

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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**ALS Diagnosis...** The Turkington family of Colchester is looking for community support to help raise money for 37-year-old Matt Turkington (far right), husband to Kelly (far left) and father to Cole and Layla. Matt was diagnosed with ALS last year – a disease which has no cure. See related story on page 25.

## Tri-Town Foods Robbed at Gunpoint

by Elizabeth Regan

A Portland man is facing a bevy of charges after a Tuesday night armed robbery at Tri-Town Foods during which he rounded up employees, forced them into the office area and directed them to fill his backpack with money, according to police.

The situation was resolved with no injuries through what First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield called heroism by responding officers.

Portland Police Department Lt. Ron Milardo said the 911 call came in around 9 p.m. A woman in the parking lot, who was there to pick up her son from work, reported a masked man was robbing the market at gunpoint.

Jayquan Swain, 21, of 35 Chatham Court, was wearing a mask when he entered the market with a gun as the manager was locking the front door for the night, Milardo said.

Portland police were the first to arrive, according to Milardo. They surrounded the building and communicated the situation to reinforcements coming in from the Middletown Police Department, East Hampton Police Department, and the Con-

necticut State Police.

There were 25-30 officers on the scene, Milardo estimated.

After Swain made the manager and employees stuff the cash in his backpack, he left the market through a back door, Milardo said. That's where the lieutenant took the suspect to the ground.

"During the apprehension, a brief struggle ensued and a Taser was deployed," Milardo said.

The weapon, which had been stolen from Middletown earlier that day, was recovered along with the bag of money, according to Milardo.

Swain was arrested and processed at the Middletown Police Department, Milardo said. He was charged with first-degree kidnapping, first-degree robbery, first-degree



Swain

See Robbed page 2

## RHAM Mourns Loss of Popular Teacher

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The RHAM community is mourning the loss of one of its own, after news spread Wednesday that high school teacher Andrej Cavarkapa had passed away following an accident last week.



Cavarkapa

Cavarkapa, 30, of West Hartford, was struck by a car while he was out jogging Wednesday, Jan. 25.

According to police, Cavarkapa was jogging west on Asylum Avenue in West Hartford last Wednesday evening when he was hit by a car driven by Khang Nguyen, 19, of South Windsor, who was traveling South on Trout Brook Drive.

Police said the traffic lights and walk signals were working properly at the time of the accident, and witnesses said the traffic traveling southbound at the time of the accident had a green light.

Cavarkapa appeared to have jogged into

the path of the car, police stated.

Nguyen was uninjured, but Cavarkapa was transported to Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford with critical injuries.

According to an update posted on the GoFundMe page set up for donations to help with Cavarkapa's medical bills, on Monday Cavarkapa was said to have been moving his fingers and toes a little, and was responding to pain. Doctors determined he was eligible for a craniotomy to relieve pressure in his skull, and he was reported as sedated and stable following the procedure that afternoon.

However, West Hartford Police Captain Jeffrey Rose confirmed Cavarkapa passed away Tuesday, Jan. 31. He said Wednesday the investigation was ongoing, but there was nothing further to add.

"We offer our deepest condolences to the family," he stated. "It was a tragic accident."

In a message alert sent to the RHAM community about 1 p.m. Wednesday, High School Principal Scott Leslie wrote, "It is with great sadness that we inform the RHAM community that RHAM physics teacher Andrej Cavarkapa passed away... We will have counselors available to sup-

port our students and staff. Please join me in sending prayers and condolences to Andrej's family, friends and loved ones."

Along with counselors, Leslie added he hoped to bring therapy dogs to the school to help students and staff cope with the teacher's passing.

Known fondly as "Mr. C," Cavarkapa taught chemistry, biology and physics at the school for the last five years, and Leslie shared what inspired him most about the young teacher was how he developed during that time.

"When he started with us," Leslie recalled, "he had the unfortunate situation of being certified in physics, chemistry, and biology, so we had him teaching everything. We needed him – but that's hard [teaching all three subjects]. And he developed over the last five years into just a remarkable teacher. For me, that was what I found most inspiring: his growth as a teacher and how confident he became and how he was able to connect with kids."

Leslie added Cavarkapa "was able to take all those kids and kind of create enthusiasm [for the subjects] with a positive classroom environment. He was also involved

in everything else; he volunteered his time to help out coaches, and was often front and center in the pep rallies. He was a real spirited member of the RHAM community."

The impact Cavarkapa made can be seen in part by the messages that can be found on, and the donations made to, the GoFundMe campaign. The campaign garnered over \$26,000 in just six days – surpassing the \$25,000 goal – and Leslie noted many of those donations were from students.

Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski also shared his thoughts on Cavarkapa this week, saying, "He was a great teacher and a wonderful young man, somebody who was able to relate to his students through some pretty difficult subjects – physics and chemistry – and he also taught biology. It's a great loss for the RHAM community."

Siminski continued, "It's especially tragic because he was just at the beginning of a brilliant career, and was the type of guy who related well to kids, and always had a smile on his face."

As of Thursday morning, an obituary and funeral details for Cavarkapa were not yet available.

