



RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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**A Sweet Treat...** Gizmo, a therapy dog with Paws for Friendship Inc., enjoys an ice cream cone during the fourth annual Spring Bark for the Bark in Colchester last Sunday. See related story, more photos on page 32.

## Belletown Voters Balk at Budget

by John Tyczkowski

By just 39 votes, taxpayers Tuesday rejected East Hampton's proposed \$41.71 million 2015-16 budget.

The 1,156-1,117 defeat came as somewhat of a surprise, as the Board of Finance had unanimously passed the budget in April.

The spending proposal would have been an increase of 3.53 percent over the current year's budget. The Board of Education budget was proposed at \$29.22 million, a 3.39 percent increase over current year spending, while the general government budget was proposed at \$10.06 million, an increase of 3.48 percent over the current year.

After the announcement of the tallies at the East Hampton Middle School gym Tuesday night, Board of Finance Chairman Ted Turner stressed that the 39-vote difference did not constitute a mandate.

"We'll take it back, and with that in mind, we'll adjust the budget," he said.

Moderator Pete Brown said the referendum was not close enough to warrant a recount, after Turner asked him.

Per state statute, to qualify for a recount, the margin between a 'yes' and a 'no' vote must be less than 0.5 percent of the vote total (provided that percentage doesn't exceed 2,000 votes). The 39-vote differential equated to 1.72 percent of the votes cast Tuesday.

This week's turnout was 2,273 votes, which included 27 absentee ballots. The total number of registered voters in town as of Tuesday was 7,705, which meant voter turnout for the referendum was just under 30 percent.

For reference, the average voter turnout for the past nine referendums since 2010 is 21 percent, and ranged from 14 to 24 percent.

In addition, the average number of votes from those nine referendums since 2010 was about 1,804 votes, with a range of 1,166 to 2,019 votes.

Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas said the Board of Education "will be conversing" about where cuts to the education budget might come from.

"I am extremely disappointed that the budget didn't pass," she said.

However, Dugas said the higher turnout was encouraging, at the same time.

"I am certainly really pleased with the outcome of voters turning out in large numbers," Dugas said. "The small margin speaks for itself."

Town Council Chairwoman Barbara Moore – who had championed the budget – said she was disappointed in the outcome of Tuesday's vote.

"The people have spoken, but it was so

See **Belletown Voters Page 2**

## Hebron Sends RHAM Budget to Defeat

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

While there had been much talk in recent weeks of the impact the proposed RHAM budget would have on Marlborough taxpayers, in the end Tuesday it was Hebron voters who sent the \$27.84 million RHAM spending proposal to defeat.

The proposal passed in Andover, by a 129-74 tally, and was narrowly defeated in Marlborough, 210-202. However, the spending package was soundly rejected in Hebron, 612-436 – and that sent the regional schools budget to an 896-767 defeat.

Overall in the three towns, the turnout was better than it had been in previous years with Marlborough and Andover having an almost 10 percent voter turnout. Hebron – which, unlike the other two towns, also had its own town budget referendum on Tuesday – had a 16 percent voter turnout.

The defeated budget would have been a 3.68 percent increase over the current year with each town being responsible for their percent of the budget based on the number of students they have enrolled at the two schools.

Hebron, with the largest student population, would have been responsible for the greatest amount of \$15.54 million, or 55.83 percent.

Marlborough would have been responsible for \$8.25 million, while Andover would have paid \$4.04 million, or 14.52 percent.

At the polls Tuesday, some voters in Hebron expressed concerns about the RHAM budget, but others supported it.

"I trust our local officials. I support the schools and the teachers," resident Karen Resley said.

Resident Gil Salk agreed. "I have not studied RHAM, but I trust that they have worked hard," he said. "It's always a compromise."

Resident Terry McManus had a completely different viewpoint of RHAM.

"They're irresponsible," McManus said of the RHAM Board of Education. "They tote the amount per pupil yet [there's] no capital."

At the time of voting, Hebron Town Manager Andy Tierney was unsure of the RHAM budget outcome, especially because of its impact to Marlborough; the \$8.25 million Marlborough would have been responsible for represented a 5.92 percent increase over the amount it's paying for RHAM in the current year.

"It's a big hit for Marlborough," Tierney said. Getting the budget passed "might be more dif-

icult because of the increase."

Voters in Marlborough also seemed split regarding the budget during the day on Tuesday.

"They can do better," resident Bruce Tolhurst said. "It's too much spending."

Resident Lori Tarka said she hoped the budget would pass.

"As a parent in the community with two children at RHAM, it's a solid budget," she said. "I don't like when they don't pass after the hard work of the board."

Resident Debbie Kaika said she always votes in support of the schools and resident Rich Storrs agreed that education needs to be funded.

"The RHAM board has consulted with the experts," Storrs said. "The experts know what's best for the students."

Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said he was "disappointed with the results."

"We're going to do our best to respond to what the voters have said," Siminski said.

"After serving on the board for eight years, history has proven that we have to be prepared to react responsibly regardless of the outcome, and this is one of the potential outcomes we considered," RHAM Board of Education Chairman Danny Holtsclaw said.

Holtsclaw said the overall turnout was "impressive" and a "good indicator of how serious our citizens are about their investment in RHAM."

In Andover, Holtsclaw said the town had a surprisingly high turnout, and noted voters there had consistently supported the budget in recent years.

"The [RHAM] board did consider the possibility that the results in Marlborough might be more skewed given a forecasted increase in enrollment; however, the results were split almost evenly," Holtsclaw said. "Voters in Hebron, on the other hand, were clearly opposed to the budget."

Holtsclaw said he found the results "quite interesting" considering that RHAM has a lower cost-per-pupil than the elementary districts in Hebron, Andover and Marlborough.

Going forward, Holtsclaw said the board will look to the administration for responsible recommendations and will do "our very best to preserve as much classroom and extracurricular programming as possible."

However, Holtsclaw said, everything is on the table for review and discussion.

See **RHAM Budget Page 2**

**Belltown Voters cont. from Front Page** close,” she said. “It’s hard to say what it meant.” Councilor Ted Hintz Jr. – who had spoken out against the budget – said he was expecting it to fail.

“The taxpayers have spoken,” he said. “Maybe now [the Town Council] can get to a point where maybe we can work together.”

Hintz and the other two Republicans on the council have spoken out against the budget in recent weeks. “We’re not as out of touch as they may think we are,” Hintz said, referring to the Democrats on the council.

Hintz listed a number of proposed projects in town including the new police department, the new town offices, a new Board of Education building, the high school renovations and potential additions to Memorial School.

“We can’t afford everything. And those are all needs, not just wants,” he said.

At a previous council meeting, Hintz had recommended cutting \$300,000 from the education budget – a cut he said he’ll pursue again.

Councilor Patience Anderson – who, like Hintz, was not in favor of the budget – said the outcome didn’t surprise her.

