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Hebron's Got Talent... The annual Hebron's Got Talent was held last week – and raised \$6,841 for the local children's scholarship programs of AHM Youth & Family Services and Hebron Parks and Recreation Program. It was a fun evening of celebrating everyone's gifts and talents. Pictured is this year's winner, vocalist and musician Jonathan Farrington, and the three judges: from left, country singer Frankie Justin Lamprey; Caitlyn Lessard, spokesperson for last year's winners, the RHAM cheerleading squad; and retired teacher Chris Ambrose. For more on this year's show, see related story on page 15.

Belltown Bus Driver Saves a Life

by Elizabeth Regan

Nine-year old Naomi Mastroianni didn't even see it coming as she stepped off the school bus: a black SUV barreling down Main Street in defiance of the stop sign and flashing red lights.

But her mother saw it. Paola Mastroianni was waiting in front of their house, as always, to welcome Naomi home with a hug.

Naomi's bus driver, Randy Kronick, saw it too. He said Naomi had just walked down the stairs and started to turn the corner in front of the bus to cross the street.

"I saw a car coming in the opposite direction toward us, pretty fast – way too fast – and I just kind of threw up my hand to stop her," Kronick said.

The bus driver credited procedures put in place by the bus company, DATTCO, to ensure close communication between bus drivers and students. He said each student must get the go-ahead from the bus driver before crossing the street.

"Because she knows to make eye contact, she was looking at me, thank God," Kronick said. "She stopped dead in her tracks and the car sped by, right through the stop sign, probably doing 50 mph, at least."

Paola Mastroianni, who was panicked and screaming on the other side of the road, said she watched the scene unfold as Kronick held

up his hand to stop Naomi.

She called Kronick a guardian angel.

"If my daughter had crossed the road, my daughter would not be here today," she said.

According to Paola, Naomi had no idea why she was getting a tighter hug than usual when she made it safely to the other side of the road. She didn't know why Paola was saying things like "Mommy loves you" and "you're okay."

"Naomi said 'What happened?'" Paola recounted. "Then I saw Randy look at me and he was as white as a ghost."

Neither Paola nor Kronick were able to catch the license plate number as the vehicle drove by.

"The only thing we saw was this black SUV just flying right through the stop sign," Paola said.

At a meeting of the East Hampton Board of Education Monday night, Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith called Kronick a hero.

"Thanks to the fast action of Mr. Kronick, we were able to make sure one of our Center School students literally was not struck by a car. It could've been a tragic situation for this community," Smith said, as the bus driver was presented with a framed certificate and a bouquet of flowers.

See Bus Driver page 2

'Jekyll & Hyde' Coming to Colchester

by Julianna Roche

Since its founding nearly 18 years ago, Colchester Community Theater (CCT) has never tackled a show quite like this year's production of Jekyll & Hyde – which is based on the Broadway adaptation of the classic novel by Robert Louis Stevenson – is "a beautiful show about the human struggle between good and evil, portrayed with on point acting and amazing, amazing singing."

According to CCT's vice president of production and the show's director Wallis Johnson, Jekyll & Hyde – which is based on the Broadway adaptation of the classic novel by Robert Louis Stevenson – is "a beautiful show about the human struggle between good and evil, portrayed with on point acting and amazing, amazing singing."

But it's not without its dark parts. The story tells the tale of Dr. Jekyll, a good-hearted man of science, who takes a potion and ultimately transforms into Mr. Hyde, a homicidal maniac acting on his evil urges.

"What we have done in the last couple of years involved a lot of children with Shrek and The Little Mermaid, so we thought it was time to do something different," Johnson said, adding that even though CCT has never performed "a show this dark before," she felt they "were ready as a theater company."

"We felt it was time for us as a theater company and also for theater-goers – to give them an opportunity to see something different," she continued.

However, Johnson noted Jekyll & Hyde does contain more mature material than in previous productions, such as several murder scenes –

so while "it depends on the children," Johnson said it's probably "PG-13."

The production also includes a score of pop rock hits from multi-Grammy and Tony-nominated Frank Wildhorn and double-Oscar and Grammy-winning Leslie Bricusse.

"The music is absolutely beautiful. It's truly, truly beautiful music," Johnson raved. "I can also tell you that this cast... listening to them last night at rehearsal, I just had this moment of 'Wow, their voices are gorgeous.' They really are."

Despite being one of CCT's smaller casts, Johnson added that the 40 to 45 cast members that make up the production are "just one of those casts where everyone's in it together... it really shows in everything they do from dancing to singing to acting."

The cast also includes both veterans and newcomers to CCT, including Windsor Locks resident Kevin Knight, who will star as both Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

"His audition was supreme," Johnson said. "What I've heard from talking around to other theater companies is that when a guy comes in to play Jekyll and Hyde, a lot of the times he's a diva-kind of guy and really very about himself. ... Kevin is not; he's very much about the team."

When Jekyll & Hyde first premiered in 1990, Knight was just a high-schooler – but he vividly remembers the effect the musical's score had on him.

See Jekyll & Hyde page 2



The Colchester Community Theatre will bring the musical version of Jekyll & Hyde to the Bacon Academy stage next weekend. From left, Jason Sedgwick (as Sir Archibald Proops), Joe DeCarlo (as Lord Savage), Kevin Knight (as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde), Chris Ozmun (as General Lord Glossop), Kristine Pekar (as Lady Beaconsfield) and Ed Hobson (as the Bishop) rehearse a scene on Monday.

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East Hampton bus driver Randy Kronick, center, was recognized by the Board of Education last Monday for his role in preventing a tragedy when a car sped through the bus's flashing red lights and stop sign. Kronick was presented with a framed certificate by school board chairman Christopher Goff, right, and Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith.

Bus Driver cont. from Front Page

After the meeting, Kronick said adhering to bus safety guidelines – and making sure students follow the rules, too – is what ultimately saved the day.

"I'm not a hero. I was just doing my job," Kronick said.

DATTCO branch manager Eric Thompson described Kronick as a prime example of the company's focus on safety.

"This year we started a campaign that simply was entitled 'Safety Starts with Me,'" Thompson said. "[This] was the perfect case scenario that showed 'safety first' was the priority in Randy's mind, and that was conveyed to the child."

For Phil Johnson, vice president of DATTCO's school bus division, the situation illustrates the importance of consistency when it comes to ensuring a safe environment for students.

