, after a courageous battle with a long illness. He died peacefully at his home, surrounded by the love of his family.

George was born May 22, 1929. He was predeceased by his father Albert, his mother Priscilla, and his brother Jim. He lived in Cobalt his entire life.

George accomplished numerous things during his lifetime, winning different awards. As a youth, he worked for his father, helping to run the local newspaper called *The East Hampton News*. He was also noted to be the youngest Journeyman color printer in Connecticut at that time.

He always had a great love for cars, trucks, and motorcycles, when he met and married, Irene, the love of his life. He built their home in Cobalt where together they raised their family. With his wife by his side, he owned and operated Ellis Waste Removal for 36 years. During that time, he also raced motorcycles and was the chief mechanic for his son, Jim, who was also racing and won several championships nationally.

He will be greatly missed by his wife of 64 years as well as his three sons, George Ellis Jr. of Cobalt, Jim Ellis of Australia and Cory Ellis of East Hampton; also his three daughters, Sharon Errico of East Hampton, Sandra Anderson of Cobalt, and Randi Carreras of Cromwell. He leaves behind his eight grandchildren three great-grandchildren, a brother, Carl Ellis from Mystic, and a sister Charlotte Dean, from New Hampshire, as well as a multitude of friends and neighbors.

George touched the lives of everyone he met, leaving a lasting impression. He never met a stranger he didn't like.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at a later date (TBA). There will be no calling hours.

Portland

Louise Tyler

Louise Tyler, 84, a lifelong resident of Milford, departed this earth Saturday, May 9, after stoically navigating the losses and indignities of Alzheimer's disease. With her beloved daughter at her side, being the memory and voice that Louise had lost, she peacefully left this life to join her canine companions who waited for her gentle touch again.

The last two years of Louise's life were made easier first by the committed team at Greystone Retirement Home in Portland, and her final eight months of more intensive care by an amazing group of people at Water's Edge Health and Rehabilitation Center in Middletown. Lori, Vanessa, Christine, Sahar, Kate and Chondra demonstrated the kind of compassion and support that all would wish for their loved ones struggling with the ravages of Alzheimer's.

Louise's lifelong career was in the healthcare profession; first as a licensed practical nurse and later as a physician's assistant. It was a bittersweet comfort that her own final years were spent in receipt of the same warmth and acceptance that she had dedicated her life to providing to others.

She is survived by her loving daughter, Cynthia L. Tyler and her wife Christine Sparks of Portland. Together, they brought forward the pieces that had been robbed from Louise - of favorite singers, mugs of hot tea, and beloved pets. Some days the music would spark a memory and she would sing along, or more often than not, she would just smile.

Louise was one of seven children born to Cecile B. King and was predeceased by her brothers Stetson, Arliss and Henry Blake. She is survived by three sisters; Dorothy LaBranch of Waterbury, Lucille Martocci of Florida and Laura Wrzesinski of East Haven, as well as their children and grandchildren.

Louise was always an avid reader who loved spending time with Cin, Chrissie and any and all rescued dogs that needed a home and a heart. Freed from the sadness that comes with losing so much of yourself, Louise can now settle in with a good book, her hand stroking a soft muzzle, knowing her memories are safe with us.

There is no public memorial service, but Louise's life can be honored with a contribution to Connecticut Humane Society in Newington, CT or the Alzheimer's Association in Chicago, Ill.



Colchester

Edward S. Laput Jr.

Edward S. Laput Jr., 72, of Colchester, husband of Bonnie Bombaci Laput for over 49 years, passed away Sunday, May 10. He was born April 13, 1943, in Meriden, to the late Edward S. and Eileen (Hinman) Laput. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and attended Ward's School of Electronics and the University of Hartford.

Ed worked for Algonquin Gas Transmission Company/Duke Energy for 26 years and retired as an Area Superintendent. He was also a member of the Call Before You Dig Board of Directors.

Ed was a loving husband and an amazing father. His family was always his first priority. He coached Colchester Little League and Pony League baseball for 11 years and he was an assistant scoutmaster for 11 years.

His interest in genealogy brought him to the Godfrey Memorial Library in Middletown, where he became a volunteer and a member of the Board of Trustees. His passion became the cemetery project known as the Ed Laput Collection; an effort to document and photograph every headstone in every cemetery in the State of Connecticut. Ed's goal for the project was to help other people, and his happiness came from knowing that his efforts preserved history and made it easier for relatives to locate their ancestors' final resting places. With the help of Gene Gumbs and a group of dedicated volunteers, over 975 cemeteries have been completed.

He is survived by a son, Steven Laput and his wife Charlotte of Southington and a daughter, Nicole Laput Sblendorio and her husband Sam of Haddam. He leaves his sisters Frederica Zaleski and Denise Laput of Middletown, a niece Michele Pallotti of Suffield, and special friends Kathleen Didato Kovel, William Kovel and Louis Lapila.