“It’s time to make an adjustment,” she said. “I think [the education budget] is the first place we’ll go.”

“But we’re all members of same community, and we all need to be part of the solution,” she said.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said Wednesday “at the end of the day, referendums are democracy in action.”

“That’s when the community has its time to come out and speak,” he said. “It’s a bit of a hard message to understand because the vote was so close, but I have a lot of confidence in our elected officials to determine it.”

At the polls on Tuesday, resident Stanley House said he voted for the budget.

“Both boards passed it, both boards approved it, so I voted ‘yes,’” he said.

Sophia Krisch also talked about cooperation among town boards contributing to her yes vote.

“The Town Council and Board of Education both worked together to come up with a good number,” she said.

However, Norman Godwin voted ‘no,’ and said he wanted a lower budget amount, along with equitable cuts made to get there.

“I think the cuts ought to be made across the board,” he said. “Education seems to just get bypassed.”

\* \* \*

The Board of Finance will meet Friday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the town hall meeting room, to reconsider the budget, followed by a meeting of the Town Council on Monday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the middle school library. The date of the second referendum had not been set at press time.

**RHAM Budget cont. from Page 9**

“It deserves mentioning that the board took a very granular approach to this year’s budget by inviting each department director to share their needs with the public prior to the budget hearings,” Holtsclaw said. “These meetings were very informative and well attended by the public. We did our best to reasonably prioritize and respond to these needs in the face of uncontrollable increases in special education tuition and transportation - areas where the board has minimal budgetary authority.”

Holtsclaw said he does feel for the faculty

and staff as they worked tirelessly to aid in recommending a budget focused on student needs and outcomes.

“This is the hard part of what we have all been elected to do,” Holtsclaw said. “I have no doubt that our members will respond collaboratively and carefully to this outcome.”

The RHAM Board of Education will meet Monday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m., in the RHAM High School choral room to discuss how it will move forward with the budget.

## Marlborough to Vote on \$23.10 Million Budget

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

While the RHAM schools budget was shot down at referendum Tuesday, and thus will almost certainly be changed, the defeat doesn’t change the budget heading before Marlborough voters next week.

At a town meeting next Monday, May 11, voters will be faced with a proposed \$23.08 million 2015-16 town budget, an increase of \$852,283, or 3.83 percent increase, over current year spending.

The proposed budget calls for the mill rate to rise 1.48 mills to 32.93 – which would translate to a 4.72 percent tax increase.

The mill rate is used to determine residents’ taxes; a resident can determine their taxes by multiplying the mill rate by their total assessments. One mill is equal to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property, so under the proposed mill rate of 32.93, a resident with a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$8,232.50 in taxes.

The largest single portion of the budget is \$8.25 million for the town’s portion of the RHAM schools – a 5.92 percent increase over the current year. While the RHAM Board of Education will likely revise its budget following this week’s referendum failure, those new numbers will not be known until after Monday’s vote.

Making up the rest of the Marlborough budget is: \$7.40 million for the local Board of Education, an increase of \$125,000, or 1.71 per-

cent, from the current year; \$4.68 million of town operations, up \$70,000, or 1.52 percent, from the current year; \$2.52 million for town debt; \$213,000 for capital; and \$20,000 for contingency. Taxpayers will vote separately on the amount for capital.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the RHAM budget, Board of Finance Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout said Wednesday she’d like to see the vote be postponed until the RHAM board arrives at a new figure for its pending plan.

“If we have the vote and pass it, we’ll have a large tax increase and an immediate surplus, since RHAM is going to decrease,” Godbout said.

Godbout said it could be possible that the town vote to postpone the vote on Monday evening. She was unsure of what the voter turnout may be Monday.

“It’s hard to tell,” Godbout said. “Sometimes it’s very well-attended, sometimes very sparsely attended.”

Godbout said she hopes more people show up than not.

“Even though this year is difficult, the coming years are going to be even more difficult,” Godbout said.

The town meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria.

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It’s a little feature of the paper some readers realize and some don’t – every week the *Rivereast* has two pages in the middle of the paper that are unique to each town. For example, while the majority of Hebron news is seen by everyone who receives the paper, there are two pages in the middle that feature Hebron news that just goes to Hebron mailboxes. Same goes for Colchester, East Hampton, Marlborough and Portland. But Andover’s a little different.

Most weeks, there are only two pages of Andover news. What can I say? It’s a small town. And those pages wind up in the center of the paper; thus, only Andover residents see them.

Why am I telling you this now? Last week, on the cover of the paper, there was a preview of Andover’s three-man race for first selectman. The outcome of that race is reported in this week’s paper – however, as the cover of the paper features stories about the failed East Hampton and RHAM budget referendums, the result of the Andover election is in the Andover section. So, those of you in the other five towns won’t get to see it.

Three-person races for first selectman or mayor or president are always interesting to me, so I can see people who don’t live in Andover reading the story, and probably being curious about the outcome.

So, for those people, I’ll tell ya: Bob Burbank won re-election as first selectman, topping Democrat Jeff Maguire and Republican Curt Dowling. However, Maguire collected more votes than two Democrats who were running for the board, so he gets to be on the Board of Selectmen anyway. (The Andover charter requires two members of the five-member selectmen board to be of the minority party.)

\* \* \*

Alex Rodriguez, as I’m sure many of you are painfully aware, hit home run number 660 last week. This put him into a tie with one of baseball’s all-time greats, Willie Mays. And lots of people – including myself – shook their heads at the fact the steroid-using A-Rod is now officially among the top five home run hitters of all time (the fact one of the other five, Barry Bonds, is a juicer himself doesn’t help matters any). But then my attention immediately turned to: Will A-Rod make his \$6 million bonus?

Here’s the backstory: When Rodriguez signed his mammoth contract extension with the Yankees in 2007, it contained an interesting clause. Each time A-Rod hit a “milestone” home run – i.e., tied Mays’ 660, Babe Ruth’s

714, Hank Aaron’s 755 or Bonds’ 762 – he’d receive an additional \$6 million, as payment for the Yankees’ right to market the achievement.

But then the steroid scandal hit Rodriguez – and hit hard. He wound up missing all of last season, punishment from Major League Baseball for allegedly receiving performance-enhancing drugs from a Florida clinic and then hindering MLB’s investigation into said clinic. To make matters worse, it wasn’t even the first time A-Rod had been connected to PEDs. In 2009, he admitted to using steroids from 2001-03. While he denied using the PEDs this time around, I’m pretty sure no one actually believed him.

At least that’s what the Yankees seem to think. The team has argued A-Rod’s embarrassing season-long suspension, following his previous admittance to using steroids, has left his home run achievements unmarketable. As a result, Yankee brass has said the team is not going to pay him that bonus. (The team actually has more to lose than just the \$6 million. The Yankees are already over baseball’s luxury tax threshold, meaning that any payment they make to Rodriguez, or anyone, they have to pay a 50 percent tax on. So that means the bonus would cost the team \$9 million.)