"We try to teach [drivers] to do the same thing with the children every day, to be consistent," Johnson said. "Whether they're riding on the bus or getting off the bus, you try to control their habits. It's not always easy and it's not always fair. But [Kronick] did a great job and he did what he has been taught to do. It makes you proud."

According to Paola, Kronick took things a step further by altering the sequence of stops. He now drops Naomi off directly in front of her house, so she does not have to cross the street.

While Kronick made the decision at his own discretion, a district policy updated last spring by the school board resulted in a similar change to the way students are dropped off in the most high-traffic and high-speed areas in town.

The policy says no students are allowed to cross the street on routes 16, 66, 151 and 196 in areas where the posted speed limit exceeds 35 mph.

The posted speed limit on Main Street does not exceed 35 mph, so it was not affected by the change.

On the state level, a 2011 change in statute gave school districts the option to use live digi-

tal video "school bus violation detection systems" to help address traffic violations, while empowering local law enforcement to use that evidence to issue tickets.

Motorists are required by state law to stop at least 10 feet away from any bus with its flashing red signal lights on. Violations can result in a fine of \$450 for the first offense and between \$500 and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense. Repeat offenders can face up to 30 days in jail.

According to a 2014 report by the Department of Motor Vehicles, such "stop-arm cameras" are activated when a bus's flashing lights and stop sign are engaged. Video evidence with the make, model and license plate number of any car violating the law, as well as the date, time and location of the incident, can then be submitted to law enforcement to decide if a warning or a ticket should be issued for the owner. Tickets are then sent by mail.

East Hampton Schools business manager Karen Asetta said district officials will work with police chief Sean Cox to decide if the town should pursue such a camera system.

In an email obtained by the *Rivereast*, DATTCO Chief Operating Officer Cliff Gibson said the company is neutral on the use of stop-arm cameras.

"Quite often, the issue is with the local police departments, who sometimes are reluctant to enforce the violations when they get them," Gibson wrote.

But he added the company has no issue with having the cameras on the bus – and using them – "especially if they support the driver and student safety."

For Paola, who said she'll never forget the fear she felt when that black SUV zoomed by as her daughter stepped off the bus, the message to other drivers is a simple one.

"I hope people realize they need to pay more attention," she said. "They need to pay more attention to everything. If you see a school bus stopped with lights on, your job as a driver is to stop, not to go 65 mph when a child is ready to cross."

Jekyll & Hyde cont. from Front Page

According to Knight, as a high school junior he was known as "the theater guy" and he recalls often spending his free periods in the auditorium.

"I remember the [theater] director put on the [*Jekyll & Hyde*] complete concept album and I laid down in this theater just letting the music wave over me."

Though he didn't act much after high school, Knight remained an avid fan of *Jekyll & Hyde* throughout college, vowing to play the lead role one day.

Twenty-six years – and many karaoke nights – later, Knight has found himself in a role he's not only familiar with, but one he's wanted to play since the '90s.

"He's very talented and his voice is amazing," Johnson said of Knight, adding that playing two roles can be challenging, but for him it comes naturally.

In Act II, during the song "Confrontation" for example, she said Knight "has to go from singing as the well-educated, kind Dr. Jekyll to the crazy, insane Hyde. He literally is changing who he is every four lines in the song."

Experienced CCT actors also joined the cast, including Jennifer MacPherson, who will play Lucy, a prostitute and burlesque dancer who finds herself involved with both Jekyll and Hyde.

According to Johnson, in the past MacPherson has usually played what she calls "character roles" that are often "silly" and "floozy."

"This is the first time she's playing a more dramatic role for our company," Johnson said. "She's a very experienced actress and she's got the part of Lucy down perfectly."

Kelsey Gamble, another CCT veteran (who played The Gingerbread Man in *Shrek* in 2015) will play the role of Emma Carew – Dr. Jekyll's beautiful and well-bred fiancée.

"Emma is kind of like the foil to Lucy," Gamble explained.

"[The role] is quite a change from The Gingerbread Man to the lovely, beautiful Emma," Johnson said, adding that "when Emma sings, you get tears in your eyes" and "her voice sails

out across the theater."

As a special treat, Johnson also added that four "town celebrities" including First Selectman Art Shilosky, Board of Selectmen member Stan Soby, Bacon Academy Principal Matthew Peel, and Colchester's Director of Teaching and Learning Dr. Charles Hewes, will each make a cameo in one of the four performances as Dr. Jekyll's father.

"We started [CCT] from nothing," Johnson said. "The town of Colchester has been our greatest support cheerleaders [so] whenever we can, we try to include people from the community."

She added that while the show's storyline may be darker in nature, the audience can expect "a beautiful show" that's "really, really well done."

Performances begin Friday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m., and continue Saturday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 19, at 2 p.m. at the auditorium at Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave.

Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and children, age 12 and under. Preferred seating tickets (a maximum of 50 each performance) are available for \$25 each. Preferred seating ticket holders will be asked to arrive at least a half hour before performance times as entrance to obtain seats will be allowed before the general audience. Seating for the general audience will take place 20 to 30 minutes before the performance time.

Online ticket sales (credit card only) are available through ShowTix4U; see more information at colchestercommunitytheatre.com. Credit card sales by phone are also available through CCT's virtual box office by calling 860-462-1077. Leave a name and phone number, and calls will be returned within 24 hours. In-person ticket sales (cash and check only) will be available at Copies Plus...More, 31 Halls Hill Rd., Colchester, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets at the door are subject to availability.

In case of inclement weather, call 860-462-1077 for updates.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

What a game!

Even folks who wouldn't know football from cricket have surely heard about Sunday's epic Super Bowl game between the Falcons and Patriots – the greatest postseason comeback of all time, sparking the first-ever Super Bowl overtime – so I'll spare the details of what happened.

Instead, I'll just reiterate: what a game!

I'm not a big Patriots fan – as I've shared in this column, I favor the Jets – but I was watching the game Sunday with some friends of mine who are Pats die-hards. So you can probably imagine the mood in the room when New England fell behind 21-0 and then 28-3. Even when the Pats scored a touchdown, it didn't help the mood much – especially after Gostkowski blew the extra-point attempt.