Ed was laid to rest in the family plot at St. Sebastian's Cemetery in Middletown.

Memorial contributions may be made in Ed's name to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, 383 Main Avenue, 5th Floor, Norwalk, CT 06851 or the Godfrey Memorial Library, 134 Newfield St, Middletown, CT 06457.

Marlborough

William Joseph Cooney

William Joseph Cooney, 93, of Glastonbury and Marlborough, passed away Sunday, May 17, with his family by his side. Bill was born in Far Rockaway, N.Y., in 1921 and moved to Glastonbury in 1969 and later to Marlborough.

He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943 where he served as the bombardier on a B-17. His plane was shot down on Feb. 10, 1944, on a mission over Germany, and he spent over 18 months in Staling 1, a German prisoner of war camp. After being liberated by the Russians, Bill found the fastest way home to persuade Eleanor Walsh to be his wife. Eleanor accepted and they were married on Oct. 13, 1945, and enjoyed 60 happy years together.

Bill will be remembered by all as a gentle, loving, kind and hard-working man. He worked for Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company for most of his career. For many years after retirement, they enjoyed traveling around the world, dancing to the music of the most famous big bands, playing golf, bridge, and enjoying the beaches of Ocean City, Md., and later, Vero Beach, Fla.

Bill leaves his son, William J. Cooney Jr. and his wife Helen of The Villages, Fla., John R. Cooney of Burbank, Calif., Brian E. Cooney of Fort Collins, Colo., and Catherine M. Cooney of South Glastonbury; his brother, Robert A. Cooney of Long Beach, Calif. In addition, he leaves eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Bill was predeceased by his wife, Eleanor, and son, Kevin.

Bill's family gratefully acknowledges the outpouring of love and support during this difficult time.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated today, May 22, at 10 a.m., in St. Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury. Friends called Thursday, May 21, at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury.

In lieu of flowers, the family would suggest donations be made to the American Cancer Society or the charity of the donor's choice.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.



Colchester

Lewis Voiland

Lewis "Lee" Voiland, 83, died Saturday, May 2. He passed away peacefully surrounded by his children in Marlborough, after a brave battle with cancer. Lee was born in Simsbury Oct. 21, 1931, and was raised there for a while before moving to Mayberry Village in East Hartford. He was the son of the late Emile and Katherine (Carr) Voiland.



He will be dearly missed by his children, Michael Voiland and his wife, BethAnn of Colchester, Linda Quental-Dadinos and her husband, Greg of East Hartford and James Voiland of Manchester. Along with his children, he leaves his grandchildren (to whom he was known as "Grampa Sonny"), Sarah Gambacorta and her husband, Kevin, Leah, Rebekah, Matthew and Mia Voiland, Seana, Lindsea and Savannah Quental and Kristie, Dylan and Adam Dadinos. He was blessed to have been able to have five beautiful great-grandchildren who he enjoyed seeing whenever he could and whom made him smile from ear to ear. He will be watching over: Kolton and Kody Gambacorta, Lexia and Leila Quental and Beatrice Ortega. He leaves several nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, great-grandnieces and nephews as well as his only sister Patricia Joy and her husband, Donald.

He was predeceased by his two younger brothers, Eugene and Norman Voiland.

Lee was a graduate of East Hartford High School, Class of 1949. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and climbed to the rank of tech sergeant as he served the country he loved between 1950 and 1955. During his service, he was stationed in New Jersey and Japan and fought in the Korean Conflict where he received two Bronze Service Stars. Upon his discharge, he returned to Manchester and married Mary Diminico and started raising a family.

He was a meat-cutter by trade and worked for many companies during his life, Swift and Company in Hartford, Top Notch in Manchester, Schwab's Food Market in Hartford and Tri-Town Foods in Colchester. After leaving Tri-Town Foods, he went into business for himself when he owned and operated two small convenience stores, one in the Quaker Hill section of Waterford and then another in Providence, R.I.

Throughout his life, Lee was an active member of the American Legion in Manchester, VFW in Franklin, VA and the Masonic Lodge in East Hampton. He was an avid sports fan and enjoyed watching his favorite teams, the Dallas Cowboys and his beloved New York Yankees from his living room chair.

Lee's family would like to thank all those that provided care and support to their father during his recent struggles. You all truly made a difference in his life.

Graveside services with military honors were observed Thursday, May 21, at the State Veterans Cemetery, Bow Lane, Middletown. There were no calling hours.

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

East Hampton

Andrea M. Guilbeault

Andrea Guilbeault, 50, passed away Sunday, May 17, surrounded by her family. She grew up in East Hampton, recently moving to East Hartford.

She was known for her genuine concern for those around her, always willing to lend a helping hand whenever possible.