Now, I’m no fan of Alex Rodriguez. At all. Beyond the arrogance the man seems to have, he is a cheater. No two ways about it. But I’m not sure the Yankees can weasel out of this. Who’s to say the feat is unmarketable? I mean, I certainly would never buy an “A-Rod Hits 660!” T-shirt or anything, but then I never would anyway. Yankees fans, on the other hand, have been nothing but appreciative of A-Rod this season. They loudly cheered him in his first game back, and they haven’t stopped. Could these fans be marketed to? I think so. The Yankees themselves have given players plenty of second chances over the years, and it seems like their fans are eager to do so with A-Rod.

Is my disdain for the Yankees coloring my opinion? Maybe a bit; I’d love to see them have to foot the bill – I admit it. But when you look at the facts, I don’t see how the Yankees can just sort of unilaterally declare A-Rod’s achievements are unmarketable and thus void the bonus.

This whole thing could very well wind up going to court. If that’s the case – and believe me, I feel awfully slimy saying this – I kinda hope A-Rod wins.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

## Portland Residents Prepare to Vote on \$32.12 Million Budget

by John Tyczkowski

On Monday, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Waverly Center, residents will head to the polls to voice their opinion on the proposed \$32.12 million 2015-16 town budget.

The budget represents an increase of 1.76 percent, or \$556,000 over current year spending.

The general government budget stands at \$12.42 million, which represents a 0.9 percent increase, or \$110,000, over the current year. Important components of that budget include both public safety and public works, each with a proposed 2.28 percent increase in funding.

The Board of Education’s budget proposal stands at \$19.70 million, a \$446,000, or 2.3 percent increase, over the current year.

Some major categories driving the school budget are buildings and equipment with a proposed 67.77 percent increase, from \$124,304 to \$208,542, driven by technology

hardware and software upgrades, and facilities repair and maintenance with a 24.23 percent increase from \$208,775 to \$259,370.

That’s in addition to the usual increase categories of salaries, at a proposed 3.41 percent, and benefits, at a proposed 3.58 percent.

If the budget is approved, the mill rate of 31.78 would raise by .56 mills, to a total mill rate of 32.34 mills. That would translate to a 1.76 percent tax increase. For reference, a mill is \$1 tax per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Under the proposed mill rate, if a house is assessed at \$200,000, then taxes paid on it for the 2015-16 fiscal year would be \$6,468.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommended the budget in mid-April.

“This is a very modest budget and these are very modest increases this year,” First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said at a budget meeting last month. “We’ve been trying to keep a steady pace and make sure we can avoid spikes in taxes.”

# DOT Outlines East Hampton Road Realignment Plans

by John Tyczkowski

Last Thursday evening, over 40 people turned out to the East Hampton Public Library to learn more about the impending roadwork on Route 66 at the Route 196 interchange and at Old Marlborough Road.

The \$2.2 million 240-day project, which is anticipated to take all summer and finish in late September, involves work on two intersections. Red Technologies of Bloomfield will handle the construction work.

DOT assistant district engineer Bob Obey and project manager Brian Gustafson, a town resident, were on hand to give a short presentation on the improvements and answer questions from residents.

“What Brian brings to this project is familiarity with basically everything: the politics, the business, the police department, the fire department – and he seems like he knows everybody,” Obey said.

State Rep. Melissa Ziobron (R-34th District), also in attendance, organized the presentation.

The DOT plans to create a ‘T’ intersection with traffic signals and crosswalks where routes 66 and 196 meet, and to straighten the road and create a ‘T’ intersection at Route 66 and Old

Marlborough Road, with a stop sign on Old Marlborough.

“This is a safety improvement job,” Obey said. “In DOT land, the safest intersection is a ‘T,’ with good sight lines to the left and good sight lines to the right.

“And we’ll be doing it in the space we own,” he added. “We’re not taking property.”

Further components of the work include road-widening, improving of sight lines, regrading of the Route 66/196 intersection, new sidewalks along Route 66 and the installation of a new culvert and drainage system to runoff heading into Lake Pocotopaug.

Currently, a large traffic island divides Route 196 where it meets Route 66, on a steep angle. Also, a large curve occurs where Old Marlborough Road meets Route 66, which reduces visibility.

Obey said work on the project has already been going on for a year, with the first stage involving moving utility poles along Route 66.

Regarding specifics, Obey said the new Route 66/196 intersection will involve right and left traffic lanes divided by a much smaller island. The right lane will be divided into two

turning lanes.

During the first part of construction, Obey said the plan is to keep one lane in each direction open going east and west at all times, on the north side of Route 66 near the lake. However, he reminded those at the meeting to stay attentive to changes when driving.

“We think our plan is the best plan for keeping the disturbances at a bearable minimum,” he said. “But this will still be a construction zone.”

Still, Gustafson said drivers should expect delays and dust.

“These things are going to come,” he said. “But they will be intermittent.”

Then in mid-August, the traffic pattern will change again, in order to begin work on the Old Marlborough Road intersection, Obey said.

“Then comes the big flip, when traffic is pushed south on 66, while we realign and rebuild Old Marlborough Road,” he said. “That’s going to be a little more challenging.”

However, several residents noted this construction will all take place in the midst of the town’s Memorial Day parade later this month,

as well as its Old Home Days parade in July.

“We’ll make sure the dust and debris are under control; we’ll do what we can,” Obey said. “In addition the contractor will be working 40-50 hours, five days a week, and the parades are on the weekends.”

Also on that note, Obey said work will only take place during daylight hours on those days, because “sound travels like the dickens” across the lake.

“We really want to avoid that,” he said.

Several residents also noted the town will be working with Connecticut Natural Gas to install natural gas lines this summer underneath a section of Route 66 as well.

“We’re going to work with [CNG], we’re going to be building a beautiful road, the last thing we want is for it to get ripped up,” Obey said.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco, who attended the meeting, said he is working with CNG to make sure the installation of the gas line will occur at that spot while the north side of Route 66 is already torn up for the realignment.

## Burbank Named Andover First Selectman in Three-Way Race

by John Tyczkowski

A heated round of municipal elections resulted in a Republican electoral sweep Monday, after contentious races for the boards of selectmen and education, and the position of first selectman.

Republican Bob Burbank, who has been the town’s first selectman since 2006, had to petition himself onto the ballot, after Curt Dowling won the nomination for first selectman at the Republican Town Committee’s caucus earlier this year. But on Monday, Burbank had the edge, collecting 353 votes to Dowling’s 314 and Democrat opponent Jeff Maguire’s 325.

Republicans Jay Linddy and Cathy Derosiers and Democrat Julia Haverl all won election to the Board of Selectmen. Maguire will join the selectmen as well, since the 325 votes he collected were more than the other two Democrats who ran for the board; the town charter’s minority representation requirement mandates two Democrats on the Republican-controlled board.