But the Patriots kept scoring, and the Falcons kept not returning the favor. When the score got to 28-20, I think a sense of "hmm.... maybe...." began to enter the room. (As for me, the thought "Holy cow, what if they wind up losing this game by a point, and it's the point Gostkowski missed?" found its way inside my head. What can I say, I've got 27 years of Met fandom under my belt; you have to be prepared for such things.) At the very least, what looked like a blowout had turned into a ballgame.

Then the Patriots tied the score, 28-28. They had scored 25 unanswered points on the biggest football stage of them all, to tie the score and force overtime. The mood in the room turned to euphoria. And when the Pats won the coin toss, got the ball and marched down the field to a victory that seemed incredibly unlikely less than an hour before? Everyone was positively ecstatic.

And while I can't confess to sharing quite

the same level of joy as my friends – like I said, they're die-hards – I was happy with the outcome. From a sheer, objective sports fan point of view, it was phenomenal; the best, most dramatic Super Bowl I'd ever seen. Plus, I was rooting for the Pats.

As I said before, I'm a Jets fan, but that didn't preclude me from rooting for the Patriots. A coworker informed me last week, when I told him who I'd hoped would win, that I was rooting for the enemy, given that the Jets and the Pats play in the same conference and all, but I don't know. For starters, I'm not as big a football fan as I am a baseball fan. I'm not as affected by the rivalries as I am in baseball. Being a Mets fan, there's *no way* I'd root for the Washington Nationals or the Atlanta Braves in the World Series. Not gonna happen. I know I should feel the way in football – but I just don't.

Plus, one thing's been made abundantly clear to me the past couple seasons of watching the Jets bumble around the gridiron: the Jets really are their own worst enemy. That won't stop me from cheering them on next season – as the song says, when you're a Jet, you're a Jet all the way, from your first cigarette to your last dying day – and hopefully they'll make the playoffs again soon. But until they do, I have no problem pulling for the Pats when the postseason comes around.

So, yes, I was happy for Sunday's game; happy for my friends, happy for the Patriots (and Tom Brady in particular; he may be a Trump fan but he was screwed in that stupid Deflategate mess), and heck, happy for me as a sports fan. I got to see Super Bowl history. It was just a phenomenal game.

See you next week.

Colchester Grand List Sees 1.1 Percent Decrease

by Julianna Roche

Following two subsequent years of minor increases, Colchester's 2016 Grand List has decreased by 1.1 percent or \$13,372,700, totaling \$1,217,126,100.

The list, which represents the net value of assessed real estate, personal property, and motor vehicles in town, came during a revaluation year – a town-wide process which per state law, must be completed by every municipality every five years.

During the revaluation process, data collection and market analysis are used to equalize the values of all properties within a given municipality for a fair distribution of the tax burden. It's also used to ensure that fair market values of properties are current and equitable.

"It would have been a good Grand List if it wasn't a reval[uation] year," said Tax Assessor John Chaponis during a Feb. 2 Board of Selectmen meeting, when selectmen were first presented with the list.

"Depending on what takes place in the real estate market, a Grand List will either go up or down," Chaponis explained this week, adding that it differs with every revaluation period.

For example, he said, in the 2006 revaluation, the Grand List went up 41 percent because "the market was very hot and quickly appreci-

ating," whereas the Grand List decreased by 9.5 percent in the 2011 revaluation.

Colchester's Grand List is divided into three categories of taxable property: real estate, motor vehicles and personal property, with only two of the three categories increasing in the 2016 list.

Both motor vehicle and personal property saw increases of 4.42 and 8.01 percent, respectively, while real estate saw a decrease of 2.38 percent or \$25,124,850, to total \$1,029,163,100.

Chaponis attributed the drop in real estate to the revaluation period.

Moreover, he explained "if it were not a revaluation year, real estate assessment would stay the same from one year to the next, unless the property owner added an addition onto their home," such as a new garage, finished basement, central A/C, or "anything that enhanced the value of their home."

He furthered that if a resident did something "to change the condition and value" of their home, the assessor must then "revalue their property and add any increase, or decrease, in valuation."

The same goes for newly-built houses.

"If the home is only 50 percent complete on Oct. 1, 2016 [when the revaluation period be-

gins], then we add it as being 50 percent complete," Chaponis said. "So we use the Oct. 1 date as the date for percentage of completion."

In terms of what this means for the average homeowner, he said "it's way too soon to determine."

"The average residential assessment decreased by 4.1 percent, which fares well considering the overall Grand List is only down 1.1 percent," Chaponis continued. "Once the Board of Finance has set the mill rate, then individual homeowners will have the ability to compute how their new assessment affects their personal tax liability."

The Grand List is used by the finance board to help set the mill rate for the upcoming fiscal year. The mill rate is then used to determine residents' taxes. A resident can determine their taxes by multiplying the mill rate by their total assessments. One mill is equal to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property and under the current mill rate of 30.91, a resident with a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay approximately \$7,728.

The top 10 real estate property taxpayers included Country Place of Colchester Ltd. Partners at \$9,896,800; SS1 Colchester LLC at

\$8,337,700; Genesis Health Ventures of Bloomfield Inc. at \$5,331,000; City of Norwich at \$4,835,900; Gaia Colchester LLC at \$4,070,000; Sharr Realty LLC at \$3,804,300; GND Too of Colchester LLC at \$3,730,900; S + S Worldwide Inc. at \$3,533,100; Keystone Shoppes LLC at \$3,327,800; and Colchester Realty LLC at \$2,709,600.

The top 10 personal property taxpayers included Connecticut Light & Power Co. at \$14,589,530; Alpha Q Inc. at \$2,677,020; Stop and Shop Supermarket Co. at \$2,336,040; S&S Worldwide Inc. at \$1,610,590; Hillandale Farms Conn. LLC at \$1,579,640; MJ Electric LLC at \$1,440,090; Michael J. Beebe at \$866,520; Richard P. Baldi Jr. at \$749,880; International Cordage East Ltd. at \$734,030; and Cellco Partnership at \$725,190.

* * *

Property owners who wish to appeal their assessment must file a written appeal to the Board of Assessment Appeals on the prescribed Board of Assessment Appeals application. The application, found at tinyurl.com/gvmfq72 under "Board of Assessment Appeals Application," must be in the assessor's office at Town Hall at 127 Norwich Ave. on or by Feb. 17.