She is survived by her sisters, Sue and husband Joe Kagerer of Lebanon, Michele Sexton of East Hampton, and her brothers, Gerry and Deb Guilbeault of Illinois, and David and Dee Farrell of New York. She also leaves her beloved nieces and nephews, and three grandnephews and one grandniece, who she loved to hear stories about.

She will be sorely missed by her fiancé, John Stasiunas.

A very special thank you to Don Dressler, Andrea's very dear friend, who was always there for her for almost 30 years.

There are no calling hours and burial will be at the convenience of the family.

East Hampton

Brendan Michael Flannery

Brendan Michael Flannery of East Hampton passed away Monday, May 18, on his 65th birthday, at Middlesex Memorial Hospital. Born May 18, 1950, in Providence, R.I., he was the son of the late Winifred (Sweeney) and Anthony Flannery II.

Brendan led an amazing and full life. As a corporate and charter pilot, most recently for GAMA Aviation but also notably for CIGNA Corporation and TLC Beatrice International Foods, he flew celebrities and billionaires to the far reaches of the world. But he never lost his love for home and family. Growing up with eight brothers and one sister and the "kids down the hill," his life began as an adventure and continued throughout his life. He always had a "project" for the times when he was not flying. He built several barns practically by hand, from felling the trees to erecting the beams to hammering the last nail. He built and groomed a baseball field of dreams in his backyard, Winnie's Field. He enjoyed riding his Harley, alone or with his wife on "Fly and Rides" across the country. He especially loved passing his construction and homeowner knowledge along to his beloved daughter and son.

He served his country proudly and with distinction as a Combat Infantryman in Vietnam. He initially served with the 6/31 Inf, 9th Infantry Division. His demonstrated leadership led to his promotion to Sergeant soon after arriving in Vietnam. He was Wounded in Action and decorated with the Bronze Star with "V" device for Valor, when he fired mortars dangerously close to a patrol that was in heavy contact. He later went on to serve with the legendary 101st Airborne Division.

Locally, he continued his service and volunteered for many leadership positions with the East Hampton Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5095; and was instrumental, along with several others, in bringing the Cobra Helicopter to its final resting place at the Post. Brendan was also a long-time member of the East Hampton Zoning Board of Appeals.

Brendan is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Karen Olson; his son, Kellen Flannery of Newton, Mass.; his daughter, Caitlin Flannery and her husband Jeffrey Howe, of Norwood, Mass.; his sister, Kathleen Flannery; his brothers and their wives, Kevin and Sharon Flannery, Keron Flannery, Brian and Ann Flannery, Owen and Dawn Flannery, Sean Flannery, Martin Flannery, Emmett Flannery, and Anthony III and Hope Flannery, all of East Hampton. A granddaughter is due to join the family in June.

He also leaves his sisters- and brothers-in-law, Janice Olson and Bruce Backman, Cheryl and Dominic Pasquarelli, and Russell Olson and his partner, Susan Denny, all of Portland; his aunts, Patricia Coughlin, Mary Flannery, Mary Sweeney, Norma Sweeney and many, many nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

Brendan was predeceased by his parents, his father- and mother-in-law, R. William and Grace (Berggren) Olson and his sister-in-law Debra Olson.

Brendan also leaves behind innumerable friends. He will be missed by all, but especially by his Happy Hour buddies and his best friend, best man Gary Penkes.

Friends and family called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St. in East Hampton, Thursday, May 21. A graveside memorial service, with Brendan's cousin, Dr. Elaine Bloundin Mello, officiating, will be held at the Swedish Cemetery, at the corner of William and High streets in Portland, at 11 a.m. today, May 22. A celebration of life is planned for later this summer along with a baseball game at Winnie's Field.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hospice Unit of Middlesex Hospital, the Wounded Warrior Project, or the local VFW Post 5095.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Stephen Moore Hazel

Stephen Moore Hazel, born Aug. 15, 1950, died Sunday, May 17, with his family by his side at Middlesex Hospital, following a lengthy battle with cancer. A lifelong resident of Portland, Steve graduated from Xavier High School ('68). He graduated with a degree in economics from Villanova University ('72), where he was a founding member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Steve was predeceased by his mother, Rita (Combe) Hazel, and his father, Charles K Hazel. He leaves behind his beloved companion, Robin Doolittle, his four children with Cecilia Filippelli Hazel – Brandon Moore Hazel, Mary-Ashley Hazel, Charles Robert Hazel, and MaryCasey Hazel Nicholson – and his son, Samuel Charles Hazel. Steve has six grandchildren. He is also survived by his two sisters and brothers-in-law, Sheila and Kenneth White and Donna and David Milardo, and many special nieces and nephews.

A memorial gathering in his memory will be held at the family's convenience later this summer.

Andover

Kevin Patrick Hurst

Kevin Patrick Hurst, 54, of Kapaa, Hawaii, formerly of Andover, passed away Wednesday, May 13, from complications due to his paralysis.