“I was pleased the majority of people supported my reelection this year,” Burbank said. “I think there was a lot of inaccurate information transmitted from opposing parties. On the other hand, I think a lot of the people were able to see through it and realize the town is being run efficiently.”

In the future, Burbank said he would continue to run the town as efficiently as possible and keep taxes as low as possible, which he said can be a burden in a town which “runs almost entirely on property taxes.”

“I see that as especially important because we have a lot of projects in the works right now, and they will all be done within budget constraints,” he said. “My feeling is the economy isn’t where it needs to be, and people can’t afford to put a lot more money into the tax dollars.”



Bob Burbank

One of these projects, he said, include completing the new athletic field in town, which has been in the works since 2007. Last December, the town held a meeting to discuss why the field, to be located behind Andover Elementary School, was taking so long to complete.

Concerns included the site selection, which was changed after the original site was found to be a wetlands area, and the 1.5 percent grade of the property.

“We will continue to go out and search for grants wherever possible and whenever we can get them will evaluate whether the projects are worthwhile or not,” he said. “The state has not been cooperative with smaller towns. They have cut back in many areas, including grants, and it’s a constant battle.”

Maguire kept a positive outlook, despite his defeat in the first selectman race.

“Burbank won, and that’s the will of the people,” he said. “That’s what they voted for; that’s democracy.”

Maguire said he would continue to work in the best interests of Andover while serving on the Board of Selectmen.

“It’s about the town; it’s always been about the town, not the party,” he said. “I try to stay positive.”

Dowling simply said “the people have spoken” when referring to Burbank’s re-election.

“The people like what’s going on right now and that’s what they want, so that’s what they get,” he said.

Dowling, who had served as fire chief for several years, was re-elected to Andover’s Fire Commission Monday.

“I will continue to serve there. I started in town with the fire department in 1968 and retired as fire chief in 2006, before serving as chairman of the fire commission,” he said. “I like helping people.”

Linddy – who, like Burbank and Buchardt, had to petition himself onto the ballot and ran unendorsed by the RTC – won not just a seat on the Board of Selectmen, but on the Board of Education as well, which he chaired for several years.

“I’d like to thank the voters, they encouraged me to run again, and I was fortunate at the vote count, and I look forward to four more years,” he said.

Linddy stepped down from the boards of selectmen and education earlier this year, because he said he wanted to increase his commitment to his writing and to go back to school.

But, he said he decided to run again for both boards to help the town.

“We have to address the roads in town, where the storm drains are cracking up: Old Farms, Wind Rush, Ridge Road, Bunker Hill Road. We have to take care of what we have,” he said. “And the reason why I wanted to get elected on the Board of Education was we have a major roof project coming at Andover Elementary School.”

“We cannot bond for money and we have to take advantage of grants, and that takes a while to figure out where to go,” he said.

In addition, Linddy said he was glad to see new people elected to a variety of town slots, but sad to see some of them were not elected.

“We had several candidates who came with good qualifications, and it’s good to see other people run for these offices,” he said. “But on the other hand, you never want to turn away good people. It’s too bad somebody has to lose.”

Derosiers felt the mandate from Monday’s election was clear.

“I think since the public came out in droves like this, it should be a clear indicator to the people elected that people are looking for positive change, and it’s our responsibly to see that through,” she said. “But I am surprised that an endorsed Republican or an endorsed Democrat were not seated.”

Derosiers said her job on the Board of Selectmen would be to help “bring the changes” that were discussed during this campaign season. Some of these included changes to the town’s policies and procedures, better communication from the selectmen board, more leadership in public works, addressing issues with public buildings and financial transparency, she said.

“We should be able to get that all done in four years. It is an ambitious list but it is all doable,” Derosiers said. “I do think everyone can work together and be on the same page.”

“I’ve been in town over 32 years and have never seen this much interest and energy,” she said. “We just need to keep it going and get more people involved,” she said.

The town charter’s minority representation language – which states that no more than three members of a single party can serve on the selectmen board – meant a loss for Republican Steve Willard, despite collecting more votes than Maguire or Haverl. Willard had actually been on the board since March, as he was appointed to fill the rest of Linddy’s term.

Town Clerk Carol Lee explained the minority representation provision of the town charter, has a stricter standard than the state statute. State law says a five-member board must have no more than four members of one party, but Andover’s charter says no more than three members of one party.

“The charter trumps state statute if it does greater than the state law provides for,” she said. “The board of selectmen and the local board of education are the only two boards that our charter does greater than state statute.”

Willard called Monday’s outcome “bittersweet.”

“I’m a little disappointed, having won the popular vote and lost due to a technicality. By state statute I won; by town charter I lost,” he said. “But I’m very happy with the amount of support I was able to garner. This was really good for a first-timer.”

Willard said he’s not finished, by any means.

“This is only the beginning for me with politics in the town of Andover,” he said. “I plan on being in town for a long time and running again when the time comes.”

The election featured a nearly 50 percent voter turnout, with 999 voters out of the town’s registered total of 2,063 casting ballots. In addition, seven people registered on Election Day itself and voted, for a grand total of 1,007 votes cast.

# East Hampton Police Building Committee Holds First Meeting

by John Tyczkowski

The police department building committee kicked off its first meeting Monday evening, which included setting members' roles and determining its timeframe and goals.

The committee unanimously elected Tom Burdick as its chair and Cliff Libby as its vice chair. Libby has over 40 years of experience in nuclear power plant construction and who worked as a business analyst.

Burdick, who also possesses years of construction experience, called the police station project "probably the single most important thing" the town has to deal with over the next 20 years.

"I think it's important and I want to contribute to it however I can," he said.

The building committee is tasked with developing plans for a new home for East Hampton's police department. The department is located in the basement beneath Town Hall – a building which itself is 70 years old. Police Chief Sean Cox has described the station at several previous meetings as cramped, outmoded and unfit for 21st century policing.

In addition, police had been using the parking lot behind Town Hall, leased from Connecticut Light & Power (now known as Eversource). However, last year CL&P took the lot back for its own use. Thus, officers must now travel to a separate location on East Main Street to change and gear up for duty and to pick up their ve-

hicles for their shifts.

At Monday's meeting, the other members of the building committee members introduced themselves and discussed their qualifications and hopes for their work on the board.

Bill Weir brought 29 years of construction experience to the committee and said he "wanted to make sure everything goes correctly and goes where we want to go."

"We need a building that's not just adequate now, but will be adequate for the next 20 years," he said.

John Roche worked in construction for 40 years, which included experience on Branford and Hartford police department projects.

Ralph Nesci is the owner of the manufacturing-based Nesci Enterprises on Summit Street, and a member of the water and sewer commission, and the water development task force.

Police Chief Sean Cox encouraged the committee to take time to visit other police stations in similar communities around the state.

"I refer to Coventry as East Hampton's twin," he said. "They have a lake, the same demographics, relatively same population, relatively same-sized police department, and they're a nationally-accredited agency."

