



RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland

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**Dump Truck Disaster...** Route 2 west near exit 13 in Marlborough was closed for over three hours last Friday morning when a dump truck hit an overhead bridge and lost its bed. Police said the truck was too tall for the bridge. See related story on page 21.

## State Cuts Throw Hebron Budget Curve

by Geeta S. Sandberg

News of the release of Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's state budget proposal reached the Hebron Board of Finance just two hours before the start of Tuesday night's public hearing on the town's \$36.29 million proposal for 2016-17.

And that proposal – which features more than \$260,000 in cuts to Hebron's Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) funding – threw finance board members for a loop.

"The numbers were accurate this morning," Board of Finance Chairman Malcolm Leichter said of the town budget. "Then at 5:30, [state Rep. Gayle Mulligan] called to say the governor's revised budget proposal was out" and the package included further cuts to the ECS grant from the state.

ECS provides funds to towns to help offset some of the costs of education; the amount each municipality receives is determined by a formula that takes into account the number of students in each school district, and the municipality's wealth and ability to raise property taxes to pay for education, according to [cga.ct.gov](http://cga.ct.gov).

In Malloy's budget proposal from February, Hebron's ECS funds were cut by \$30,001; that cut increased Tuesday to \$267,010 for a total ECS reduction of \$297,011.

(The other *Rivereast* towns also saw reductions: Andover's ECS funds were cut by an additional \$91,369; Colchester's were cut by another \$526,467 and East Hampton's decreased \$302,340. In addition, Marlborough's ECS funds were cut by \$133,792 and Portland's ECS funds were reduced by \$182,554.)

Leichter explained during his presentation \$70,000 had already been reduced from the

town's expected revenue in anticipation of Malloy's proposal, "but another \$227,000 needs to be taken away."

The ECS funds are listed under the town's anticipated revenue, and less revenue from alternative sources such as the state means more money to be raised via taxes.

Prior to the cut, the budget proposal equated to the same mill rate as the current year at 36.00 mills, which would mean no change in residents' taxes. However, the loss of ECS funds would increase the proposed mill rate to 36.33 if no changes are made to the expenditure side of the budget.

This means that a home assessed at \$200,000 would be taxed \$7,266 for the 2016-17 fiscal year, up from the \$7,200 that would have been owed had the mill rate stayed at 36.00.

Following Leichter's presentation and over an hour of public comment (where the majority expressed support for the Board of Education budget), discussion on how to address the curveball from the state kept the Board of Finance talking until midnight.

Various motions were made by board members to address the change, including: cutting \$200,000 from the education budget and \$100,000 from the town budget; cutting \$75,000 from both budgets; reducing the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget by \$150,000; removing approximately \$170,000 from the town budget and \$54,000 from the school budget; and cutting \$150,000 from CIP and \$23,000 from Open Space and Land Acquisition.

Ultimately, all of the motions failed, as members remained divided over where to make cuts.

"The public made a strong case" against fur-

See Hebron Budget Page 2

## Ex-Chatham Health Head Wants Belltown to Pay

by Elizabeth Regan

The embattled former director of the Chatham Health District is asking East Hampton to cough up approximately \$26,000 for water testing fees that were not billed to the town over the course of a decade.

A settlement agreement reached in December between Thad King and the state Department of Public Health required him to pay \$100,380 in restitution for what it has called "the improper and/or fraudulent" use of the state health department laboratory for private business purposes.

The settlement followed a conflict of interest investigation stemming from King's work as a private certified water operator at the same time he was serving as director of the Chatham Health District, the regional health provider for Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Haddam, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland.

The agreement stipulates King may not work as a health director anywhere in Connecticut. He may only serve in a non-director capacity within a health jurisdiction as long as the position is "not funded, in whole or in part, with funding from or flowing through DPH."

Now he's asking East Hampton to reimburse him for the money he had to pay to the state as part of the same settlement that forced his resignation. He told members of the Town Council at their Tuesday meeting that the totals come to \$19,440 for the town and \$7,127 for the Board of Education.

Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith said Wednesday he has not received any requests or had any correspondence with King regarding unpaid water testing fees.

A majority of the restitution amount revolves around private water testing requests that King

said he submitted to the state laboratory using his account as head of the district.

The state claims he was using his position to get water samples from private clients tested at the state laboratory for free, according to King. But he contends all the state needed to do was bill his clients.

"I used my director of health account to submit samples based on a CT DPH lab memorandum from 1996," King wrote in a letter to the East Hampton Town Council. "DPH stated it would bill me or the water systems if my account was used. I later set up separate accounts with the state lab for billing purposes and used those accounts for submitting many, but not all of the samples."

He said he provided the information the state needs to bill his customer for the test.

"When invoices were not sent, and billing

did not occur, DPH contends I was avoiding payment of lab fees," he wrote. "However, this was clearly never my intent."

King emphasized he did not use his account as health director for financial gain.

"In retrospect, I should have been more diligent in the follow-up of billing, but at the time, I did not consider that my responsibility," he wrote. Instead, he relied on the laboratory's stated policy of billing him or the water system for any analysis performed.

King is also asking the town to waive an early retirement penalty that reduces his pension by 3 percent for each year prior to age 62.

Human Resources Coordinator Lisa Seymour said Thursday that King's current pension arrangement grants him a monthly payment of \$4,222. Waiving the early retirement penalty

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### Belltown cont. from Front Page

would mean he receives \$5,056 per month.

King started as a sanitarian in East Hampton in 1990 and rose to local director of health in 1994. In 2002, he became the first director of the nascent Chatham Health District.

In a letter to the Town Council, King said he was the town's certified water operator between 1995 and summer 2015, continuing in the role even after he took the lead at the health district. Until 2012, when he was formally contracted by the town, he was not paid separately for his certified water operator responsibilities; instead, he said he did it as part of his role as director of health and then district director of health.

That's why he's asking for the early retirement waiver, he explained: "I am requesting the early retirement penalty be waived or amended in recognition of the 25 years of service I have provided as director of health and for the seventeen years of service provided, uncompensated, as certified operator."

King served as a certified water operator for the Board of Education from 2001 to 2015, according to district business manager Karen Asetta. He was paid \$325 per month.

King also told councilors the amount the state is asking for in restitution is too high, because it includes some tests that have already been paid for and it's based on an incorrect fee structure.

King said he has spent months going over the list, provided by DPH, that itemizes each unpaid water test. He said the state found \$77,580 in unpaid water testing fees; however, his own analysis of the reports associated with each test found an amount just over \$48,851.

King said he asked East Hampton finance director Jeff Jylkka to look at the electronic payment record. Jylkka found the town had paid \$24,500 for tests the state listed as unpaid, according to King.

Jylkka, who was on vacation Wednesday but responded to an email, said bills came from the Department of Public Health; checks were made out to the state of Connecticut.

At Tuesday's Town Council meeting, councilor Melissa Engel made a motion to vote right away on the request, which was on the agenda as new business, instead of considering it and coming back to vote at another meeting per council policy.

Other members seemed amenable to the motion until Councilman Kevin Reich said he wanted more time "to sit back and ponder."

Reich said the issue was not new to him. As a member of the board of the Edgemere Condominium Association, Reich had already heard a similar pitch from King.

King became the certified water operator for Edgemere and Mallard Cove condominiums in 2004, according to his letter to the council.

Reich said Edgemere Condominium Association was able to refute most of their entries

on the state's restitution list when King met with them to go over the alleged unpaid fees.

"The Edgemere condo manager never threw out any bills. We had all our receipts. We had all our check stubs," he said. "And you know something? We were able to confirm that most of what they said we owed, we had already paid for."

But King told councilors he's already gone through the state's restitution list with Jylkka and is confident what's left has not been paid yet.

"I've gone through, done my due diligence to validate every single entry in their list, and I can tell you that for every test that's on there, the correct associated fee is there, and I can tell you that I've gone through with the help of the town to pull out all payments that you've made over that time period. So what is left over is the balance," he said.

Engel spoke passionately for reimbursing the money, saying the work was done for the town and should be paid by the town. Failing to put up the money will force King to carry the financial burden, she said, in what she described as a vendetta by the state against King.

"We could say 'screw you, we're not paying it.' [But] they're going to hold him personally responsible and they're going to get that money from him. I think that's grossly unfair. It was work that was done for the town of East Hampton; it was not money that was put into Mr. King's pocket or anybody else's," Engel said.

In the end, the council decided to forgo action until they receive confirmation from the state health department – along with any supporting documentation – about the exact amount of outstanding fees for town water testing.

Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson said she's not comfortable reimbursing King until the council has more information.

"I think it deserves discussion with DPH. We need them to be part of this," Anderson said.

An email from Ellen Blashinski, branch chief of DPH regulatory services, assured Town Manager Mike Maniscalco and the Town Council on Wednesday that the agency is working diligently to ensure the state recovers all outstanding fees from King.

"To be clear, DPH is not requesting any settlement from the town of East Hampton and our ongoing negotiation has been with Mr. King directly," she wrote.

She declined to go into specifics about the settlement, due to ongoing legal negotiations, nor would she say how long the negotiations could be expected to last.

Maura Downes, the agency's new spokeswoman, was even more succinct.

"Due to ongoing settlement negotiations with Mr. King, we cannot comment on this matter at this time," she said.

### Hebron Budget cont. from Front Page

ther cuts to the education budget, said finance board member Ray Bieri.

Leichter, however, said, "I would not take the majority [from the town budget] I would split it... I think that's fair."

Meanwhile, finance board member Henry Sawicki advocated for the \$300,000 cut with the majority coming from the education board, explaining he thought a "cushion" was a good idea in case the state made further reductions.