Kevin was born to James and Patricia Hurst of Andover on June 6, 1960. As a young man, Kevin was an excellent athlete. In 1975, Kevin suffered a spinal cord injury while playing football, which in turn left him a quadriplegic for the remainder of his life. He graduated from East Catholic High School in 1978, where he was a member of the Hall of Fame and the National Honor Society. He went on to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California Riverside and his MBA from Arizona State University. He also received his CPA and moved to Hawaii, where he became a successful businessman.

Kevin never let his handicap interfere with his ambitions; he faced his challenges heroically and was an inspiration to all who knew him.

Besides his parents, Kevin is survived by his siblings and their spouses, Patricia and Robert Bascom of Summerville, S.C., Thomas and Shari Hurst of Andover, Luciann and John Norton of Hampton, and Timothy Hurst of Lebanon. He also leaves 26 nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated today, May 22, at 10 a.m., at St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church, 32 Hebron Rd., Bolton, followed by burial in Bolton Center Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to East Catholic High School Kevin Hurst Scholarship.

The John F. Tierney Funeral Home, Manchester has care of arrangements. For online condolences, visit tierneyfuneralhome.com.



East Hampton

David Albert Schramm

David Albert Schramm died Sunday, May 17, at the age of 26.

David is survived by his parents, Steve and Terry (Wyse) and younger sister, Emily Schramm, all of East Hampton.

David was born on July 28, 1988. He graduated from East Hampton High and attained his BA in music, professional saxophone, from CCSU. He was most recently employed as a substitute teacher in the East Hampton Public School System. David was a published composer whose prolific works included Salute to Simsbury (for which he received the Composition Festival Award from the CMEA Conference), Madrid – CCSU Alma Mater (revision for full orchestra), East Hampton High School Alma Mater (longtime friend, Rich Manning, wrote the words), Pride of Torrington, Weybright's Favorite, and many personal marches dedicated to his friends.

A Celebration of David's Life is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, May 23, at Hope Church, 230 E High St., East Hampton, CT 06424 with a reception to follow. Pastor Tom Ingala will facilitate the celebration. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Dave's life.

Condolences may be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Schramm, 11 Emerson Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424.

In lieu of flowers donations, may be made to David's family to help with expenses.



East Hampton Police News

5/5: Peter Szeszakow, 56, of 85 No. Main St., was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

5/7: Colleen Suzanne Pollard, 33, of 73 Main St., Apt. 4, turned herself in pursuant to an active warrant for her arrest, police said, and was charged with sixth-degree larceny.

5/9: Griffin Clay Shapiro, 18, of 44 Summit Crest Dr., South Glastonbury, was issued a ticket for possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia, police said.

5/9: Bryan Edward Radigan, 41, of 109 Main St., Deep River, turned himself in pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest, police said, and was charged with third-degree larceny.

5/11: Richard Hills, 29, of 11 Hale Rd., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle under suspension and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

Hebron Police News

5/15: State Police said Sandra Griffin, 25, of 27 Oakland Rd., Amston, was arrested and charged with three counts of violation of probation.

5/15: State Police said a 17-year-old male was arrested and charged with possession of narcotics.

5/16: State Police said they are investigating after a Ruger LCP .380 caliber hand gun was stolen out of a red Toyota pickup truck in the Hartford/Hebron area. Anyone with information can call Trooper Yvette Kramer at 860-465-5400.

Colchester Police News

5/13: Colchester Police said Michael Dodge, 32, of 38 Conway Rd., Manchester, was arrested and charged with DUI, disobeying an officer's signal, failure to drive right, improper passing, and drinking while operating a motor vehicle.

5/15: State Police said they are investigating after Again Again, a business at 128 Mill St., had its front window smashed out with a rock. Police said around the same time close by a blue Toyota Corolla had its rear window smashed with a rock at a property on Lebanon Avenue. Anyone with information can call Trooper Jason Hickey at 860-465-5400.

5/16: State Police said Jose Sampedro, 21, of 58 Wilbert St., Hamden, was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to drive right, and possession of narcotics.

5/17: State Police said Nam Thai, 22, of 300 Summit St., Hartford, was arrested and charged with DUI, engaging police in pursuit, and failure to drive in the proper lane.

5/18: State Police said Nikkolas Fargo, 25, of 270 Bozrah St., Bozrah, was arrested and charged with two counts of failure to appear.

Andover Police News

5/16: State Police said they are investigating after a business on Route 6 was broken into. Police said entry was through a side window with an air conditioning unit in it. Police said that \$40 in coins was taken along with minor damage to the window. Police said the suspect is a white man in his 20s with a chin beard, wearing a red baseball hat and with a black backpack. Anyone with information can call Trooper Kevin Dowd at 860-465-5400.