Show Proves Hebron Really Does 'Got Talent'

by Geeta S. Sandberg

For the fourth year now, *Hebron's Got Talent* has brought together 10 local acts to showcase their talent for a good cause. And, for the third year in a row, I was present in the audience for what turned out – per usual – to be an entertaining evening.

Hebron's Got Talent is presented by Gilead Congregational Church, and the proceeds from the event benefit the children's scholarship programs at AHM Youth and Family Services and Hebron Parks and Recreation.

This year the event raised \$6,841, and Jennifer Sauer, chairperson of the Gilead Congregational Church Board of Missions shared, "The talent was incredible and the support from the Hebron community continues to astound me. ... To see the community come together that evening for such a special event was really a proud moment for me as a Hebron resident."

Meanwhile, Minister of Missions Stephanie Haines called the show "another great success!"

"We had a full house and the 'electric' and positive energy of the room could be felt by all who were in attendance," she said this week. "It was a meaningful night full of community spirit and I am so proud to be a part of this community that deeply values our children and their families. Truly, everyone 'won' at *Hebron's Got Talent* as we all shared our gifts with one another to support those children in our community who do not have the opportunity to develop their own gifts and talents due to financial constraints."

In other words, as Marlborough resident and event emcee Mark Dursin said at the beginning of the show, it's a "win-win-win-win" (being the 4th year of the show) because the proceeds go to a good cause, the winner walks away with a \$250 grand prize, all the acts get to display their talents, and the audience gets to be entertained!

Indeed, the show was an enjoyable way to spend Friday evening due to the 10 diverse acts that performed – which Dursin commented on this week.

"We had singers and dancers," he said, "but we also had a comedian, a pianist and a magician. We also had diversity in terms of ages: Peter Morse (the comedian) was in his 70s, but

some of the dancers were only 11. I think it's such a great reminder that you are never too young or too old to explore your talents."

Not to be overlooked, last week's show was also made enjoyable due to Dursin's emcee skills. What he brings to the table always varies a bit from year to year; this year he encouraged the audience to relax and "take a load off tonight" through a humorous song he composed and performed along with his son Alex on piano, and had a skit in the middle of the show that involved audience "plants" (including yours truly) who stood up and spoke – he never fails to get the audience laughing in between sets.

And as for the performers, I'm always impressed with how much talent is in the community. It's no surprise the three judges only ever have positive things to say to those who take to the stage – there are no Simon Cowell comments here!

This year, the judges who offered up that praise were Chris Ambrose, a retired educator with more than "a half century of viewing and listening to live theater and musical acts" under his belt; Caitlynn Lessard, representing last year's talent show winners, RHAM Youth Cheerleading; and country music singer and Colchester native Frankie Justin Lamprey as celebrity judge.

In the past, judges shared their comments but the audience selected the winner via an "Applause-o-Meter." Following last year's show, however, I'd written in my review for the *Rivereast* that while it's fun for the audience to be involved, relying solely on applause means winners might actually end up being selected via popularity as opposed to talent. Although I'm not suggesting I'm responsible for the change, I was happy to see this year that the selection method altered slightly: this time around, as well as offering their comments, the panel of judges also selected the top three acts – the audience was then able to pick the winner from the top three with their applause.

And that winner was RHAM High School junior Jonathan Farrington who sang the song "Mercy" by Shawn Mendes while performing on piano.

"I've never heard those pipes before! And I've heard you sing a lot," said Ambrose, who



The band Ugly Sweater Party performed last week as one of the 10 local acts during the fourth annual *Hebron's Got Talent*, an event presented by Gilead Congregational Church that raises money for the scholarship programs at AHM Youth and Family Services and Hebron Parks and Recreation – while also providing an entertaining evening for all in attendance.

knows Farrington from his involvement with AHM Summer Youth Theater. In fact, Farrington wasn't wholly unfamiliar to me either, as I first saw him when he played Barnaby Tucker in the 2015 performance of *Hello Dolly!* I thought he did great in that role, but I have to say he certainly seemed more self-assured during last week's performance.

"It was like an entirely different person," Ambrose continued. "And it was great, really great."

Meanwhile, Lamprey said of the singer, "What a great voice! Good song choice, really great tone – I really enjoyed that."

I, like the judges, was impressed with Farrington's performance and I thought he definitely deserved the win – I admit to screaming myself hoarse when it came time for voting.

Another one of my favorites was the tap dance team from Alyson's School of Dance in Colchester who kicked – or perhaps I should say "tapped" – things into high gear as the first

to perform, with their dance to "Salute" by Little Mix. I'm always amazed with this group of girls, who range in age from 11-22, and I think it's so great that they keep tap dancing relevant and make sure people know it's not only something you might find in a Broadway musical.

As for my husband, who's been involved with music practically his entire life, his favorites were Douglas Blinn, a 12-year-old who's been playing piano since kindergarten and absolutely blew us away when he performed Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," and 15-year-old Abbey Perrin, who played the guitar and performed an original – and fantastic – song called "Streetlight."

"If you're going straight on talent, these two are my favorites," my husband said.

Of course, I can't stress enough that I truly enjoyed everyone who performed – and am already looking forward to whatever next year brings!

Hebron Residents Approve Natural Gas Expansion

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The natural gas expansion proposed for the center of Hebron was officially approved last week, when the majority of residents who packed into Douglas Library for a town meeting voted in favor of the project, which will cost the town close to \$1.9 million.

Included in that amount is \$758,800 for the town's contribution toward the \$5,589,700 construction cost, along with \$1,081,541 in conversion costs. Coupled with \$20,000 in legal fees and \$9,659 in contingency, the total cost to the town for the expansion is \$1,870,000.

The conversion cost covers any necessary changes that will need to occur to make the equipment at the town buildings that will be switching to natural gas compatible with the utility. Also included in that number is \$264,000 in conversion costs for the RHAM middle and high schools, which will be paid back to the town through Region Eight's expected fuel savings.

The project will bring natural gas from a gate

station on East Street down through the center of town via around eight miles of pipeline and, along with RHAM, all of the town buildings along the route – the town office and the Horton House, Gilead Hill School, Hebron Elementary School, the Douglas Library, the Fire Department, and the Russell Mercier Senior Center – will be converted to natural gas. Residents and businesses in the area will also have the option to hook up to the pipeline, should they wish.

The project has been touted as positive as an economic booster for the town that will make Hebron a more desirable location for new businesses, as well as for the savings that will be realized from switching to the utility.