Other towns to visit include Montville and Madison, Cox said.

Though Montville participates in the resident

state trooper program, their recently constructed police station includes a communications center, Cox said.

"We decided to explore [having on-site emergency dispatching] due to our current situation with KX," he said.

Last month, emergency services dispatchers at Colchester Emergency Communications (KX), which serves several local towns including East Hampton, voted to unionize.

Montville was looking to house KX dispatchers on-site, as part of a merger with other area towns, but has put those plans on hold given the unionization.

At the same time, several localities looking to take part in the KX merger, including Lebanon and Haddam Neck, have pulled out.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said at a Town Council meeting last month that in the face of the stalled merger, the town is looking at several alternate plans for its emergency services dispatch needs, one of which would include having dispatchers on-site in town.

Cox also said he plans to seek national accreditation for the town's police department, which factored into the police departments he selected for the committee's review.

"I think accreditation is a good benchmark for us to set our sights on," he said.

Currently, Cox said the department is revis-

ing its standard operating procedures to work toward state accreditation.

"And part of that includes having sufficient facilities to meet those standards," he said.

Also, the committee set itself a six-month timeframe for completing Phase I of the project, which, according to the resolution establishing the committee, entails working with the police to determine the needs of a new building, selecting a site for the building, selecting an architect, identifying possible funding opportunities and presenting the package to the Town Council.

The police department currently utilizes about 2,100 square feet between the 1,700-square foot station and the roughly 400-square foot annex further east on Route 66.

Overall, Cox said he is optimistic about the committee's efforts, and said he was pleased with the Town Council's decision to form the group.

"I appreciate that the council is taking a serious look at emergency services overall, on how we can better deliver those services to the town," he said.

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The police department building committee will meet every first and third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., at a location to be determined.

## Colchester Police News

4/29: State Police said Zachary Jascowski, 27, of 12 Settlers Ln., was arrested and charged with violation of probation.

4/29: State Police said Patricia Hallden, 45, of 15 Arrowwood Rd., Cromwell, was arrested and charged with second-degree harassment.

4/30: State Police said Cynthia Ewers, 51, of 11 Prospect St., was arrested and charged with third-degree burglary and sixth-degree larceny.

5/3: Colchester Police said Christopher Stregowski, 36, of 156 Waterhole Rd., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

## Marlborough Police News

4/29: State Police said Glenn Dobkin, 55, of 17 Kensington Ln., Rocky Hill, was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order.

5/3: State Police said Sedryck Grundy, 27, of 301 Goodwin St., Springfield, Mass., was arrested and charged with criminal impersonation, speeding, operating in violation of license classification and possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana.

## Hebron Police News

5/2: State Police said Joseph Allen, 25, of 71 Roberts Rd., Marlborough, was arrested and charged with DUI, restricted turn and failure to carry insurance.

## Portland Police News

5/1: Amy Pease, 37, of 11 Ridge Rd., was charged with two counts of violation of probation, Portland Police said.

# Hebron Budget Rejected on First Try

by Mike Thompson

The voters trickled more than flocked to the polls Tuesday, but those who did show sent Hebron's proposed \$36.65 million 2015-16 budget to a 586-462 defeat.

The budget would have been an increase of \$889,000, or 2.49 percent, over current year spending, and increased the mill rate by .80, bringing it to 36.55 mills; for a taxpayer with property valued at \$200,000, this would have translated to a \$160 tax increase, bringing their taxes to \$7,310.

The spending proposal called for \$12.15 million for the Hebron Board of Education budget, a 1.29 percent increase over the current year; \$15.54 million for the town's portion of the RHAM Board of Education budget; and \$8.98 million for general government spending.

The \$731,000 Capital Improvement Plan budget, which is voted on separately, fared better, passing by a 545-500 margin.

Of the town's 6,429 registered voters, just 1,051 cast ballots in Tuesday's referendum, for a turnout rate of 16 percent, a figure Town Manager Andy Tierney deemed "very, very low." He said the Democratic and Republican town committees, the schools and Town Hall had all tried to get the vote out, but it didn't work.

Tierney chalked up the turnout to either "people are very busy in their everyday life," or people who were content enough with the budget they didn't show up to vote 'yes.'

And if it's the latter, Tierney said those budget fans need to cast ballots next time. "If they don't come out and vote, the budget's going to get voted down," he said.

Tierney said there are consistently about 500 'no' votes in town – people who regularly will show up and vote down the spending plan presented before them. And, he said, "if we don't get more than 1,000 or 1,100 or higher[turnout] numbers, there's a good chance" the budget is going to be defeated, as there simply are too few 'yes' votes to overcome the 'nos.'

Board of Finance Chairman Mike Hazel was also displeased with the turnout, labeling it an "embarrassment."

"You would like to see a respectable turnout, because this is something that affects everyone in town," he said. "This is about as close to home as you can get."

Hazel said he couldn't say if the outcome of the referendum would've been different had more people voted but, he said, "it would've been more clear."

Throughout the budget-crafting process, Hazel said, only about a handful of residents participated and offered any input. As a result, he said he wasn't surprised by Tuesday's outcome.

"Given the lack of public input in the budget process, nothing surprises me," he said.

"If people choose not to participate in the process, we move forward with the only real input we have, which is from the departments requesting funding."

The Board of Finance only controls the bottom line budget figure; it can't go line-by-line. The board was due to meet Thursday night, after press time, and arrive at a new budget amount. The goal, Hazel said, is to "find a balance where cuts will not affect basic services," but, he warned, "there's a point where that will

happen."

"This isn't my first rodeo; we've been through this before," said Hazel, who was also finance board chair in 2012 and 2013, when it took multiple referendums each year to get a town budget passed. "This is our first taste of true voter sentiment, and now we have to deal with it."

Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman Brian O'Connell also seemed displeased with the lack of residents that showed and participated during the budget-crafting process.

"There was zero feedback, as far as I know, in the process, which we really strive for," he said. "That's disheartening."

O'Connell said he was not surprised by Tuesday's light turnout, as the budget has not proven very controversial. "Unless there's something contentious, the turnout in a non-election year tends to be very light," he said.

O'Connell added he felt the local Board of Education budget was "a fair budget," adding that it may have even come in as lower than the current year's budget "had it not been for an increase in insurance costs."

Perhaps the only thing clear from Tuesday's referendum is the vast majority of people think the town budget is too high – even, apparently, those who voted to pass it.

There were two advisory questions on this year's ballot – one asking if the town budget (excluding the Hebron and RHAM school budgets) was too high or too low, and one asking if the Hebron Board of Education budget was too high or too low. For the town budget question, 687 deemed it too high to 191 who deemed it too low. On the school budget side, 699 said

'too high' while 219 said 'too low.'

"Of course we're disappointed that the budget failed," Board of Education Chairwoman Maryanne Leichter said Wednesday. "The voters were very clear that they didn't like our budget number."