A couple of attempts were also made to pass the budget as it currently stands to allow the voters to decide whether or not they found a 36.33 mill rate acceptable.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney explained during the meeting that, even with a 36.33 mill rate residents were likely to see a slight decrease in the amount they pay in overall taxes, when taking into consideration a change in how motor vehicle taxes are calculated.

In an attempt to equalize motor vehicle taxes from town to town, the state passed Public Act 15-244 which prohibits municipalities from using a mill rate greater than 32 mills to tax motor vehicles.

Since the vehicles in Hebron were previously taxed using the same 36 mills as real estate and personal property, residents were expected to

see some savings.

If the budget is approved where it currently stands "with the lower motor vehicle mill rate it's almost a wash" in terms of taxes owed, said Tierney.

"If that's the case I can live with that," Leichter stated. He added, "I'm of the opinion we should let the voters decide. We put forward what we thought was a good budget a week ago. Just because the state pulled the rug out from under us I'm not up for changing our budget and saying things are expendable now when we thought [the proposal] was responsible a week ago."

At one point Bieri said, "I could too — it would maintain the integrity of the town and put forward a responsible budget."

But the rest of the board remained in favor of making reductions, and two motions made at different points throughout the meeting to move forward the budget as is failed.

\* \* \*

In the end, the only motion that passed Tuesday was a motion to adjourn. The Board of Finance has five days following Tuesday's public hearing to approve a budget to send to referendum; the board was expected to meet again this morning, after press time.

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

The April 26 primary is coming up fast, as evidenced by not just looking at the calendar but also the fact I saw a Hillary Clinton campaign ad and a Bernie Sanders campaign ad whilst watching *Jeopardy!* Tuesday evening.

An Emerson College poll of Connecticut voters was released Tuesday, and showed Democrats supporting Clinton over Sanders, 49 percent to 43 percent. Not surprisingly, Bernie is grabbing the youth vote, while Hilary's fans tend to skew older. Sanders is besting Clinton by a commanding 58 percent to 39 percent among the 18-34-year-olds, while Clinton is topping Sanders 51 percent to 42 percent among 35-54-year-old voters and 59-41 percent among voters 55-74. Interestingly, among those age 75 and older, Sanders is winning 41-35 percent. (Perhaps because Sanders falls in their age bracket? I kid, I kid. I'm actually a Bernie supporter, and plan on voting for him come Primary Day.)

On the GOP side, 50 percent of Republican respondents said they'd vote for Donald Trump on April 26. But opponent Ted Cruz isn't coming in second; nope, that goes to John Kasich, who 26 percent of the respondents said they'd vote for. Old Lyin' Ted is in third, with just 17 percent – and, Emerson College notes, could be shut out of the delegates altogether, if he fails to win 20 percent of the statewide or Congressional district vote on Primary Day.

But the real interesting – and, if you're a Democrat like me, perhaps a little depressing – news from the Emerson survey came when the pollsters asked people who they'd vote for in the general election. In head-to-head matchups, Clinton and Sanders each fared well against Trump and Cruz; Clinton tops Trump 48-40 percent and Cruz 52-31 percent, while Bernie wins 49-40 percent and 55-30 percent, respectively.

None of that's very surprising, I'll grant you. What is, though, is that when Emerson asked about Kasich vs. Clinton or Kasich vs. Sanders, the Ohio governor comes out on top, defeating Clinton 49 percent to 38 percent and topping Sanders 48 percent to 40 percent. Considering this state hasn't voted for a Republican presidential candidate since George H.W. Bush in 1988, if Kasich wins here in the fall it would be huge news.

Mind you, that wouldn't make it good news. Oh sure, he's less off-the-rails than Trump or Cruz, but that's not exactly hard to do. He's not as conservative as some would like, but he's still conservative, and still wants to do things like defund Planned Parenthood (which does so much more than simply provide abortions) and chuck the Affordable Care Act – so to him I say: pass.

\* \* \*

This presidential race, the way I see it, is an extremely important one – and just who is the candidate, for either party, matters a whole

lot. So I encourage everyone who can to vote in the April 26. And if you're not a registered voter, or if you're registered but unaffiliated, there's still time!

For those looking to register by mail, registrations must be postmarked by April 21. And if you want to do it in person, you have even later – until noon April 25. Some towns are even having special voter registration sessions, outside of normal business hours, to sign people up. I'd call your town hall to find out more information.

And if you're proud to be unaffiliated, don't worry; you can switch right back after the primary. In fact, I know people who are planning to do just that. But they recognize the importance of having a say in the outcome here. If you're a Republican and want to switch over to vote for a Democrat, or vice-versa, alas, that deadline was back in January. But if you're not registered or are unaffiliated – like I said, you've still got time. So call your town hall and fill out the required forms, and then get down to your polling place on April 26 and have your say. (Absentee ballot applications are available for that day as well; call your town hall for more information on obtaining one.)

\* \* \*

In the guy's defense, Five Guys does make really good burgers.

Washington D.C. police said Sunday they're looking for a man who broke into a Five Guys Burgers & Fries in the wee small hours of the morning last month and..... made himself some burgers.

An in-store surveillance video police released over the weekend shows that at around 3 a.m. on Friday, March 18, an unidentified man snuck into the restaurant, wandered into the kitchen, fired up the grill, and cooked up a couple of burgers.

The video shows the man was in the store for a long time – almost two hours – and in the video, he seems to be having a ball. He's super casual about the whole thing. After he finds the meat, he throws it down on the grill, then finds some cheese and puts it on, and even remembers to toast the buns. And the video even shows him chatting on his cell phone while he's cooking the burger. In short, he's acting like he owns the place....except, according to DC police, he very much does not.

After cooking his meal, the man eventually leaves the restaurant. And aside from the ingredients he used when making his burgers, the man only stole a bottle of water, to wash everything down.

Still, despite his minimal haul, police are not amused. They're investigating the late-night cooking as a burglary, and are offering \$1,000 for any tip that leads to the man's arrest.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Portland Group Aims to Make Streets Safer

by Elizabeth Regan

Efforts by the Complete Streets Group to make Portland streets safer and more accessible for all users are gaining traction.

Complete Streets Group member Kathy Herron said “all users” means pedestrians, cyclists, people with mobility challenges, transit users and motorists.

Herron has been instrumental in the evolution of the Complete Streets citizen’s action group, which branched off from the Air Line Trail steering committee in June 2014.

A master plan by architectural firm Kent + Frost, authorized by the Board of Selectmen in February for \$8,000, will build on the work of the Complete Streets Group to improve town roads.

Brian Kent, principal at Kent + Frost, said any changes spurred by the plan won’t be immediate.

“It’s not like we can complete this plan and suddenly there are going to be sidewalks and bike lanes all over Portland,” he said. “It just doesn’t work that way.”

Instead, he said the incremental plan will provide the basis for a resolution to be approved by the Board of Selectmen that would put into policy a commitment to making roads safer for all users. It would give direction to any road work undertaken by the town and would help guide conversations with the state Department of Transportation regarding improvements to state roads.

Herron said the master plan is crucial to securing funding at the state, regional and local level to complete Portland’s streets.

The local Complete Streets group is part of a national organization that began in 2004. Herron cited statistics from the National Complete Streets Coalition that found 55 percent of Americans would rather drive less and walk more. At the same time, the organization found that 25 percent of walking trips take place on

roads without sidewalks or shoulders and that bike lanes are only available for 5 percent of bike trips.

In Portland, safety concerns are exacerbated by deteriorating sidewalks. Herron pointed to Route 66 and Main Street as two prime areas of focus.

“We have a great mile-and-a-half Main Street. It’s flat, fairly wide,” she said. But the sidewalks are dangerous, she added: “Some, we would say, are in need of total reconstruction.”

Sidewalks around the town’s four school campuses are all key concerns, according to Herron. Also of note are the areas around town parks, such as Riverfront Park, the Reservoir Rim Trail and the proposed recreational area on Route 17.

“We feel we should have the means to walk or bike safely to those parks and to make walks in loops, not just back and forth,” Herron said.

The Kent + Frost master plan relies heavily on research and analysis already done by the Complete Street Group, Kent said.

He is also doing his own walk-throughs in Portland and speaking with town officials. He said an understanding of existing ordinances and funding streams is critical to the plan.

“We’re not going to reinvent the wheel; we’re going to work within the existing ordinances,” he said. “It’s not in our scope of work to change existing ordinances.”

Selectman Fred Knous, the so-called Sidewalk Selectman, said the efforts of the Complete Streets Group and the architects to come up with a master plan are important, because they drive home the idea of sidewalks as a part of the town’s infrastructure.

“I think people don’t look at it that way often,” Knous said. “They think of roads, but maybe not sidewalks. In so many towns around the country, there’s been an awareness you have to make our streets and our sidewalks work for the people. Sidewalks have been neglected for

many years.”

Kent reiterated the Complete Streets movement as one that has been slow to arrive in New England, which he characterized as slow to embrace change.

“I think other towns in the state will definitely be looking at Portland and thinking about how they can follow in Portland’s footsteps,” Kent said.

The firm has also worked on a master plan for Middletown, which will provide for regional synergy.

“Having them connected by a similar public initiative is really a great thing,” he added.

The connection will be enhanced if the Air Line Trail, currently slated to go from East Hampton to Camp Ingersoll on Route 66, is successful in extending to the Arrigoni Bridge.

The master plan will examine possible routes for a trail from the camp to the bridge, according to Kent. He said it may not be as straightforward as the first 2.3-mile section of the trail already underway through the woods along the old Air Line rail trail. Instead, it may veer closer to the road in some parts, making use of both sidewalks and bike lanes.

“We’re not sure what form it’s going to take,” he said.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said a state construction project slated for this summer on Main Street is another opportunity to incorporate Complete Streets principles. The road will be repaved from the intersection of Route 66 and Main Street to the intersection of Main Street and Route 17.

The state Department of Transportation adopted its own Complete Streets policy in 2014.