The town will pay CNG directly for Hebron's contribution toward the construction cost, and will borrow a short-term note in the amount of \$1,112,000 to pay for the rest of the project; over the 10-year payback period, the town is estimated to receive \$2,551,640 from Connecticut Natural Gas through taxes on the pipeline

and anticipated energy savings; the expected annual energy savings from using natural gas versus heating oil have been calculated at around \$135,000.

For some, however, those positives didn't outweigh what they considered the negatives.

To resident Gil Salk, the financial benefits were based on the "very shaky" assumption natural gas would save the town money; he said that "once the costs of remediating environmental damage caused by fracking are factored in," prices were likely to go up.

In addition, Salk said he objected to the town spending nearly \$2 million "on an infrastructure which commits us to polluting fossil fuel. Gas is only 'clean' when compared to coal or oil..."

But to resident Richard Marzi, the project would put Hebron "in a great position to market itself for economic growth by having improved public utilities in the town center, and will be more effective in managing fuel costs

for town buildings."

Town Manager Andrew Tierney was quite pleased the proposal passed, saying this week, "It was a long process. I was pretty confident that it would prevail; I think overall the benefits outweigh the negatives, so I'm very happy that we're moving forward."

He added the developers of the senior living community being built on John Horton Boulevard were "ecstatic the town approved this project, it'll make their life a lot easier as they're continuing to build."

Now that the project has been approved, Tierney said the town would be going out to bid for the equipment conversions, and was waiting for contracts to be sent over from CNG to sign.

In addition, he said CNG "is already obtaining permits from [the Department of Transportation] for the pipeline installation... we hope to start digging at the end of March or early April."

Police Respond to Bizarre Incident at Portland Church

by Elizabeth Regan

Those attending Sunday Mass at the Church of Saint Mary were alarmed when someone stood up in front of the congregation and began an unintelligible monologue in what some falsely perceived as Arabic.

The Rev. Paul Boudreau said the young man got up from his seat during the early part of the 8 a.m. Mass and stepped onto the altar platform, where he began to speak quickly and at length about the blessings in his life.

It became clear to Boudreau that the man was experiencing "an uncontrolled moment" as part of a psychiatric disorder, the priest said.

"But because of the size of the church and the rapidity of his speech, many in the assembly couldn't hear him. They only heard the sound of his voice," Boudreau recounted in an email on Monday. "Evidently that gave rise to the rumor that he was shouting in Arabic. He wasn't shouting and there was no Arabic. There was nothing religious or political in what he said. He was just somebody with a psychiatric

disorder who was having a bad day."

Boudreau said he did not believe the man was a regular attendee at the church, though he had seen him there a few times.

The unexpected sermon caused some parents to briefly leave the room with their young children, while a "posse" of male parishioners gathered around the man, according to Boudreau.

"I put my arm around him to comfort him and spoke into his ear that everything was going to be all right," Boudreau explained. "I took the opportunity to carefully pat him down and found that he was only carrying a cell phone and his wallet. He didn't seem to mind."

After the man continued to speak despite Boudreau's request for him to wrap it up, the priest backed away to make room for reinforcements.

"By this time the man had wrapped himself around the handrail and the men were having a hard time prying him loose. Now it became my job to curb the enthusiasm of a couple of the

parishioners who were getting a little overly rambunctious. We needed to be patient and not hurt the guy," Boudreau said. "Eventually they carried him out."

Portland Police Lt. Ron Milardo said officer D.J. Brown was the first to arrive when law enforcement was called. Brown found the man apologetic and aware that what he had done was wrong, according to Milardo, who soon joined his fellow officer at the scene.

Police called for an ambulance, to take the man to Middlesex Hospital for evaluation. However, as officer were about to put the man into the ambulance, he broke away.

"He made it inside the church, where he was subdued by myself and Officer Brown in the entryway," Milardo said. "Again, he was talking extremely loud and extremely fast."

Milardo said the young man was handcuffed and brought back to the ambulance, which took him to Middlesex Hospital for evaluation. No charges were filed.

"At no point did he make any type of threats – any type of religious threats or regular threats – toward anyone there," Milardo said.

Boudreau emphasized the man delivered his message of gratitude in perfect English, albeit in a rambling and frenetic manner.

"As Christians, we hold fast to the teachings of Jesus. The Gospels repeat over and over again not to be afraid. Sometimes the fears we harbor cause us to see things that aren't there," Boudreau said.

He said there was nothing in the situation that indicated ill will or malicious intent.

Still, the gravity of the morning's events was evident more than two hours later, as Boudreau performed the second Mass of the day. That's when a child accidentally dropped a hymn book on the floor, startling the congregation.

"If I had jumped any higher, they would have had to scrape me off the ceiling," Boudreau said. "So the energy of fear was still in me, as it was in a lot of people."

Portland Ordinance Would Ban Unsolicited Newspapers, Ads

by Elizabeth Regan

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance that would make it illegal for anyone to drop off free newspapers and advertising materials in residents' yards without their consent.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said last week that the issue stems from customer service issues with the *Hartford Courant*. She said several residents asked the company to stop delivering unsolicited advertising circulars but did not get the response they were looking for until the town stepped in.

"I think they have stopped [delivery] once my office has sent the email or made the telephone call, but it shouldn't be that way," she said.

The offending circulars are tossed in plastic bags onto private property – both inhabited and vacant – by delivery vehicles, according to Bransfield.

"There have been valiant attempts by landowners to have the circulars, let's call them – it's not a newspaper, it's advertising material – to not be thrown in their front yard," she said. "In terms of public safety, there are some residents who, for whatever reason, may not be in their house and then they have 10 or 15 of them in their front yard. It's not a safe thing."

But the draft ordinance clearly applies to both "advertising matter" and "newspapers" and

specifies that nobody can leave either one on any private properties without the permission of "the owner or other person in control of such premises."

The ordinance specifies a \$100 fine for each separate offense.

The draft does not apply to material sent through the United States Postal Service, like the *Rivereast*, or when distribution is required by federal, state or local regulations.

The language of the Portland draft was borrowed from a document under consideration in northwestern Connecticut. Burlington First Selectman Theodore Shafer said his town's proposed ordinance was vetted by legal counsel and presented at a public informational session, but has not yet been approved.