Leichter added, though, she was not surprised the budget fell.

"I had been hearing within the community people were not happy," she said. "There are people in our community that are really stressed out with the taxes, and they let you know that."

As to whether declining enrollment indeed contributed to the defeat, Leichter said, "The enrollment figures are not a new thing. We've been very clear over the years [that] yes, we know enrollment is going down," and the board has responded with staff cuts – such as the staff reductions included in the proposed 2015-16 budget.

The mandate from Tuesday's referendum seemed clear to Leichter.

"Our constituents have said we need to trim this budget," she said, adding that town officials "have to work as a team; we're not an island."

A full story about whatever budget revisions town officials made last night will be in next week's *Rivereast*. The date for the next referendum has already been set, for Tuesday, May 26. And Tierney is hopeful the new budget proves more palatable to voters than was the case this week – and the town can move forward.

"We need to get back to work and take care of the town that I manage and we love," he said.

# Colchester Dogs Bark for the Park

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Dogs from all over the area joined each other in a tradition that's usually held for children at Easter time.

Formerly called the Easter Egg Hunt for Dogs, the Spring Bark for the Park kicked off last Sunday, May 3, to bright skies and warm weather for its fourth year.

The dogs, along with their owners, ventured around a fenced off area on the green, putting their noses to the grass, smelling for treats inside colorful plastic eggs. (The humans helped too by then collecting the eggs.)

With over \$1,600 of donated prizes from local businesses, all funds raised from the event went to the Colchester Dog Park.

"The generosity of the merchants in the Colchester area was amazing," resident Debi Czarkowski Marvin said.

"We're self-funded," Linda Labickas from the Colchester Dog Park Committee said. "We pay for the topsoil and ground seed and we just put in an agility course for the big dogs."

The dog park has been in Colchester since 2010 at 99 Old Amston Rd. and has grown as a community. Members of the dog park even band together to go on field trips and there are clubs known as the 10 a.m. club that go to the park frequently with their dogs.

Last year, Labickas said, the park purchased a lawn tractor so the caretakers can do all of the mowing at the park. However the tractor brought a steep price tag and depleted the park savings. Now the organizers are working to replenish their savings from the tractor. Although the numbers aren't yet in for this year's event, last year the dog park raised \$1,700.

Four years ago, the event was held in late March or early April – hence the former Easter theme. At the time, the event had no vendors. But, as the years went by, the event became later and later in the year finally landing on the first week of May this year. Currently, Labickas said, there are numerous vendors beginning their summer circuits, three different dog rescues, a therapy dog, air-scenting dogs and guide dogs.

Families and their dogs were able to enjoy free ice cream, burgers and hot dogs as they walked around the vendors, watched a performance by Top Hat N Tails, a freestyle dog dance group, and visited available rescue dogs before hunting for eggs at 1 p.m.

"It's great for dog lovers to have events that they can bring their dogs to," resident Kathleen Hinchey Garvie said.

Similar to the fall Colchester Lions Club's Pumpkins and Pooches, the event was a way for dog owners to come out and support the dog park while having a bit of fun.

One of the dogs that enjoyed the free ice cream was Gizmo, a certified therapy dog with Paws for Friendship Inc. Gizmo is the first dog in the state to work on a Community Emergency Response Team to aid in comforting families after disasters. He works alongside his owner, Jen Adams of Vernon. The dog also has over 65,000 Facebook followers on his page, Gizmo's Frens.



The organizers from the Colchester Dog Park posed for a quick picture with some of their dog friends and the Easter bunny during Sunday's Spring Bark for the Park.

Rescue dogs from Protectors of Animals, Paws of New England and Our Companions stood ready at their booths, watching people as they walked by, ready for new homes.

A newcomer to the scene as a vendor was David Shoup of Tucker's Touch. Shoup specializes in dog massage and Reiki therapy.

Shoup's former dog, Tucker, had issues early on, developing difficulty walking when he was just 2 years old.

"[The doctors] told me he would be on painkillers for the rest of his life," Shoup said. In the early 2000s, Shoup started physical therapy and massage work on Tucker. Before long, Tucker could go hiking with Shoup all over the state.

"A couple of months made such a difference,"

Shoup said.

After Tucker passed away, Shoup came across a program in Massachusetts for massage therapy that also did some work on dogs.

"I didn't think of it as a career at first, but everything fell into place," Shoup said.

Shoup practices out of Appalachian Tails in Glastonbury.

Another booth at the Spring Bark for the Park was Connecticut Votes for Animals, which is one of the only lobbying groups primarily focused on animals. Currently the group is lobbying against the potential taxing of veterinary services.

Labickas said the dog park committee is looking forward to next year and cannot wait to see how the event continues to grow.



Laurie Sullivan and her 10-year-old Golden Retriever Bowie of Tolland dance in a freestyle performance by Top Hats N Tails.

# Colchester Budget Defeated, Finance Board Talks Cuts

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Following Tuesday's rejection of the town's proposed \$53.86 million 2015-16 fiscal year budget, the Board of Finance met Wednesday and explored the idea of making reductions.

The budget shot down Tuesday was broken into two parts – a \$13.86 million town government budget and a \$39.995 million Board of Education budget. Together, the budgets were an overall increase of \$862,935, or 1.63 percent. The impact to the mill rate would have been 0.47 mills from 30.57 to 31.04, or a 1.54 percent tax increase.

The town budget was defeated 1,236-1,125 while the education budget was rejected 1,285-1,075.

A total of 2,362 voters, or 23.47 percent, turned out Tuesday which was a better voter turnout than last year's first round budget referendum. Town Clerk Gayle Furman said the turnout was even a bit better than the second round last year.

"I'm hoping for just two [rounds] this time," Furman said after the votes came in.

James McNair, a member of the Board of Finance who said he was speaking as an individual, said after the votes came in it's been a "strange" budget this year.

"There is no straightforward answer why" the budget went down, McNair said. "It's not one of those deals that the boards can say this is what we're going to do."

Resident Nancy McAuliffe speculated the budget defeat could be because of other issues in town.

"People should vote with their conscience, but there are still unresolved issues with special education," McAuliffe said.

"Things are tough and people are hurting," Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov said. "I've always said we look at what the federal government is doing and what the state is doing. We don't have much control over that and the only way to show how we feel is at the local level."

Tarlov said the board has worked hard to present a budget with a minimal increase, but the problem is figuring out what everyone in town wants or needs.

"Dealing with my own budget, I know what I want and what I don't," Tarlov said. "The problem with the town is that you don't."

Tarlov said it's typical for the town to get 1,200 'no' votes.

"There's not a reason for the budget going down, but it's the way it is," Tarlov said. "We will take a look at what services we will cut and look at the newer stuff we added and see how critical they are before cutting what we have."

The Board of Finance met Wednesday and discussed how to move forward with the budget.