The Main Street paving project will involve narrowing the roads for vehicular traffic to 11 feet wide and adding bike lanes, according to Bransfield. She said an engineer from the state transportation department will be evaluating the



**Deteriorating sidewalks – such as this one on Fairview Street, across from Brownstone Intermediate School – are a chief concern of the town’s Complete Streets Group.**

road for other accessibility enhancements.

Herron brought up the idea of clearer markings, called “sharrows,” to remind drivers and bicyclists that they’re sharing the road. The markings typically show a bicycle and arrows in the direction of traffic.

“We’re trying to change the culture,” Herron said. “The roads are not just for the cars. They’re for everyone. It’s a change in our behavior that we’re all trying to make - and then spread that word.”

# East Hampton Council Sets Tri-Board Meeting on Budget

by Elizabeth Regan

The Town Council this week heeded calls for enhanced collaboration in the budget process by scheduling a joint meeting with the boards of education and finance before councilors vote on the proposed 2016-17 budget.

The tri-board meeting will be held Monday, April 25 – the day before the council must approve the budget in order to send it to town meeting on schedule.

The council heard about 40 minutes of public comment at its Tuesday meeting. There were more than 100 people in attendance.

Resident Stephanie Klewicki helped set the tone for the evening when she joined several residents in asking the council to sit down with the other two boards “and stop this infighting.”

Klewicki, a speech language pathologist, said she works with children on a daily basis to teach communication and compromise and to develop behavior plans.

“Between our Town Council, our Board of Finance and our Board of Education, I don’t see communication, compromise and good behavior. We’re not good role models,” she said.

The Town Council had talked about holding a tri-board meeting last month, but decided it was too late in the budget process to have a productive meeting.

But now budget preparations have come to a head, with education advocates clamoring for the council to keep the 1.7 percent increase over the current year’s budget that was approved by the finance board. They say the budget is as low as it can go without laying off several teachers and cutting programs like middle school sports.

Any education increase, however, would contradict the council’s stated objective of making sure the school board simply maintains current spending levels. The guiding principle was outlined in a budget policy statement approved by

the council in January.

Another resident who spoke during the meeting said the issue shouldn’t be framed around a policy statement; instead, budget makers should point to the worsening financial situation at the state level.

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy’s revised budget proposal released this week cuts the funding for K-12 education by about \$44 million and sweeps the account created by the legislature to provide property tax relief, according to CT News Junkie. The budget also assumes a reduction of 2,500 state jobs accomplished mostly through layoffs.

In East Hampton, Malloy’s budget means the town will get \$619,084 less than officials thought they would be getting when they first created their budgets earlier this year based on budget numbers proposed by the governor in February, according to a document from the Connecticut Council of Municipalities.

That number includes \$302,000 less in aid to the schools as well as \$316,000 less in aid to the town through the legislature’s new effort to provide property tax relief by sharing a portion of the state sales tax with municipalities.

The budget must be approved by the legislature, which is set to adjourn on May 4.

One option to find budget savings that has been voiced by many residents over the past month and discussed at length by the finance board involves asking for the council to change its decision, made late last year, to purchase a fire truck instead of financing it over 10 years.

Leasing the fire truck would mean a mill rate increase of 1.77 mills over the current year based on the finance board’s budget proposal, according to Finance Director Jeff Jylkka. Buying the truck outright would put the increase at 1.92 mills.

For a taxpayer with a home assessed at

\$200,000, a decision to buy the truck instead of leasing it would add \$30 to his or her tax bill.

Only Democratic councilor Kevin Reich mentioned the financing option at Tuesday’s meeting. He also applauded the finance board’s move to lease two plow trucks in its proposed budget.

“Those steps, I firmly believe, are going to allow us to take the funds we receive from the public and leverage them as best we can to get as much as we can for the funding that we receive from the community,” Reich said.

The Town Council is empowered by charter to change or reduce – but not raise – the finance board’s budget recommendations. The finance board proposal approved last week allocates \$29.28 million for education, \$10.32 million for general government, \$942,045 in capital expenses and \$2.86 million for debt service.

The finance board’s \$43.43 million spending plan represents an increase of 5.82-percent over the current budget.

The finance board’s proposal would bring the mill rate to 29.55, an increase of 1.77 mills over the current year, according to Finance Director Jeff Jylkka.

A mill is \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Under the proposed mill rate, a taxpayer with a house assessed at \$200,000 would owe \$5,910 in property taxes on the home. That’s \$354 more than such a homeowner pays now, though the recently-completed town-wide revaluation has changed the assessed value of homes since last year.

Discussion among the council members emphasized debt from the high school renovation – which comprises 1.44 mills of the proposed 1.77-mill increase over the current mill rate – as the reason residents are looking at an atypi-

cally large tax increase in the proposed budget.

Republican councilor Josh Piteo called the proposed mill rate increase “the biggest in a generation.”

Republican council member Mark Philhower said repaying the high school debt – which is non-negotiable – means sacrifices are necessary elsewhere in the budget.

“Yes, this is going to be a miserable year and I’m sorry, but guess what? Look at the state,” he said.

Republican Ted Hintz Jr. reminded fellow council members – and the audience – that support for the education budget at public meetings doesn’t mean everyone sitting at home feels the same way.

“A small number of people are here at the meetings and there are many that are going to come out and vote no” if the council forwards the education budget with an increase, he said.

Finance board deliberations late last month drew almost 250 people in support of the education budget on one occasion.

“I really hope we can put together something that will pass on the first time because we definitely don’t need what happened last year,” he said, referring to a contentious budget season that lasted through four referendums. “So I don’t know what the right answer is, but I just think it’s still too high.”

Republican councilor Melissa Engel said she looked forward to meeting with the finance and school boards to help the council find the right answer.

“I need to sit down and understand some numbers and the impact that they’re going to have,” Engel said.

*The Town Council, Board of Education and Board of Finance will meet Apr. 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the East Hampton High School library.*

# RHAM Senior Wins Award in Competition Focused on Mental Health

by Geeta S. Sandberg

“Everyone always wants to talk about the weather. Teachers, cashiers, the nameless telemarketer on the phone, everyone asks, ‘How’s the weather?’ And you are always, *always* supposed to answer ‘Fine. Sunny.’”



**Patty Brosseau**

So begins the essay written by RHAM High School senior Patty Brosseau, which recently won her an award through a competition geared toward raising awareness for, and reducing the stigma of, mental health.

“It doesn’t matter if you had a day with the most brilliant rainbow that’s ever existed and you want to scream to the world of its beauty, or if it’s been raining so hard and so long you’ve forgotten what light looks like, you always answer with a clipped ‘sunny,’” Brosseau continues. “And you never, never, even if you can see it creeping up behind you *right there*, mention the fog.”

Of course, Brosseau isn’t referring to literal sunshine, rainbows and rain, but emotions. And when she mentions fog, she’s referring to depression.

“It’s not a pretty fog, the kind of rabbit-fur grey that burns off quickly with the sun,” she writes. “No, it’s the murky grey of mottled iron,

stifling and heavy on the ground like walking through thick, clammy soup.”

The essay, which Brosseau wrote for a class last year, goes on to discuss the various ways depression – through the fog metaphor – can impact your life. She discusses the struggle that comes when the fog “clings to you like a leaden blanket” and how difficult it is when people say of depression, “it’s all in your head.”

She explains some of the ways individuals may combat depression: by ignoring it, trying to use it and embrace it, but that never seems to work.

And the depression, she furthers, isn’t always there – sometimes things are “so sunny you forget fog even exists.” But “always, always, the fog returns” and there are times when living with depression makes you feel like giving up.

“You believe the fog is far too deep and thick to ever find the way out. The sun can’t breach it, you can’t outrun it, you can’t even see anymore.”

But then, she finishes, “one day, you find a lantern.”

Brosseau’s essay was submitted to BrainDance, a competition sponsored by the Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center (part of the Institute of Living) in Hartford and Hartford Hospital, designed to decrease the stigma of mental illness.

The BrainDance Awards “encourages students to gain knowledge about psychiatric dis-

eases and develop a more tolerant and realistic perspective toward people with severe psychiatric problems. The competition also aims to promote students’ interest in careers in mental health care,” according to [nrc.iol.org](http://nrc.iol.org).

Brosseau, who said she’s had an interest in writing since she won an award in 2nd grade for a poem she wrote about dragons, explained submitting her work into a competition “was not something I would have normally done, but I thought it was really cool that they do this, raising awareness and reducing the stigma of mental health.”

She added she wrote the essay “to take my own struggles with depression and tell them in a way that other people would hopefully understand. That’s also why I wanted to reduce the stigma of mental illness because I, like many other people with mental illness, live full and happy lives. You wouldn’t know that I’ve lived with mental illness just by looking at me, and it was important for me to bring that fact to other’s attention through my writing.”

Brosseau received an award in the art category and won \$500 and said she was “very excited” about the win.

She added, “When I found out I won, I was honestly shocked but overall really happy that people had read my essay and believed in it.”

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Along with the above, Brosseau has a number of other recognitions to be proud of: she’s

the 2016 class valedictorian, and a Presidential Scholars Program Candidate.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 “to recognize and honor some of our nation’s most distinguished graduating high school seniors” according to the U.S. Department of Education; applications are reviewed this month and all scholars are honored for their accomplishments during the National Recognition Program held in June in Washington D.C.

Brosseau was also a National Merit Scholarship Finalist for her score on the PSATs, and is involved with Girl Scouts, Future Problem Solvers (her team won at the state level this year), and the Gay Straight Alliance.

Academically, Brosseau said her favorite classes are science related.

“I really like the science classes. I’m taking physics this year and I go to the environmental science class even though I’m not actually a part of the class – how much nerd can you get?” she laughed.