Shafer said residents have been unhappy ever since a local weekly shopping guide started getting delivered by carriers instead of through the postal system. He described it as an environmental and public works nuisance.

He said similar complaints are emerging regarding delivery of *Hartford Courant* circulars as well.

The website for the town of Burlington now includes customer service numbers for both publications that residents can call to opt out of delivery.

According to the *Providence Journal*, a January hearing on a similar draft ordinance in Rhode Island's capital city was continued to give officials time to address legal issues.

Like the proposal in Portland, the Providence ordinance would prohibit the delivery of printed materials to residents who have not opted to receive them, according to the *Journal*. Unlike in Portland, though, the Providence proposal only applies to "for-profit" companies.

The language met with opposition from the Rhode Island Press Association, the New England First Amendment Coalition and the American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island.

In written testimony to the Providence City Council, the coalition described the distribution of literature – or pamphleteering – as a deeply-rooted tradition in the United States.

"It promotes an informed citizenry, encourages political discourse and is perhaps the most effective and cost-efficient way for people to communicate with other residents," the coalition wrote. "To this day, community newspapers, as well as non-profit organizations, political campaigns and others, rely on pamphleteering."

The first amendment advocates cited a 1999 case in which the Georgia Supreme Court found

that a ban on the distribution of free printed materials to yards, driveways or porches was unconstitutional. They also pointed to a 1998 case in Illinois that decided the first amendment rights of newspapers outweighed the risk of litter.

Bransfield said she has not yet spoken with the town attorney on this issue, but would do so before approving such a measure.

"I think the intent is to get some noise moving on it, and maybe they'll find a better way to deliver it that's cleaner and neater," she said.

In a statement from the *Hartford Courant*, publisher and editor-in-chief Andrew S. Julien said the company "is prepared to directly address the issues raised recently in Portland on a case-by-case basis and we are reaching out to town officials to help expedite that process."

Bransfield said she spoke with staff from the *Courant* on Wednesday. The company will be sending a representative to the public hearing and to speak with the Board of Selectmen.

Bransfield will also post the *Hartford Courant* customer service number on the town website, portlandct.org, for those who want to opt out of delivery.

The public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 15, in the Portland Public Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

100 Wins for PHS Wrestler

by Elizabeth Regan

Two-time state high school wrestling champion Rodric Grant has amassed 100 wins as he works toward his third championship title.

The Portland High School senior joined the unofficial but prestigious century club when he pinned Oneil Diaz of Griswold High School in .59 seconds at the third annual Highlander Tournament last month, according to wrestling coach Drew DeBowsky.

Grant will go for his third consecutive state title on Feb. 17.

"He's really embraced the sport of wrestling for sure, right as a freshman," DeBowsky said. "He just has amazing balance and instinct in wrestling. He pushes himself to learn new technique all the time and advance himself to keep a competitive edge."

DeBowsky said reaching the 100-win milestone is so difficult because it requires consistency from the very beginning.

Averaging 25 wins per season is "pretty tough to do in a sport like wrestling," according to DeBowsky.

"It all starts in the practice room. I try to push it as hard as I can in there, and then it'll show itself on the mat," the 152-pound wrestler said.

He began wrestling his freshman year with no prior experience.

Grant, who has been accepted to the University of Hartford, plans to study biology in college. Since there is no wrestling program there, his sports career is likely to end at Portland High School.

"It's going to be hard leaving it," Grant said. "It's been kind of a routine, to go in the practice room right after school."

DeBowsky said a grueling schedule of practices, meets and tournaments has helped forge

a strong bond among the team's 11 wrestlers, including two from East Hampton High School.

Even though the season spans the winter holidays, there are no breaks for the team.

"We're always working and always staying sharp, which is important for this sport," DeBowsky said. "You can't take days off if you want to be a champion. You have to make sure you're always working somehow, whether you're doing conditioning and strength training or working on drilling your techniques."

The coach said another source of motivation comes from competing at higher-level tournaments than the team's small size might suggest.

That means a lot of Grant's 100 wins have been against wrestlers from teams much larger than Portland's.

"We do all that in preparation for guys like Rod, who are performing at a championship level, to make sure they're getting pushed throughout the season and that they're not just getting easy wins against small schools," DeBowsky said.

While Grant will not be continuing in the sport after high school, he will be taking with him life lessons learned on the wrestling mat.

"It taught me that whatever you put into it, you'll see you get out of it," he said.

Grant, whose record is currently 15-8, said he's feeling confident going into the state tournament next week. Senior Austin Rambarose, with a 25-3 record, is also poised to compete for the championship.

According to DeBowsky, having standouts like Grant and Rambarose helps the whole team.

"To see somebody from a small town and a small school like this being able to be a state champion should make them believe that they can do it too," DeBowsky said.



Portland High School senior Rodric Grant, pictured here with wrestling coach Drew DeBowsky, has earned 100 wins in his four-year career. The milestone is comparable to a basketball player scoring 1,000 points.

Marlborough Woman Arrested, Smashes Cruiser Windshield

by Geeta S. Sandberg

A Marlborough resident was arrested last week after an altercation — and wound up kicking the windshield of a police cruiser, state police said.

Sara Seagrave, 32, of 12 Odgen Lord Rd., Marlborough, was charged with second-degree criminal mischief, breach of peace, simple trespass, and interfering with an officer as a result of the incident Feb. 2, that occurred at Greenleaf Café,



Sara Seagrave

47 Main St.

According to police, troopers from Troop K were dispatched just after 9 p.m. in response to a report of an unruly female who was yelling and being disruptive. However, Seagrave left prior to the arrival of police, and no one wished to press charges.

Then, about an hour later, police said Seagrave returned and once again became disruptive, pushing a man; the man was uninjured, police said.

Seagrave was taken into custody and placed in the front seat of a state police cruiser; after being seated in the cruiser for a few minutes, police said Seagrave kicked the windshield and smashed it.

She is due in Rockville Superior Court Feb. 20.

Colchester Police News

2/3: State Police said Jeffrey S. Frazer, 45, of 240 Lebanon Ave., was arrested and charged with violation of probation/conditional discharge.

2/4: Colchester Police said Mary E. Anderson, 23, of 24 S. Main St., East Hampton, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to drive right.