After deliberations, the board agreed to ask First Selectman Stan Soby to come up with a list of reductions that would total \$150,000, and the Board of Education to come up with what \$200,000 in reductions would look like.

"Typically this town doesn't have two referendums," McNair said, referencing Colchester's history of having three or more referendums. "We need to go under 1 percent."

McNair explained that cutting \$200,000 from the budget rejected Tuesday would be a 1 percent increase from current year spending, and cutting \$250,000 would be a 0.88 percent increase.

"It wasn't a blowout," board member Tom Kane said, saying that 48 percent voted for the budget and 52 percent voted against it. "We should make a meaningful reduction based on the way the community voted."

Board of Finance member Art Shilosky agreed that the increase needs to be under 1 percent.

"We will be taking a look at something new, restoration of something or extensions of what we're currently doing," Soby said about where the cuts may come from. "We will stay away from capital items producing savings going forward."

Soby suggested one of the things that may

be looked at is the extra two hours for the library during the school year versus something more related to public safety.

However Kane and vice chair Rob Esteve asked Soby to not go to the library for the cuts.

"Every year we go to the library," Kane said.

After Tarlov suggested the board ask for \$150,000 in cuts from both sides, Kane wasn't in agreement and felt the school cut should be larger than on the town side.

Items the board agreed should not be touched included the fire department strategic plan, road maintenance, charter revision legal, and some capital items depending on the recommendations of Public Works Director Jim Paggioli.

During public comment, Nancy Groeger, a parent in town, said although she doesn't believe it's right, she knows many of the parents from the special education issue going on in the school system voted 'no' to send a message to the board.

The boards of finance and selectmen will hold a special meeting Monday, May 11, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall to finalize the budget's bottom line. The Board of Education will then meet Tuesday, May 12, at 7 p.m., at William J. Johnston Middle School. The board did agree a second referendum will come before the end of May.

## Obituaries

### Colchester

#### Carl Victor Werner

Carl Victor Werner, 64, of Cromwell, passed away of natural causes Wednesday, April 15.

The son of Gladys Werner and the late David Werner, Carl was born Dec. 15, 1950, in New Britain and grew up in Portland. He was a happy child who loved his dog Wags, Tarzan rope swings, wiffle ball,



kick the can, and chess with his grandfather. Carl graduated from Portland High School and Central Connecticut State University. In high school, Carl began struggling with bipolar disorder. With time and support, he went on to lead an independent life. Over the years, Carl worked at a variety of jobs, and one of his favorite jobs was delivering flowers to florists.

In 1999, Carl married the love of his life, Harriett Rickards Jones, and they were together until her death in 2011.

Carl attended church regularly, volunteered at the Amazing Grace Food Pantry, and belonged to the Gilead Social Club in Middletown. He enjoyed watching the Red Sox win, eating Tuesday dinners with Gail Nicholson's family, and playing cards with friends. Carl also played a mean game of Scrabble, and he delighted in using all his letters. He was a loyal friend, devoted husband, and loving son and brother.

Carl is survived by his mother, Gladys Werner of Middletown; his brother, Paul (Christine) Werner of Boise, Idaho; his sister, Ruth (James) Hubert of Franklin, Mass.; his nieces, Emily (Eric) Hahn of Exeter, R.I., and Jennifer Hubert of Franklin, Mass.; his stepson, Donald (Jill) Jones of Saranac Lake, N.Y., and his step-grandsons Connor and Ethan Jones.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Harriett Werner, his father, David Werner, and his infant brother, Robert Werner.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, May 16, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton, where visiting time will be from 1-1:45 p.m. and a memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Interment at the Swedish Cemetery in Portland and reception back at the church will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Gilead Community Services, Inc., 222 Main Street Extension, P.O. Box 1000, Middletown, CT 06457, or to Amazing Grace Food Pantry, St. Vincent de Paul, P.O. Box 398, Middletown, CT 06457.

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

### East Hampton

#### Lois Hadfield Lindstrom

Lois Hadfield Lindstrom, 82, late of Middletown and East Hampton but born and raised in Plainville, passed away Wednesday, April 29, after an extended illness.

She is survived by her husband, Richard E. Lindstrom; daughters Linda Jane of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Cynthia Gail of Cromwell and Donna Jean of East Hampton; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Mitzie Salomone, Lois' older sister, still lives on Cape Cod.

The youngest of the Ernest and Mabel Hadfield family of Plainville and New Britain, Lois graduated with the Class of 1950 from Plainville High School where she was an active and award winning student, a member of the band, and class secretary. After attending Boston University on scholarship, Lois married Richard in 1952.

Not satisfied with simply accompanying her husband in his careers with the United States Air Force and the University of Connecticut faculty, she took on the jobs of raising three wonderful daughters, filling leading roles in service and civic organizations wherever she was living, opening and running two successful real estate agencies, and, until her illness set in, was using an exceptional sense of color and form in building a large client following for her home décor business in Florida.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 9, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. The family will receive friends and relatives on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. A private interment will be in Plainville's West End Cemetery.

Lois will be returning home to Plainville after a life's journey that took her to exciting venues, adventures and accomplishments around the country and world.

In lieu of flowers, make donations to Alzheimer's Association, 200 Executive Blvd., Southington, CT 06489-1058 or to Protectors of Animals, 144 Main St., Unit 0, East Hartford, CT 06118.

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

### Colchester

#### Mary June Hornbecker

Mary June Hornbecker, 90, of Lebanon, widow of the late Robert M. Hornbecker, passed away Friday, May 1, at Apple Rehab in Colchester. Born Nov. 28, 1924 in Asheville, N.C., she was a daughter of the late Wade and Adeline (McCurrey) Watkins.

She married Robert Aug. 16, 1944; he predeceased her in December of 1973. They had lived in Wolcott where they raised their four children. Mary had worked for TRW for many years prior to her retirement in 1989. In her spare time, she enjoyed oil painting and cooking.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by two daughters, Margaret "Robin" Hornbecker in 1994 and Linda Hornbecker Ingala on Feb. 12, 2015.

She is survived by her daughter, Cathy Daigle of Wolcott; her son, Robert J. Hornbecker and his wife, Denise of Colchester and her son-in-law, Charles Ingala of Sicklerville, N.J.; 10 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She also leaves her sister-in-law, Cathy Watkins, and her dear cousin, Polly Jones, both of North Carolina.

The family received guests Tuesday, May 5, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service was observed that morning with Fr. Michael Smith officiating. Burial was in the Edgewood Cemetery, Wolcott, at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in her memory may be made to the Apple Rehab Recreation Fund, 36 Broadway, Colchester, CT 06415 or to Masonicare Home Health and Hospice, 339 Flanders Rd., Ste. 215, East Lyme, CT 06333, in recognition for the exceptional care and concern extended to Mary and her family.