But all that science is sure to come in handy when she heads off to college: Brosseau said she plans to study biomedical engineering.

“I’m excited for college,” she said. “It’s exciting, scary and expensive – and scarily expensive!”

Feelings many of her classmates are sure to echo – just as those with depression are likely to connect with her words.

## Hebron Natural Gas Expansion Project on Hold

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Town Manager Andrew Tierney updated the Board of Selectmen last week on the proposed gas line expansion that would bring natural gas to the center of town – and the update wasn’t an altogether good one.

Tierney explained he was uncertain in the town’s ability to meet the project timeline provided by Connecticut Natural Gas.

“The timeline is too aggressive and I don’t want to set ourselves up for failure, as much as I want to see this happen,” he shared this week.

The proposal includes the installation of six miles of gas main from a gate station on East Street to the town center. As part of the \$4.19 million proposal, all of Hebron’s town offices along the route, as well as the fire department, Hebron Elementary School and the RHAM middle and high schools, would be required to switch over to natural gas.

During presentations on the proposal at prior meetings, CNG shared a timeline that included town approval in March, the execution of contracts throughout March and April, engineering and final design completion in April and May, permitting in May, and construction through June and July.

“I’ve been running construction projects my

whole life and this is just too aggressive,” Tierney furthered. “You’ve got to look into each entity, make sure you cover all your bases — to rush a project, something that’s this kind of a commitment, isn’t a good idea; some of these conversions are simple but some are complex, like the schools.”

In addition, Tierney explained RHAM had a contract for heating oil that extended through summer 2017; under the current proposal, the schools would be required to convert before the oil – 105,000 gallons, which amounts to more than \$200,000 – was utilized.

“Myself and [RHAM schools superintendent Bob Siminski] went back to the gas company and said – one – we need longer for the project forecast – and two – we want to see if we can move forward without hooking the towns up until spring,” Tierney said. “We would sign a letter committing us, and that would allow us to burn off the heating oil we are locked into for next winter.”

He added, “We’d be willing to hook up the cafeteria [at RHAM] and the hot water heaters but we don’t want to convert the oil heaters to give us the opportunity to burn off that diesel fuel. We can’t do this project and walk away

from our fuel contract. We had a couple of meetings with [the oil company] – and I don’t blame them – they’ve been very civil but want us to adhere to our commitment.”

Tierney said he spoke to CNG Monday and Tuesday “and they were going to check with their higher-ups to see if it’s doable.”

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Also at last week’s Board of Selectmen’s meeting, the board approved a motion in support of the recommendation by the town’s Citizens Green Committee to select Earthlight Technologies of Ellington as the designated solar installer for the Solarize Hebron Campaign.

In February, the selectmen unanimously approved Hebron’s participation in Solarize Connecticut, a program that promotes residential solar installation in town.

Started in 2012, the program includes almost 60 communities. During a presentation on the program, it was explained most towns at least double the amount of solar in their municipalities during the length of their Solarize Connecticut campaign – usually 18 weeks – compared to the total over the previous seven years.

As the town’s solar installer, Earthlight Tech-

nologies will provide all the solar installations in Hebron in exchange for special discount pricing for customers. Homeowners will have access to below market prices in conjunction with state incentives and a 30 percent income tax credit, as well as the ability to access financing options through the program including the potential for no upfront costs.

A kick-off workshop on the program is scheduled for next Tuesday, April 19, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Douglas Library.

At the workshop, residents can learn about the program, Earthlight Technologies, financing options and whether or not their house is a good candidate for solar.

Tierney said in a release on the program from April 8, “Hebron is committed to providing its residents with good and affordable options for energy efficiency and renewable energy. We are so deeply committed to pursuing a more sustainable future, and the Solarize Connecticut program is an excellent step toward that goal.”

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The next Board of Selectmen’s meeting will take place Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m., in the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.

## Marlborough Finance Board Sends \$23.74 Million Budget to Hearing

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The Board of Finance last Thursday, April 25, moved a \$23.74 million proposed 2016-17 fiscal year budget to public hearing.

The spending package would be a 2.93 percent increase over the current year’s budget.

After adding \$80,000 to contingency, in case state revenue comes in lower than anticipated, the board unanimously moved forward the \$23,737,067 budget. Of that proposed budget, \$7.22 million is the local school board, \$8.55 million is for Marlborough’s portion of the RHAM budget, \$4.76 million is town operations, \$2.24 million is debt service, \$862,000 is capital and \$100,000 is contingency.

The proposed budget reflects a 3.84 percent tax increase – or 1.26 mills – making the proposed 2016-17 mill rate 34.15.

The mill rate is used to determine residents’ taxes. Under the proposed mill rate of 34.15 a home assessed at \$250,000 would be charged \$8,537 in property taxes – up from the \$8,222 under the current 32.89 mill rate.

At the finance board’s March 31 meeting, assistant treasurer Hayley Wagner reminded the board of \$188,000 in Municipal Revenue Shar-

ing Account (MRSA) revenue that she was unsure of. With the state government continually working on its own budget, Wagner and First Selectwoman Amy Traversa said they did not know how much of the MRSA money would come in. At last week’s meeting, Traversa stated she did not believe the state can cut 100 percent of the MRSA funds.

If the \$188,000 from MRSA did not come in – and factoring in the board’s March 24 \$200,000 reduction to the proposed local school board budget and its March 31 \$90,000 cut from the proposed town operations budget – the tax increase would be 4.44 percent.

(In Gov. Dannel Malloy’s state budget reductions released Tuesday, MRSA adjustments were made – and Marlborough did indeed wind up with a cut; instead of the \$188,000, the governor’s latest budget places that number at \$30,907.)

Finance board member Cliff Denniss suggested reinstating the \$90,000 the board cut March 31. That way, if none of the MRSA money comes in, the selectmen would have to reduce their expenditures by \$188,000 overall, as opposed to \$278,000 if the \$90,000 reduc-

tion remained.

But Traversa said she was comfortable with the \$90,000 reduction – stating the reduction was “qualitative, not just quantitative.”

In response to the \$90,000 less in town operations, the Board of Selectmen voted April 5 to reduce by one resident state trooper with increased hours for more constable work along with less in legal and snow supplies. Traversa said the change in police coverage was “not just a numbers cut,” and was about the quality of police service the town receives.

Instead of reinstating the \$90,000, Traversa said she would like to see more money in contingency. She explained if less revenue comes in from MRSA the town can use the contingency funds. If the full \$188,000 comes in, then more money will go to the undesignated fund balance.

Finance board member Ken Hjulstrom made a motion to decrease anticipated MRSA revenue by \$100,000. That motion did not include increasing contingency funds. The motion failed 2-4, with Hjulstrom and Dan McMahon in favor.

Chair Doug Knowlton then suggested in-

creasing the contingency to \$100,000 as Traversa suggested, saying he liked that approach better because if the revenue comes in as expected then the town will be in better shape with its undesignated fund balance.

That motion passed unanimously.

Denniss said he would not be happy if the state or federal governments cut more funding to municipalities.

“I am not an advocate of having those funds made up of local [taxpayer dollars],” he said. “If the state can’t afford it, obviously the local taxpayer can’t afford it.”

Knowlton said boards around the state are “all playing guessing games of what the state is going to do.”

The finance board then unanimously approved sending the budgets to public hearing at the end of the month.

The public hearing for the budget is set for Monday, April 25, at 7 p.m., in the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria. The local school board was also discussing where its \$200,000 reduction was coming from in its budget Thursday after press time.

# East Hampton School Board-Council Suit Cost Town \$24K

by Elizabeth Regan

The Board of Education and Town Council accrued approximately \$24,000 in legal fees before agreeing to put a halt to litigation about who has the authority to fill school board vacancies.

Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson and school board Chairman Kenneth Barber released a 35-word joint statement at the beginning of this month announcing the decision to call off the lawsuit until a referendum is held this November to vote on changes to the town charter.

The two parties filed a joint agreement on March 24 stating the council will take no action to fill any future vacancy until a referendum is held on a revised town charter.

Both Anderson and Barber, when asked how they would respond to criticism from those who ask why taxpayers should pay for one part of town government to sue another when there are so many more pressing funding needs, declined comment.

"I defer to the Board of Education on that question," Anderson said Tuesday.

Barber said "our written comment is our written comment," adding that he and Anderson have agreed not to "say anything about it."

The lawsuit was filed in December by the Board of Education after the Town Council refused to cede to the school board's demand for councilors to pass a resolution formally acknowledging the school board has the right to make its own appointments.

According to the office of Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith, the Board of Education spent \$5,973 before making the decision to file the lawsuit. It then spent another \$9,270 through Feb. 29, for a total of \$15,243.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said the cost of litigation for the Town Council was \$8,532 from November through March 30.

The agreement stipulates that no further proceedings in the case shall take place until after the Nov. 8 election. It also requires the council to withdraw a previous motion to dismiss the case.

The two parties had failed to reach consensus February on language for a stipulated agreement. The next month, the council filed a motion to dismiss the case, or at least halt it until the November charter revision referendum.

A seven-member Charter Revision Commission began meeting in early February to address a list of charges made by the Town Council that

includes the exploration of "options by which to fill vacancies of elected positions." The council required the commission to file its draft report with the town clerk no later than Dec. 1, 2016, but commission members plan to have their revisions ready before that. They are scheduled to continue meeting through early summer.

According to Commission Chairwoman Melissa Engel, a Republican, voters will get a chance to weigh in on the proposed revisions at referendum during the November general election.

Two councilors – Engel and Democrat Pete Brown – serve on the commission. There are no school board members represented. State statute specifies no more than one-third of the members may hold any other public office.

Statute also states no single party can have more than a bare majority. The odd-numbered board consists of three Republicans, two Democrats and two unaffiliated members.