2/4: Colchester Police are investigating a reported theft at the Stop and Shop on 99 Linwood Ave., which occurred at approximately 2:48 p.m. According to the store's asset protection personnel, the theft included \$688 worth of meat, seafood and laundry products. They said the person responsible for the theft drove an older model, black Ford Ranger pickup truck with a taped-over plastic driver's side

window and no registration plates. This is an active investigation.

2/4: State Police said Tracy Moura, 48, of 50 Carriage Dr., Lebanon was arrested for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and improper parking. The following day, on Feb. 5, while in custody, Moura was also charged with third-degree criminal mischief and interfering with an officer.

2/4: State Police said Evangeline J. Olayon, 54, of 33 Hillsdale Rd., Amston, was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

2/5: State Police said Brett Opalenik, 28, of 35 Hickory Rd., was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief, disorderly conduct and third-degree assault.

Andover Police News

2/3: State Police said at approximately 11:36 p.m., they responded to a report of a theft at the Mobil gas station at 497 Route 6. According to the store clerk, an unknown male entered the store and stole two cartons of Newport cigarettes before he fled the scene in a silver Lexus heading westbound on Route 6. The case is currently under investigation.

Hebron Police News

1/30: State Police said Cody M. Houston, 19, of 59 Cannon Dr., Amston, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol, failure to drive in the proper lane of a multiple lane highway, possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use, possession of alcohol by a minor.

East Hampton Police News

1/22: Denis Roussel, 51, of 35 Viola Dr., was issued a summons for insufficient insurance, East Hampton Police said.

1/24: Mitchell David Anderson, 26, of 24 S. Main St., turned himself in pursuant to an active warrant, and was charged with second-degree assault, first-degree reckless endangerment and disorderly conduct, police said.

1/27: Allen A. Moreau, 52, of 11 Brendi Tr., Columbia, was arrested and charged with failure to drive right, operating under the influence and drinking while driving, police said.

1/28: Zachary B. D'Amico, 18, of 67 Westwood Ln., Middletown, was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

Portland Police News

1/27: Harold Bradshaw, 47, of 134 Coleman Rd., Wethersfield, was charged with third-degree larceny, and third-degree trespassing, Portland Police said.

1/30: Richard Barbely, 49, of 2 Whitney Lane, Glastonbury, was charged with first-degree criminal mischief and second-degree stalking, police said.

1/30: Porter McAuliffe, 34, of 15 Taylor Drive, was charged with sixth-degree larceny, first-degree forgery and credit card theft, police said.

1/31: Rahul Mahey, 20, of 24 Oak Leaf Drive, Colchester, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, p

Marlborough Police News

1/30: State Police said Ashley M. Labonte, 28, of 57 Johnson Rd., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

2/5: State Police said Edward J. Edele, 42, of 14951 Walding Springs Way, Jacksonville, Fla., was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to obey a stop sign.

Obituaries

Portland

Thomas Francis Daley

Thomas Francis Daley, 81, of Portland, beloved husband of Catherine (Donahue) Daley passed away Tuesday, Jan. 31. Tom was born in Middletown, son of the late Harold and Grace (Corby) Daley.

Tom was a graduate of Middletown High School and a U.S. Army veteran. Tom worked for the State of Connecticut, DOT for many years, first as an engineer and later as an alcohol and drug counselor. Tom was a devoted Friend of Bill's. Upon retiring from DOT, Tom became a marshal at the Middletown courthouse. He was a communicant of St Francis of Assisi Parish in Middletown.

Tom was a lifelong lover of all dogs, particularly Daschunds; he owned many over the years.

Besides his wife Catherine, Tom is survived by his brother Gerald (Diane) Daley of Middletown; sisters Judith (John) Benson of Tolland and Agnes Franks of Georgia; also, his sister-in-law Marie Daley of Middletown. He also leaves many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brother James and his sister Adele McDonough.

Cathie wants to acknowledge and thank their special friend Wladyslawa Szewczyk for her kindness in caring for Tom over the last years.

Tom's funeral liturgy was held Tuesday, Feb. 7, at St. Francis Church in Middletown. Burial with full military honors was at the State Veteran's Cemetery in Middletown. Calling hours were Monday, Feb. 6, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown.

Memorial contributions in Tom's memory may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit, Department of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 or St. Francis of Assisi Church, 10 Elm St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

Hebron

Franciszek S. Herzog

Franciszek (Frank) Stefan Herzog, 85, of Hebron, passed away peacefully Friday, Feb. 3. He was born in Poland in 1931, the third son in a military family, and lived there until, with his father away during the war, he was deported to Siberia along with his mother and brothers.

After the death of his mother, and the loss of his father in the Katyn Massacre, the two younger brothers found themselves taken in by a Polish orphanage in India, where they lived for five years. Eventually the three brothers reunited in England, where Frank met the love of his life, his wife of 60 years, Kamila (Mikucka). They had a daughter, Ivona, and remained in England while he pursued a career in electrical engineering. In 1969, this brought him to the USA, when he was offered a position with Northeast Utilities where he worked until his retirement.

He was also very active in Polish Scouting for most of his life, joining during his days in India and later becoming a leader, organizing and running camps for young scouts for 37 years, eventually holding one of the highest positions nationwide within the organization. In more recent years he scaled back his involvement, but his heart was ever a part of it and he continued those ties unto the end.

Besides his wife and daughter, Ivona Verbeke and her husband, he is survived by his grandchildren, Stephen Verbeke, Cassie Skobrak and her husband John and Greg Verbeke, along with nieces and nephews in England.

He was predeceased by his brothers, Waclaw and Tadeusz.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, Feb. 7, in the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Hebron. Calling hours were Monday evening, Feb. 6, at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Polish Scouting Organization may be sent to A. Stachowiak, 39 Pulaski St., New Britain, CT 06053.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.



Portland

Leo Lemieux

Leo Lemieux, 72, of Portland, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving family, Sunday, Feb. 5, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Leo was born in Riverside, Calif., to Leo and Minnie (Cornelis) Lemieux, where his father was stationed in the military. He attended Middletown schools, including Vinal Tech. He was a communicant of St. Francis of Assisi Church. Leo started his meat-cutting career at First National in Portland at the age of 20 and retired from Stop and Shop after 43 years.

Leo and his wife loved to travel during their 53 years of marriage. Traveling out west was their favorite destination. He also enjoyed golfing, which included a trip to Myrtle Beach with his son Tom. His favorite pastime was riding his Harley.