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

### Hebron

#### Janice Cressey

Janice (Crawford) Cressey, 93, of Glastonbury, formerly of Hebron, Sun Lakes, Ariz., and Bloomfield, wife of the late Thomas E. Cressey, died peacefully at home Wednesday, April 29. Born March 11, 1922, in Dillsburg, Pa., daughter of the late Dr. William and Emily (Swomley) Crawford, she lived in Glastonbury for 27 years. Prior to her retirement, she was an administrative assistant for the Glastonbury Police Department.

Jan was a member of the Dillsburg, Bloomfield, Sun Lakes and Glastonbury chapters of the General Federation of Women's Clubs as well as the Eastern Star for over 50 years. She traveled extensively, having visited all 50 states and six of the seven continents. Jan was on the committee that won Bloomfield All-American City status and was on the organizing committee for Hebron's 300th anniversary celebration.

She will be greatly missed by her two daughters and sons-in-law, Kim and Jeff Crandell of San Dimas, Calif., Carolyn and Joe Charbonneau of Hebron; four grandchildren, Valerie Charbonneau, Michael Charbonneau, Kelly Austin and her husband Eric, and Ben Crandell and his fiancée Candice Benavidez; and a great-granddaughter, Zoe Austin; as well as other family members and a multitude of friends, neighbors and club members.

A memorial service celebrating her life was held Monday, May 4, in the Congregational Church of South Glastonbury (corner of Main and High streets). There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Federated Woman's Club of Glastonbury Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 513, Glastonbury, CT 06033, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

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

### Portland

#### Rev. Daniel C. Cronin

The Rev. Daniel C. Cronin, retired priest of the Diocese of Norwich, died Saturday, May 2, at St. Joseph Living Center in Windham. He was 87. Father Cronin is fondly remembered by all who knew him and grew spiritually from his caring presence.

Father Cronin, son of the late Michael Cronin and Hannah (Nagle) Cronin of Gneeveguilla, Rathmore, East County Kerry, Ireland, was born in Rathmore, County Kerry, and educated in Ireland at St. Joseph College in Freshford, County Kilkenny. He continued his studies in philosophy and theology at St. Joseph's Missionary College in Rozendaal, Holland, and Mill Hill, just north of London. It was in Mill Hill, July 10, 1955, where Father Cronin was ordained to the priesthood for service as a Mill Hill Missionary by Bernard Cardinal Griffin. Immediately following ordination, Father Cronin began an extended missionary assignment in Borneo from 1955 to 1963.

Shortly after returning to Freshford, Ireland in 1963, Father Cronin joined the Diocese of Norwich as assistant pastor at St. Luke Parish in Ellington. Subsequently, he served as Assistant Pastor at Sacred Heart in Norwichtown and, in 1969, St. Mary in Portland. In 1977, he became Pastor of St. Stephen in Quinebaug until 1984 when he was appointed pastor of St. Columba in Columbia, where he served faithfully until his retirement in January 2012, at the age of 84.

Father Cronin is survived by his sister, Kathleen O'Donoghue of Killarney, Ireland; brother-in-law, Michael Dennehy; many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He is predeceased by three sisters: Julia Mary Sullivan, Hannah Dennehy, Mary Cronin; and four brothers: Denis, Paddy, Michael (Mick) and John Cronin.

The Ceremony of the Vigil for the Deceased with Reception at the Church took place at St. Columba Church, 328 Route 66, Columbia, Wednesday, May 6. Following that ceremony, Father Cronin's body lay in state until that evening at St. Columba Church. A parish Mass was celebrated for his repose Wednesday, May 6, at St. Columba. The funeral Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev. Michael R. Cote, D.D., Bishop of Norwich, on Thursday, May 7, at St. Columba Church. Interment will be in Ireland.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Columba Church Memorial Fund, 328 Route 66, Columbia, CT 06237.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St., Willimantic, CT 860-423-2211. Pay condolences online at [potterfuneralhome.com](http://potterfuneralhome.com).

### Andover

#### Barbara T. Covell

Barbara T. Covell, 92, of Andover, loving wife of the late Willis W. "Sonny" Covell, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away at Manchester Memorial Hospital Tuesday, May 5, as feisty as the day she was born.

Barbara was born Sept. 24, 1922, in Manchester, daughter of the late Walter and Margaret (McKinney) Tedford. She was raised in Manchester, graduated from Manchester High School Class of 1940, and resided in Andover for most of her life. She worked as an engineering assistant at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft retiring in 1983, was a former member of the First Congregational Church of Andover and enjoyed her time traveling to Florida.

Barbara is survived by her loving family: son, Lawrence Covell and his wife, Dana of Manchester; daughter, Barbara Francisco and her husband, Carl, of Sarasota, Fla.; daughter, Gail Fracchia and her husband, James, of Hebron; daughter-in-law, Judy Covell of Andover, brother, Walter E. Tedford and his wife, Marie of Vermont, five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a son, William Covell in 1998.

In lieu of flowers please make memorial contributions to the Andover Volunteer Fire Dept. 11 School Road Andover, CT 06232. Funeral services and burial will be private.

Holmes Funeral Home Manchester is in care of arrangements. To leave a message of condolence, visit [holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

### Portland

#### Wanda W. Ortisi

Wanda W. Ortisi, of LeRoy, N.Y., Port Charlotte, Fla., Portland, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 18, in LeRoy, N.Y.

She was the cherished wife of the late Angelo W. Ortisi Sr., and the beloved mother of Marsha (Dennis) Stevens, Daniel T. (Jayne) Smith, Michael (Carolyn) Ortisi, Patricia (Bernie) Heizman, Susan O. Smith and Angelo (Karen) Ortisi Jr.

A celebration of her life and funeral Mass will be held next Saturday morning, May 16, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary's Church, Freestone Avenue, Portland. Burial will follow in Veterans Cemetery in Middletown.



## No Danger to Colchester Water After Testing Violation

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

There is no danger to any public drinking water after a testing mishap last fall, Public Works Director Jim Paggioli said.

In October, one of the four bottles required for monthly testing came back positive for coliform bacteria. Coliform is an indicator used for the sanitary quality of food and water. Within 72 hours of the test returning positive, Paggioli said the water system operators took five more samples, all which came back negative.

However, in November, the water system operators only took four samples as they would normally do. Paggioli said the violation with the state Department of Health Drinking Water Section came because the operators had not taken another five samples.

According to the state department, the month following one positive test the town has to take

another five samples, even though it would normally just take four.

Paggioli said that, in the last decade, Colchester has had only three positive tests for bacteria, and in all of those instances it was not the water quality, but an imperfection in the sample bottle sent by the testing laboratory.

"There has been no contamination in the system at any point in time," Paggioli said. "It was a testing technicality."

Paggioli said the town water system operators had already adapted to what's required by the time the state replied with the violation.

"The notice of violation comes out a month later," Paggioli said. "We are already in compliance."

Paggioli said the operators are making the change in policy to reflect the need to submit five samples the month after a positive test.