Both sides have pointed to the charter revision process as a way to clarify how appointments are made ever since controversy arose in the wake of last year's municipal election. That's when the new Republican-led Town

Council appointed Republican Michael Rose to the school board seat vacated by Republican Josh Piteo, who resigned upon winning a spot as a councilor in the November election.

But Rose ultimately declined the nomination, so members of the outgoing school board – who had been planning to let the post-election Board of Education choose Piteo's successor before they were beaten to the punch by the Town Council – appointed former member Jeff Carlson to the seat, tipping the new board's majority to the Democrats.

Anderson on Tuesday expressed relief the issue has been resolved for now.

"It is good to put this behind us and I am confident that we will continue to work together for the benefit of our community," she said in an email Tuesday. "There exist many opportunities to work collaboratively going forward and I remain hopeful and optimistic. We will see."

Those opportunities include a potential renovation project, estimated at anywhere from \$22.4 million to \$44 million, that would turn Center School into a town hall and police station while expanding Memorial School to accommodate the displaced fourth- and fifth-grade students.

# Town Officials Consider Buying Colchester Senior Center

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Town officials are considering buying the current Colchester Senior Center, and the purchase could ultimately go before the voters at referendum.

Pending approval by the Board of Finance, the purchase of the current Colchester Senior Center building at 95 Norwich Ave. from the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees could go to referendum.

The purchase of \$275,000, First Selectman Art Shilosky explained, would solidify the building for continued use by the seniors until a new senior center building can be built. He explained the funds would be transferred from the unassigned fund balance.

The building was initially the Bacon Academy Arts and Sciences building, when Bacon Academy itself was located at 84 Main St. When the current Bacon Academy opened in 1964, arts and sciences moved in there. Since then, the 95 Norwich Ave. building has served multiple uses, including housing a nursery school. Since the early 1980s, though, it has been the town's senior center.

However, with the town's elderly population growing and the fact the building was designed for students and teachers, not seniors, the consensus among residents and town officials has been that a new building is needed.

The building is owned by the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, and the town currently rents it for \$16,000 a year. Although the town does pay for maintenance, the trustees can no longer afford the building and need to raise funds to restore and update Old Bacon Academy.

"The trustees have rented the building to the town of Colchester at a deficit," Arthur Liverant, a trustee, said. "The trustees have subsidized the town for over 30 years."

Liverant said the trustees find themselves in a position where it's important the trustees focus on their prime mission of taking care of Old Bacon Academy – and the group needs the

money to do so.

Built in 1801 with the first class entering the school in 1803, Old Bacon Academy has been a landmark in the center of town for more than 200 years. Liverant described the building as in very good condition, but desperately needs to be modernized and updated including its mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. The old school also needs a new elevator system and new bathrooms so old "Bacon Academy can continue to operate as an educational building for many years to come," he said.

Currently, Colchester Public Schools' alternative education program is housed in the old school.

"It's amazing that the school started in 1803 and is still being used today for education," Liverant said. "Still to this day the trustees want to restore the building to its previous glory."

Liverant said he is in support of the purchase for not only the trustees, but for the town.

"The senior center can continue to be the senior center until the town finds the proper location, proper design, and gets the funding to build a new senior center, which is long overdue," he said.

Last September, the Board of Selectmen formed a subcommittee between the selectmen, finance board and the Commission on Aging to discuss how to proceed forward with a new center. At the subcommittee's April meeting, it unanimously approved to support the purchase of 95 Norwich Ave.

Shilosky said the current lease will be up in six months – and he and Liverant both said that if the town doesn't buy the building, the trustees will go to a public sale. If the building were to go to a public sale, it would have been possible the seniors would have nowhere to go.

When asked what would happen if the town is not able to purchase the building, Senior Center Director Patty Watts said she had no comment as she had not attended the last subcommittee meeting and was not up to date.

Shilosky explained if residents approve the



**The current senior center is located at 95 Norwich Ave. and is owned by the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees. But the trustees want to sell it – and the town is considering buying it.**

purchase – which, since the money would come out of the unassigned fund balance, would not affect the mill rate "whatsoever," he said – the town could proceed with the next phase of the project.

"Once we own the building, it secures it until" the town builds a new senior center, Shilosky said. Once that happens, he added, "we have several options" with the current building.

Those options, he explained, could be relocating the Youth Center from its current home at the Old Town Hall on 40 Norwich Ave. – or selling the building to recoup some funds.

However, Shilosky said the town is nowhere near discussing those options yet; saying the process alone for a new senior center could take between three and five years. He did say the town does own property abutting Town Hall on

the side with the police department which is currently woodlands. This property would be in the running to be analyzed as a potential future home for the new senior center.

At their April 7 meeting, the selectmen unanimously approved moving the purchase agreement forward and sent the agreement to the finance board. The agreement states a purchase price of \$275,000.

If the finance board approves the purchase, the agreement will go to town meeting then referendum later this year, after the 2016-17 budget is approved. Shilosky said town officials want to keep the budget and the senior center referendums separate, so residents are not confused.

The Board of Finance will meet Wednesday, April 20, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall to discuss the possible purchase.

# Colchester School Board Eyes Banning International Trips

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

In light of terrorist attacks across the globe in recent months, the Board of Education is considering scrapping school-sponsored international field trips.

The board first took up the proposed policy change at its Tuesday meeting, and will vote on it next month. The proposal states that no international field trip, even to Canada or Mexico, will be approved by the school board. This means that private trips organized by citizens can occur, but no board-sponsored trips, with teachers going as employees as chaperones, will be allowed.

According to board member Mike Voiland, chair of the board's policy committee, the change in the policy comes about "for obvious reasons for the safety of the students and the staff in light of the world's situation."

Previously the board has sponsored one or two trips per year to such locales as France, Spain and Montreal, among others.

While Tuesday's meeting was the first reading of the new policy, school board chair Ron Goldstein said Monday the board began kick-

ing around the idea after canceling a school trip to France last December after the attacks in Paris.

"Rather than have people spend a lot of effort planning a trip, we're better off to make it a policy and hopefully revisit it once things settle down," Goldstein said about the decision to ban international trips.

Goldstein said the board tells participants the trips can be subject to cancellation; however, he said it is difficult when families lose money because of the cancellation.

"When you see the situation in the world...we are certainly not alone in school districts no longer allowing or sponsoring [international trips]," Goldstein said.

He said there was even some worry with other districts canceling trips to New York City.

"There was one [trip] being discussed this year which I think people knew from the start that was not going to happen," Goldstein said.

He said there is some hope for future international trips; saying the board does understand international experiences can be "incredibly

enriching" for students.

"Policies are not etched in stone," he said. "We are constantly revising policies so I think it will be part of a future discussion."

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Goldstein also brought up to the board his research on how to name a school.

In response to community members suggesting at the January board meeting to rename Colchester Elementary School after longtime former first selectwoman Jenny Contois, Goldstein said he started looking up how previous boards named the schools.

Although Goldstein said he could not find anything on the process of how Jack Jackter Intermediate was named, he said the board's attorney stated the power is with the board. Goldstein said he did find that William J. Johnston Middle School was named in connection with Johnston's Congressional Medal of Honor ceremony.

"We can continue the dialogue and decide if we want to have a dialogue with the community," Goldstein said. "I welcome input on it if

you want a procedure [in general of the process to name a school]."

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Also on the agenda Tuesday, the school board unanimously approved the construction of a greenhouse at Bacon Academy.

The Bacon Academy Environmental Club received two grants for the greenhouse; one for \$1,000 from the Pollination Project and one for \$467 from the Colchester Learning Foundation. The greenhouse is to aid the expansion of the Academy Acres initiative at the school which is focused on farm-to-school food.

Bacon Academy Principal Matthew Peel said the greenhouse will be placed in the inside courtyard at the high school since it needs a correct amount of sunlight and access to power. Peel also confirmed the town has no issues with the placement of the structure.

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The next Board of Education meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, at 7 p.m., in Room 120 at Jack Jackter Intermediate School.

## WJJMS Project Still on Colchester Budget

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

While some pieces of it have climbed more than expected, town officials confirmed this week the overall budget for the William J. Johnston Middle School is not over budget.

The project was approved at referendum last June with a \$48.66 million price tag. Of that \$48,656,713, the cost to the town is expected to be \$20,664,232, after state reimbursement.

With a scheduled opening for the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, the project calls for renovating many aspects of the existing school at 360 Norwich Ave., demolishing the older 1950s and 1960s wing and building a new two-story main section for classrooms.

The project will be paid for via a 20-year bond which town officials have said will have no impact on the mill rate, as the bond repayment will start to come on to the town's books as the existing debt will come off.

Currently, the project is in its design phase. The building committee hired the architect, Tecton Architects, and the construction manager, O&G Industries. From there, the building committee has been working to solidify the education specifications, hire a project manager and plan the process out for work to begin this summer.

Tom Tyler, chairman of the building committee, said the project is "largely schematic, without any defined details" at this point in time.

"The architect has a wealth of experience on school projects, as does the construction manager," Tyler said. "As with any project of this size, there are continual refinements to the cost estimates as details become known that could not have possibly been accounted for without the progression of design activities."

Director of Educational Operations Ken Jackson said "there is no need for public concern."

"The project is in the schematic design phase during which the architect, the construction manager and the building committee develop the plans for all aspects of the project – including the type of building systems to be incorporated, the building materials to be used, site development, the technology infrastructure, the fixtures, furnishings and equipment to be purchased, etc," Jackson said. He explained as all of that information is developed, cost estimates begin coming in through the construction manager.

Those cost estimates also include soft costs which are architectural fees, construction management fees, project manager fees, insurance, and bonding costs.

So far in the process, one of the differences has been the rate of which the school will reuse some of its current furnishings and equipment. Board of Finance chair and one of the committee's liaisons Rob Tarlov explained

Tecton – in the original design – planned on using a variety of existing materials. When O&G gave its estimates, the estimates were for all-new furnishings.