Leo is survived by his wife, Darlene (Distefano) Lemieux; sons, Kenneth Lemieux of Mystic, Thomas Lemieux and his wife Andrea of Middletown; six grandchildren, Erikka and her husband Gage, Mikaela, Madison, Mason, Peyton and Raegan; sisters, Julia Murray and her husband Robert of Franklin, Pa., Joan Tuthill of Middletown; as well as special sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law. He will miss our family friend, Rick Gilbert, his loving caregiver, Yolanda Jones, and his kitty "Muffy."

He was predeceased by his brother, David Lemieux.

The family would like to give a special thank you to all the caring staff and volunteers on the seventh floor at Middlesex Hospital.

Calling hours will be held today, Feb. 10, from 4-6 p.m., followed by a service at 6 p.m., at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St. Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Weiss Hospice Unit c/o Dept. of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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



Portland

Nancy Thompson

Nancy (Bielefeld) Thompson, 84, of Portland, wife of the late Harold P. Thompson, passed away Monday, Jan. 30, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Frederick, Jr. and Eunice (Brazos) Bielefeld.

Nancy graduated Woodrow Wilson High School, Class of 1950, Morse College, and Hillyer College, both in Hartford. She worked for Robert B. Brainard Insurance Agency for fifteen years and was the bookkeeper and office manager at Middletown Plate Glass Company from 1980 to 2014. Nancy was active in the Buick Club of America, including the Yankee Chapter, Minuteman Chapter and the Nutmeg Chapter.

Nancy is survived by her son, John W. Roberts of Portland; two daughters, Deborah A. Walden and her husband John of Portland and Karen E. Ford and her husband, Steven of Hebron; two brothers, Richard Bielefeld and his wife, Kathy of Franconia, N.H., and Donald Bielefeld and his wife, Patricia, of Petaluma, Calif.; five grandchildren, Jeremiah J. Walden, Jillian A. Walden, John Ford, Justin Ford and Dylan K. Ford; seven great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Along with her husband and parents, Nancy was predeceased by her brother, Peter Bielefeld.

Nancy's family would like to say a special 'thank you' to Middlesex Oncology, especially Dr. Michael Kazakoff and Dr. Michael Farrell and the Middlesex Hospice Unit for the wonderful care and support.

A graveside service will be held today, Feb. 10, at 11 a.m., in the Swedish Cemetery, located on the corner of High and Williams streets in Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Nancy's memory may be made to Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, 103 Vision Way, Bloomfield, CT 06002 or Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38101-9908.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, visit doolittlefuneralservice.com.

East Hampton

John Edward Brooks

John Edward Brooks, 83, of East Hampton, beloved husband of 45 years to Shirley (Gifford) Lawton Brooks, died Thursday, Feb. 2, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Aug. 6, 1933, in Bennington, VT., he was the son of the late William and Mary (Walsh) Brooks.

John grew up in Vermont and had lived in East Hampton for 44 years. John proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, where he was a helicopter mechanic. He was retired from Pratt & Whitney after 38 years of service.

John was a member of the Elks Club in Westbrook, a member of the Chatham Historical Society and a season-ticket holder to the Goodspeed Opera House. John loved the outdoors and camping. He was a loyal UConn women's basketball fan and a fan of the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, Kevin Lawton and his wife Martha of East Hampton; a daughter, Marilyn Drenzo and husband Robert of Pennsylvania; a sister, Mary Hubbard of New York; and a grandson, Benjamin Lawton of East Hampton.

He was predeceased by a daughter, Kathleen Lawton, and several siblings.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday, Feb. 6. Burial will be private in St. Jerome Cemetery in Manchester, Vt., in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Chatham Historical Society, c/o Sandy Doran, 60 Colchester Ave., East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Phyllis L. Tucker

Phyllis L. Tucker, 86, of West Hartford, widow of late husband Leo L. Tucker, passed away Friday, Jan. 6, at Hebrew Healthcare. Born in Washington, Maine, Sept. 19, 1930, the daughter of the late Leroy and Edith (Mears) Light, and lived in East Hampton for 40 years.

In 1948, she graduated from East Hartford High School and married. She became an LPN in 1974, where she worked in various nursing fields: psychiatric, geriatrics and hospice, for 25 years.

She is survived by four daughters, Elaine Siena of Portland, Irene Yocum of Rocky Hill, Mary Ashurst of New Port Richey, Fla., and Faye Boulton of Hartford, and their husbands, John, Mike, Tom and Henry; two sisters, Gloria Gagnon of Glastonbury and Lyla Tessier of Port Saint Lucie, Fla.; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by three sons, Michael Tucker, Thomas Tucker and Ralph Tucker; her brothers, Wesley Light, Frank Light and Richard Light; one sister, Faye Aekus.

A private memorial service was held at Hebrew Healthcare, One Abrahms Blvd., West Hartford, on Wednesday, Jan. 11.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to American Heart Association, heart.org, or Cancer Fund Research, cancerresearch.org.

East Hampton

Gerard D. Stano

Gerard D. Stano, 82, of East Hampton, passed away Monday, Feb. 6, at Middlesex Hospital. Born on March 17, 1934, in Leechburg, Pa., Jerry worked for Mazzota & Sons until his retirement. He enjoyed fishing, gardening and feeding the birds.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Stano; four sons and their wives – Jerry and Debbie Stano, Joseph and Connie Stano, Nathan and Bette Stano, and Eric Stano; a brother and sister; 13 grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

No services will be held.

Amston

Anna Raymond

Anna (Olubowic) Raymond, of Amston, passed away peacefully surrounded by love at home Sunday, Feb. 5. Born Aug. 3, 1931, in Colchester, she was the daughter of the late Kazimier and Benedykta (Dyczewska) Olubowic.

Anna grew up in Colchester and graduated from Bacon Academy.

She was the loving wife to her late husband, Douglas R. Raymond (who predeceased her June 1, 1996); devoted mother to their three sons, Douglas Raymond of Colchester, John Raymond of Norwich and William Raymond of Amston; and daughter, Gene Turner of East Haddam; doting grandmother of seven and great grandmother to several.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her son, Douglas Raymond; seven siblings: brother, Steven Olubowic, and six sisters, Katherine Raymond, Stella Bashiloff, Benedykta Wilcox, Patricia Lambert, Leona Butova and Helen Churney.

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.