WJJMS Principal Chris Bennett confirmed Tuesday night at the Board of Education meeting that school staff is going over every item in the school to see what could be reused.

Jackson explained that as the process moves along, the design begins fitting within the budget parameters.

"This isn't to be construed as 'cutting corners,' but rather to develop a fiscally responsible project design," he said.

Jackson said once the schematic design is within the budget and accepted by the committee, the project moves into the design development phase which goes into all of the detailed plans. Those final plans are cost estimated prior to bidding so "there is a high level of confidence that the bids will come in within budget."

Tarlov explained there has been a rumor in town that the project was already over budget – a rumor prompted by a text message between Tarlov and fellow board member Rob Esteve. The text, which was obtained by residents via a Freedom of Information request and has since been circulating, was misunderstood, Tarlov said.

In the text, Tarlov had written that the building committee "needs to cut [\$2 million] or skimp on furniture and do without [a project manager.]"

But Tarlov said this week that figure, which was talked about at a March 10 building committee meeting wasn't "real firm." He added that "numbers were thrown around at that meeting; it was a rushed presentation [by O&G] late at night at the end of the meeting."

Tarlov said the conversation was a "heads-up" that some items were coming in higher than anticipated – but said the project itself was never over budget.

Superintendent of Schools Jeff Mathieu explained the \$2 million number came from an initial proposal in February from O&G that was a rough estimate of what a project of that scale would cost.

"[The proposal] was to see if the architect is drawing the correct proportion building for the budget," Mathieu said.

Mathieu said this proposal included some things the school does not need – such as covering the entire building in brick – so the building committee has been working on scaling back from there.

The next WJJMS Building Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, at 7 p.m. at the middle school.

## Andover Board Learns About Full-Day Preschool

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The Board of Education Wednesday learned the district would need to return some of the money received from the state for school readiness, and learned about several preschool options for the 2016-17 school year.

Barbara Wilson, assistant principal and director of special education explained she received a call from Gerri Rowell with the state Office of Early Childhood April 4.

"Despite [Rowell's] previous affirmation that Andover would not have their current grant reduced this school year, she informed me that due to the state's budget cuts, the state is taking back \$10,000 which reduces our grant from \$108,000 to \$98,000" Wilson shared in her report.

Wilson added going forward the application the school submits for the grant will now have to be \$98,000 instead of the \$108,000, which equated to 24 half-time, part-year school readiness slots.

In response to the cut, Wilson provided options for preschool for the following school year.

"We can continue with half a day, or we could offer a full-day option," she said.

The school currently has 13 students returning to preschool next year with 6-8 attending the upcoming preschool screening; however, not all of those families have indicated if they plan

to attend in the fall, she stated.

Wilson explained her concern with continuing with half-day preschool was filling all the slots.

"My concern is if we don't have all the slots filled, they [the state] cut money" from the grant – and once cut, that money can't be applied for again," she said.

Meanwhile, if the district were to switch to full-day, there would be space for 16 students and Wilson said she was confident she'd be able to fill all of them.

Under the full-day program, 60 percent of students would need to be from families who fall below state income levels. In addition, tuition would need to be charged for the class that would be determined on a sliding scale based on income.

Wilson added switching to full-day would require the purchase of daily snacks for the students, and an initial cost for the purchase of mats for the required rest time. She added if students eat both breakfast and lunch at the school, the school will also be required to write policies and conduct teeth brushing and oral education.

There will also be a cost for additional staff.

"There's a lot to think about," Wilson stated, but reiterated her concern in not being able to

fill all the half-day slots and losing funding as a result. She concluded "my recommendation is full-day."

Similarly, schools superintendent Sally Doyen added "there are a lot of factors here." But said "this [full day] is really what the majority of people have said they want at this point. I believe strongly that we should move ahead with full-day."

Andover Elementary Principal John Briody added, "We talk about what we need to do to be competitive against magnet schools, so I'm happy to see we're exploring this option."

The board will discuss the possibility again at their next meeting.

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Also Wednesday, the board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the School Roof Committee to replace all six portions of the roof that are over 20 years old with a new roof that has a 30-year life expectancy.

The project is estimated to cost \$750,000 with \$300,000 expected to come from the town and the remainder to be reimbursed by the state.

Board member Jay Lindy explained, "A 10 percent contingency was included [in the estimate] so we should have no problem meeting our goal without looking for more money when

we're done."

He added, "It's possible we could go out to bid in May and get done by the next school year – all the financing is there."

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In addition, the board also voted Wednesday to approve a contract with EastConn to conduct a technology audit of school needs and resources and provide a written report.

Doyen explained areas such as the school's infrastructure, network speed, website, hardware and back office activities such as the financial set up will be examined.

"It's important to get some outside expertise," she said.

The cost of the contract is \$2,300 for three 8-hour days and one quarter of a day worth of work plus mileage. The work will be conducted by 2-3 people.

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By unanimous vote, the board also decided Wednesday to make the last day of school Friday, June 10.

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The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, at 7 p.m. in the library at Andover Elementary School, 35 School Rd.

# POCD, Natural Gas on Tap for Monday Meeting in Andover

by Geeta S. Sandberg

At the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, several items will be discussed, including a proposal that would bring a Natural Gas Infusion Station to town.

Global CNG Holdings, a Delaware LLC, will present on the project which would consist of the installation of a gas line, a gas metering station, a gravel access drive, a portion of paved drive, and an equipment area on a piece of land owned by Robert Russell, owner of Scott's Tree Farm on Route 6, according to the agenda for last week's Inland Wetlands Commission meeting, where the proposal was presented.

Inland Wetlands Commission Chairman John England explained this week the proposal "is to bring compressed gas from Pennsylvania all the way to Andover in tanker trucks and then they're going to pump the gas from the trucks into an existing gas line. And they're doing this

because they don't have enough gas to provide service to everybody through just the gas line."

England added, "The engineers for the applicant gave a presentation on the scope of the project but only insofar as it effects wetlands, so we looked into that and we're going to go out and walk the site a week from Saturday," April 23.

Selectwoman Cathy Desrosiers, who was present at Monday's meeting, explained this week, "I am still gathering information for my own feelings on [the proposal]. I will be at the site walk and I'm very concerned about the traffic flow because we just got Route 6 upgraded and it's been safer for residents and I'm just concerned that it will impact the safety."

According to the minutes from that meeting, 120 trucks are expected to come in and out of the location per day, for approximately seven months of the year.

Desrosiers added at Tuesday's Board of Se-

lectmen meeting she "encouraged all the Board of Selectmen members and the audience to keep an open mind because we're always looking to expand business, and to educate themselves to see what the impact of this type of business would be on a small rural community."

Desrosiers continued, "I know residents are very, very interested in this and very concerned about a project of this size; this is a large commercial project for the town."

\* \* \*

Also at the meeting a public hearing will be held on the proposed Plan of Conservation and Development.

The POCD is a collection of goals, objectives and recommendations for the town, the preparation of which is required by state statute every 10 years.

The POCD maps out the town's current conditions, including population and housing,

transportation, land use and zoning, as well as any issues and opportunities. In addition the POCD provides recommendations for the town in areas such as managing future residential growth, protecting the town's natural resources, promoting and regulating commercial development, plans for the town center and creating a town identity.

The POCD also includes an implementation plan for reference by the Planning and Zoning Commission and their staff along with other town officials to help put the recommendations in place.

The draft of the POCD can be found on the Andover town website, located at [andoverconnecticut.org](http://andoverconnecticut.org).

\* \* \*

The meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18 at 7 p.m. in the community room at town hall, 17 School Rd.



A dump truck lost its bed after striking an overpass on Route 2 last Friday morning. The incident caused the road to be closed for three and a half hours at the height of rush hour.

## Dump Truck Crash Closes Route 2 in Colchester for Hours

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Route 2 was closed for three and a half hours at the height of rush hour last Friday morning when a dump truck hit an overpass, causing it to lose its bed in the middle of the highway.

State police reported a 2009 International 7600 dump truck owned by Willimantic Waste Paper and driven by David Smith, 48, of 72 Stollman Rd., Colchester, was traveling westbound on Route 2 near exit 13 at 6 a.m. April 8, when the truck hit the Johnson Road overhead bridge.

Police said the dump truck was too tall for the bridge.

As a result of the impact, police said the open-box bed detached from the truck and came to a rest vertically in the center lane.

Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Chief Kevin Asklar said Smith reported he had been driving along when the bed came up "for some reason" and "sheared" right off of the truck.

Route 2 west was shut down in the area of the accident from 6-9:30 a.m., as crews responded to the collision. Police reported the MVFD responded for traffic control and the state Department of Transportation bridge inspectors were on scene to assess the minor damage to the bridge. Both the dump truck and its bed were towed. Asklar reported Wednesday the DOT did clear the bridge as okay.

Police said Smith was transported to the Marlborough Clinic for precautionary reasons, but that there were no injuries. Smith was issued an infraction for excessive height of vehicle without a permit.

Asklar explained vehicles that are taller than the legal limit can receive a special permit from the state and are given an alternate route to follow.

Management for Willimantic Waste Paper could not be reached for comment by press time.

## West Hartford Man Arrested in Colchester with Narcotics

A West Hartford man was arrested last Saturday after a traffic stop on Route 2 revealed marijuana, Oxycodone, drug paraphernalia, packaging materials, and over \$750 of cash in the car.

State police said Daryl McNeill, 30, of 117 Hillcrest Ave., was arrested and charged with possession of a narcotic, possession with intent to sell Oxycodone, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, possession with intent to sell



Daryl McNeill

marijuana, failure to keep prescription on the proper container, possession of drug paraphernalia, operating under the influence of drugs or alcohol, operating under suspension, and failure to maintain lane.

Police reported McNeill was driving a gray Volvo on Route 2 west near exit 18 at 2:10 a.m. when police noticed the car swerving. Upon stopping the Volvo, police said they suspected McNeill of operating under the influence of drugs. McNeill failed a sobriety test, police said, and he was arrested.

While searching the Volvo, police said they found 38 pills of suspected Oxycodone, approximately 3.6 ounces of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, packaging materials for narcotic and marijuana sales, and over \$750 in cash.

## LifeStar Responds to Two-Car Crash in Hebron

by Geeta S. Sandberg

LifeStar responded to a two-car crash Sunday morning that sent three to the hospital.

At around 9:45 a.m. Sunday, April 10, state police said James Joseph Fitzpatrick, 20, of 202 Wall St., was traveling southbound on Wall Street with Taylor Fitzpatrick, 24, of the same address, when he crossed the center line and collided head-on with Eric Brancard, 33, of 352 East St., who was traveling northbound.

As a result of the crash, police said James Fitzpatrick was transported to Hartford Hos-

pital via LifeStar for non-life threatening injuries.

Taylor Fitzpatrick was also transported to Hartford Hospital for non-life threatening injuries via ambulance, and Brancard was transported to Marlborough Clinic for minor injuries sustained in the crash.

On Wednesday, both James and Taylor Fitzpatrick remained in the hospital. The status of Brancard was unknown.

An investigation into the accident is currently ongoing.

## Colchester Police News

4/7: State Police said James Mishler, 53, of 5 Camp St., Bristol, was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to drive in the proper lane, and improper use of markers.

4/8: State Police said Kriss Wilson, 24, of 141 Harris Circle, Waterbury, was arrested and charged with violation of probation.

4/8: State Police said Jillian Strogoff, 35, of 50 Haddam St., Hartford, was arrested and charged with DUI and speeding.

4/10: Colchester Police said Ralph Byington,

55, of 25 Christy Ln., was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

4/11: State Police said Harley Chamberlin, 37, of 1280 Trumbull Highway, Lebanon, was arrested and charged with failure to appear and operating under suspension.

4/11: State Police said Brittany Wood, 25, of 44 Oswegathie Rd., Waterford, was arrested and charged with DUI, evading responsibility, third-degree criminal mischief, failure to drive right, and operating under suspension.

## Marlborough Police News

4/6: State Police said Amanda Mancini, 34, of 23 Senkow Ave., Groton, was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to drive right, and failure to drive at a reasonable distance.

4/6: State Police said Raymond Nadeau, 36, of 65 Valinsky Rd., Lebanon, was arrested and charged with fourth-degree larceny and third-degree forgery. Police said he was also charged with third-degree burglary and third-degree larceny in another case.

4/8: State Police said Jonathan Rutchick, 29,

of 87 Old Hebron Rd., Colchester, was arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary, conspiracy to commit fifth-degree larceny, third-degree burglary, fifth-degree larceny and three counts of risk of injury to a child.

4/8: State Police said Karol Okurowski, 28, of 8 Erwin Place, New Britain, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane.

## Obituaries

### Portland

#### M. Eileen Reilly

M. Eileen Reilly, 85, of Portland, wife of the late Robert J. Reilly Jr., passed away Wednesday, April 6, at home surrounded by her family. She was the daughter of the late William C. and Florence (Fisher) Haldeman.

Born on Sept. 9, 1930, in Philadelphia, Pa., Eileen lived in Portland for the last 50 years. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She leaves her children, Kathleen and her husband, William Richards of Portland, Donna and her husband, Ralph Dumas of Massachusetts, Linda of West Hartford, Bob of Georgia and Maureen of Portland. Maureen was her mother's constant caregiver for the past four years. Eileen also leaves eight grandchildren who she called her "dollbabies," Marli Field, Holly Srb, Stephan Dumas, Carrie Conway, Nicholas Blue, Taylor, Drew and Brooke Unikewicz; and 10 great-grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Make A Wish America Gift Processing, 4742 North 42nd St., Suite 400, Phoenix, AZ 85016 ([wish.org](http://wish.org)).

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

### Marlborough

#### Ada Armine Jaglowski

Ada Armine (Getty) Jaglowski, 93, of Marlborough, beloved wife of 57 years to the late Leonard Jaglowski died Saturday, April 9, at Apple Rehab in Colchester. Born March 19, 1923, in Hartford she was the daughter of the late John H. and Viola (Fowler) Getty.



Ada had worked as an Underwriter's Assistant at Industrial Risk Insurance until her retirement. She then became a daycare provider with her husband until his passing in 1998. Ada had also worked as a greeter at Wal-Mart. She enjoyed cooking and baking and until her eyesight failed she enjoyed reading. Ada collected dolls, but only if they looked like her grandchildren.

Ada was a quiet woman, but her heart was full of love for her family and that love was unwavering. Her strongest desire was to know that they were safe, happy and healthy. For her that was the ultimate happiness in her life. While raising their own children, Lenny and Ada were foster parents to 13 newborn babies prior to their adoption.

She is survived by her sons, Lawrence Jaglowski and wife Mary of Hebron, Robert Jaglowski of Manchester, Steven Jaglowski of East Hampton; two daughters, Kathie Alden and husband Christopher of Wasilla, Alaska, Laurie Jaglowski of East Windsor; 11 grandchildren and six great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and a devoted sister-in-law, Irene Salisbury.

She was predeceased by her brother, Douglas Getty; three sisters, Edith Kleinstuber, Jacqueline Morton, and Barbara Priest.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, April 13, in the Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St. East Hampton. Burial followed in Marlboro Cemetery. Friends called at the funeral home Wednesday morning, before the service.

The family would like to thank the Apple Rehab of Colchester for their devoted care of Ada.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to HHCAH, Dept. of Hospice, 34 Ledgebrook Dr., Mansfield Center, CT 06250.

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

### Colchester

#### Dorothy Mary Tibbetts

Dorothy Mary (St. Lawrence) Tibbetts, 86, of Colchester, formerly of Norwich, widow of the late Kenneth Tibbetts, passed away peacefully Sunday, April 10. Born Aug. 31, 1929, in Norwich, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Virginia (Gagne) St. Lawrence and was a longtime resident of Norwich before moving to Colchester in 2005.



Dorothy was a graduate of St. Patrick School and the Norwich Free Academy with the Class of 1947. After graduation, she was secretary and payroll clerk at the former J. B. Martin Velvet Mill and Supply Control Supervisor at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base. After raising her family, Dottie worked as a part-time bookkeeper at the former Troy Laundry, Hamilton Apartments and was office manager of Village Court Apartments.

On Oct. 20, 1956, she was united in marriage to Kenneth W. Tibbetts at the Cathedral of St. Patrick Cathedral in Norwich. Together, they shared 53 years of marriage before he predeceased her Feb. 16, 2010.

Survivors include two daughters, Nancy Deede of Richmond, R.I., and Carol Gilroy and husband David of Salona Beach, Calif.; a son, James Tibbetts and wife Debra of West Hartford; five grandchildren, Rebekah DiLernia and husband Alberto of Middletown, Benjamin Deede of Worcester, Vt., Sarah Alfieri and husband, Oscar and Emily Deede, all of W. Warwick, R.I., and Kaitlyn Tibbetts of Washington, D.C.; five great-grandchildren, Ana, Gilbert, Gabriel, Julian and Oliver; two sisters, Doris Lapre and husband Robert of Bozrah and Rita Kenny of Old Saybrook; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by two sisters, Emily DeSantis and Sadie Mitchell.

Mrs. Tibbetts was a longtime member of the Women's City Club of Norwich and had chaired several committees – some involving community projects. She was also a member of the Mohegan Chapter 1004 of AARP, the Busy Bee Senior Center and the Rose City Senior Center, where she volunteered in the library. She was a past communicant and Altar and Rosary Society member of Sacred Heart Parish in Norwichtown for 39 years before moving to Colchester and joining St. Andrew Parish and the Ladies Guild there.

The family received guests Wednesday, April 13, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral assembled starting at the funeral home Thursday, April 14, before the celebration of the funeral liturgy at 10:30 a.m. at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Following Mass, she will be laid to rest with her husband at Maplewood Cemetery, Norwich.

Donations in her memory may be made to the charity of one's choice.

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

### Marlborough

#### Joseph Anthony Rancourt

Joseph Anthony Rancourt, 31, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly Thursday, March 24. Joseph was born in Manchester Nov. 19, 1984, and grew up in East Hartford, and moved to Marlborough in his 20s.



He was a loving and devoted fiancé and father. In his spare time he loved to draw, spend time with his nephews, being outdoors and being with his fiancé, daughter and stepson. He was also a very talented artist.

He is survived by his fiancé, Jacqueline Ruffino; daughter, Alaura Johnson; stepson, Alex Niver Jr.; brother, Adam Champlin; sister, Jean Champlin; mother-in-law, Alana Tobias; father-in-law, Edward Tobias; brother-in-law, Corey Tobias; sister-in-law, Arianna Ruffino; brother-in-law, Justin Ruffino; and many nieces and nephews.

Joey had an infectious smile and laugh that could light up the room and fill your heart with joy. He was a family man and mostly enjoyed spending time with his family.

A private memorial will be held by the family.

### Colchester

#### Chase A. Clark

Chase A. Clark, 32, of Noank, passed away Thursday, April 7, surrounded by his loving family and friends.

Born in Norwich, he was a Noank resident and owner of Clark Tree Experts. He held a Connecticut Arborist License and a Bachelor of Science degree in construction management. If you knew Chase, and were lucky enough to see him at work, you would see that caring for trees was his art and passion. As an experienced climber, Chase was able to maneuver into places that bucket trucks could not. Beautiful inside and out, Chase was truly devoted to his profession. He will be deeply missed.

Several years ago, Chase made a decision to follow Jesus as Lord and Savior. Although he struggled at times (like all of us), his heart was fully devoted to following the ways of the Lord. Chase was an angel, taken away from us way too soon.

He is survived by his loving parents, Steven Clark of Norwich and Jean (Balawender) Clark of Noank; paternal grandmother, Barbara W. Clark of Colchester; uncle, Thomas E. Clark and wife, Beth, of Florida; two aunts, Pamela G. Maresca and husband, Dan, of Michigan and Gail Delaney of Norwich; along with several cousins.

He was predeceased by his brother, Christopher T. Clark.

His family will receive friends today, April 15, from 5-8 p.m., at the Mystic Funeral Home at 51 Williams Ave. (Route 1) in Mystic. A service will be held Saturday, April 16, at 11 a.m., at the Groton Bible Chapel, 66 Tollgate Rd., Groton. His burial will be held at 9:30 a.m., prior to the service at Elm Grove Cemetery in Mystic.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to Celebrate Recovery Ministry c/o Groton Bible Chapel.

Visit [mysticfuneralhome.com](http://mysticfuneralhome.com) to leave a note of condolence to the family.

### Marlborough

#### Betty A. Bacharach

Betty A. Bacharach, 86, died early Wednesday, April 6, at Bayfront Health Center, Port Charlotte, Fla. She was born March 6, 1930, in Assumption, Ill., to the late James E. and Georgia Parks McBride (Lima, Ohio).

Betty will be sadly missed by her friends, family and husband of 41 years, Ralph Bacharach (North Port, Fla.). They enjoyed worldwide travel, RV-ing and visiting their grandchildren. Having resided in Marlborough and Puchheim, Germany, they eventually settled in North Port, Fla., in 2000.

Known for prolific administrative skills, Betty was employed at Westinghouse and Excello Corporations for most of her career. She received the distinction of "Business Woman of the Year" award by the ABWA. During her early years in Connecticut, she worked for the RHAM school system as secretary and volunteer drama director.

Betty loved reading, crafting, theater arts and singing with Sweet Adelines chapters based in Connecticut and Florida.

She leaves behind brothers, John (Columbus, Ohio), Gene (Lima, Ohio) and Bill McBride (Hollywood, Fla.) and sister, Barbara Poiriez (Arizona), and was predeceased by her youngest sister, Donna.

Betty was mother to five children with her former husband, Richard A. Burnett (Lima, Ohio – deceased), sons, Paul (Convoy, Ohio), David (Fairfield, Ohio) and Jeffrey Burnett (Englewood, Fla.); daughters, Rebecca Griesdorn Burnett (Hebron) and Patti Daugherty (Coppell, Texas). Her extended family included 21 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service is planned for June 18, at 10:30 a.m., at Lima Community Church, Lima, Ohio.

For more information and to leave condolences, see [legacy.com](http://legacy.com).

### Colchester

#### Pearl Natalie Upton

Pearl Natalie Upton, 87, of Colchester, passed gracefully into the Everlasting Arms of the Eternal Friday, April 8, surrounded by devoted family. Born Jan. 20, 1929, she was the daughter of Philip and Natalie Gregor of South Portland, Maine.



Her mother died when she was 7 years old, and she was raised by her father in South Portland, with the help of several Norwegian relatives, most notably her beloved maternal grandmother, Jacopina Josephina Gullikson, who worked as a nurse and midwife. In fact, it was Jacopina herself who midwifed Pearl into this world.

Pearl's faith in a Supreme Power was sealed after she had a near-death experience at age 18 when she daringly dove into Sebago Lake, Maine, from the highest point off Frye's leap. She mistakenly dove straight down and touched the lake's floor. Desperately trying to swim back to the water's surface, her lungs ran out of air and with no strength left to swim, she simply let go, accepting death. Then a wide column of bright light shone down from above, tunneling through the water and encasing her entire body. She was immediately filled with a sense of profound peace, and then her limp form was forcefully pulled skyward through the beam only to break powerfully through the water's surface, giving her the realization that her life must have a definite purpose.

Because of this pivotal experience, Pearl formed an unshakable belief in The Divine and its protective and guiding Force. Pearl began working at age 11 and finally as a waitress; most all of her wages were given to help contribute to her family's expenses. She graduated from South Portland High School with special memories of excelling in art and creative writing.

At age 19, she met Louis W. Upton, when she served him coffee at the counter of Hay's drug-store diner on Congress Street in Portland, Maine. This handsome and charming man returned every day for coffee until he won her heart, and six months later they wed.

Pearl had her heart set on leaving her hometown to pursue adventure and when Lou re-enlisted in the U.S. Navy, they left South Portland. For the next 20 years, they lived where the military sent them, and each one of her four children was born in a different state. She considered herself a proud "Navy wife" until Lou retired from the military and they spent the remainder of their lives in Colchester, during which time they made enjoyable cross-country trips together in their camper. After Lou died in 1989, she remained fiercely independent.

Pearl inherited an artistic spirit from her mother, whose family was filled with creative souls, like actors, singers and musicians. Pearl quickly mastered every artistic endeavor she set her mind to, from knitting to sewing, quilting, embroidery and crochet. In her 50s she discovered a talent for painting, specializing in folk art, and her style illustrated her unique personality. She was an avid film buff, a voracious reader, a formidable Scrabble player and she never missed participating in an episode of *Jeopardy!* She loved conversation with friends, great music, animals, birds and especially flowers, becoming an accomplished rose gardener. She is survived by her son, Karl Upton and wife Teresa of Great Falls, Mt.; her daughter Paula Dianne Upton of Colchester; and her son Gregory Upton and his girlfriend, Colleen Phillips of Colchester. Her son Stephen predeceased her in 1969.

She will also be missed by her grandchildren, Andrew, Michael and Shawn Upton and his wife Jodi; her cousin Charlene Garnett and husband Hal; along with her sister, Virginia Stager and husband Dennis; as well as a great granddaughter, Ebby Pearl Upton and several extended family members and friends.

Choosing to live life by her terms, her children will remember her most for her understanding, loving, and patient spirit, her quiet dignity, razor sharp intelligence, perseverance and determination, spontaneity, sense of humor, contagious laugh and her unwavering belief, commitment and loyalty to her family. Pearl, precious jewel of our hearts, may you rest in blessed peace.

Friends and family called Thursday, April 14, at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial in the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester, will be private.

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

## Obituaries continued

### *East Hampton*

#### Beverly Lillian Porter

Beverly Lillian Porter, 73, of East Hampton, formerly of Glastonbury, died Sunday, April 10, at her home, with her loving mother by her side. Born Oct. 14, 1943 in Glastonbury she was the daughter of Genevieve (Roberge) Porter and the late William Porter.

Besides her father, she is predeceased by her stepfather, Paul Melnichuk. She is survived by her mother, her special cousins Sylvia Clinton, Joan Nano, John Nano, Jean Pakech, Charlotte Baulte, and close friends Sue and David Rogers.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, today, April 15, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. A funeral liturgy will be celebrated today at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will follow in Green Cemetery in Glastonbury.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Connecticut Children's Medical Center, 282 Washington St., Hartford, CT 06106 or to East Hampton Ambulance Assoc., P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

### *East Hampton*

#### Michelle Waterhouse

Michelle (Hubert) Waterhouse, 55, of East Hampton, slipped from our grasp Sunday, April 10. Shelley passed as she lived, with family by her side. Her deep spirituality, belief in Jesus Christ, and devotion to family guided her life.

Shelley courageously battled cancer for 12 years, always more concerned that her family move forward with their lives, than be held back by the onslaughts of this cruel disease.

Shelley is survived by her loving husband, Harry Waterhouse, and her beloved daughter, Sarah Waterhouse. Shelley is also survived by her mother and stepfather, Elizabeth and Arthur Galvin; her father, Joseph Paul Hubert; her brother and sister-in-law, Christopher Hubert and Marion Buice-Hubert; and her sisters and brothers-in-law, Nanette and Daniel Alexander, and Jennifer Hubert-Cooper and Thomas Cooper; her brothers-in-law and wives, Jon and Rosie Waterhouse and Joseph and Rowena Afuan Waterhouse. She also leaves behind nieces, Amelia Magnano, and her husband Ben Bates, Jazmine Waterhouse and a nephew, Landen Cooper.

She leaves many friends and extended family including the sister of her heart Cindy Schaller.

The family sends a special thank you to Dr. Patricia Defusco, Jen and the nurses of the Hartford Hospital Infusion Center, the Conklin staff at Hartford Hospital, and the staff at Apple Rehab of Colchester for their gentle and compassionate care.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

### *Portland*

#### Joseph John Branciforte

Joseph John Branciforte, 83, of Cromwell, beloved husband of Dorothy (Marquis) Branciforte for 58 years, passed away Saturday, April 9, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Middletown, he was the son of the late Carmelo and Mary (Guiliano) Branciforte.

Joe lived in Portland for 30 years before returning to Cromwell where he was a member of Saint John Church. Joe was a veteran, serving in the United States Army, and worked at Northeast Utilities his entire career.

He and Dot traveled throughout the world, was an avid UConn basketball fan and had a true love/hate relationship with golf. Joe cherished his two granddaughters as they were his shining stars.

Along with his wife, Joe is survived by his two sons, Joseph Branciforte of Cromwell and Daniel Branciforte of Pueblo, Colo.; his daughter, Catherine Oates and her husband, Randy of Charleston, S.C., and his two grandchildren, Erica and Kendra Oates.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 13, from Cromwell Funeral Home, 506 Main St., Cromwell, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Saint John Church, 5 Saint John Court, Cromwell. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Family and friends called Wednesday morning, before the service, at Cromwell Funeral Home.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, visit [doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://doolittlefuneralservice.com).