**Robbed cont. from Front Page**

larceny, second-degree unlawful restraint, second-degree threatening, possession of a stolen firearm, carrying a dangerous weapon and criminal use of a weapon.

Swain was also booked on charges related to a November incident in Middle-town involving risk of injury to a child, third-degree assault, second-degree unlawful restraint and disorderly conduct, according to the state judicial branch website.

Swain was held on a \$75,000 bond prior to a Wednesday morning appearance at Middlesex Superior Court. He remains in custody, the state judicial branch website said.

On Wednesday evening, Bransfield presented a commendation to Milardo and officer Paul Liseo for their role in the apprehension, as well as the rest of the department for their work on

the investigation.

Milardo, a full-time officer in Portland for 32 years, thanked the selectmen for the recognition before turning to the officers lined up next to him.

“I really want to thank our department,” he said. “Our guys came together as a team. They did a great job. They showed up, they did what they needed to do.”

He also credited East Hampton and the Connecticut State Police – and especially the dozens of officers from Middletown whom he said converged on the scene within five minutes.

But in the end, it came back to the Portland Police Department and the sense of teamwork he said dominates their job every day.

“I can’t say enough about our department,” Milardo said.

## Hebron Resident Nominated for State Supreme Court

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The same week that President Donald Trump announced his pick for the U.S. Supreme Court, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy announced a Supreme Court pick of his own.

Malloy said this week he was nominating Hebron resident Gregory D’Auria to serve on the Connecticut Supreme Court as an associate justice.

D’Auria’s nomination will be forwarded to the General Assembly for confirmation; if confirmed, he’ll fill a spot left vacant after previous Associate Justice Peter T. Zarella retired in December.

Malloy’s announcement was made Wednesday, Feb. 1, with the governor saying in a press release, “Greg has distinguished himself as a talented appellate lawyer on behalf of Connecticut, serving in the Attorney General’s Office and advocating for the best interests of the people of our state on a variety of critical matters.”

Malloy added, “I am pleased to nominate Greg to the Supreme Court and I am confident that his history of public service will continue with distinction on the bench.”

D’Auria graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1985 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, and from the UConn School of Law in 1988 where he also served as

editor-in-chief of the *Connecticut Journal of International Law*.

His experience includes more than 23 years working in the Office of the Attorney General in a variety of roles, including Associate General/Solicitor General, a position he’s held since 2011. Before that D’Auria headed the Special Litigation and Charities unit, and served as Associate Attorney General for Litigation.

In 2009, D’Auria was also nominated and inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, a national organization which, according to the release, “works to advance the administration of justice and promote the highest standards of professionalism and advocacy in appellate courts.”

D’Auria said in the press release, “I am honored by and thankful to Governor Malloy for his trust in me. I have devoted much of my career to practicing before our state Supreme Court and understand fully the tremendous responsibility that accompanies this position.”

He added, “If the General Assembly confirms me, the Governor’s nomination will allow me the chance to continue to serve the state’s citizens, which has been my privilege during 23 years working for the Attorney General’s Office.”

troopers said Tobia eventually pulled into the Three Fellas parking lot and was transported by Marlborough Fire Department to Marlborough Clinic for complaints of chest and neck pain.

Manthorne’s vehicle had moderate damage to the rear passenger bumper, but she did not sustain any injuries, police said.

Tobia’s Honda, however, had an airbag deployment and extensive damage to the front, passenger, and driver’s side of the vehicle, and was subsequently towed to Northeast Auto, police said.

After being discharged from Marlborough Clinic, police said Tobia was arrested and charged with evading responsibility, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol, failure to drive at a reasonable distance, failure to obey a control signal, and operating a motor vehicle without a license.

## Massachusetts Man Charged with DUI in Hebron

by Julianna Roche

A Massachusetts resident was charged with driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol after he crashed into another car on Route 66 and fled the scene on Jan. 28.

According to police, at approximately 11:20 p.m., a Toyota Sienna XLE Limited driven by Christine Manthorne, 41, of 322 Jagger Ln., was traveling westbound on Route 66 when it stopped a red light at the intersection with Route 85.

Police said the Toyota began to roll forward to turn right when it was struck from behind by a Honda Fit driven by Stephen E. Tobia, 37, of 1655 Main St., Holden, Mass.

According to police, after colliding with Manthorne’s vehicle, Tobia subsequently continued on and evaded down Route 66 heading westbound, before being located by police driving through the center of Marlborough.

After turning on their lights and siren, state

*From the Editor’s Desk*

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Because President Trump – I don’t think I’ll ever get used to that – is, after all, America’s first reality TV host-turned-president, he made the announcement of his Supreme Court nominee a grand prime-time unveiling Tuesday night. It was a predictable pick: federal judge Neil Gorsuch, a conservative who’s actually a big fan of the late justice Antonin Scalia, whose vacancy Gorsuch would be filling.

Now comes the interesting part: to see if the Democrats will do anything to stop the appointment.

After all, Republicans spent the better part of a year shamefully refusing to even hold appointment hearings for Obama’s pick to replace Scalia, Merrick Garland. I don’t expect the Democrats to be so babyish as to refuse to go along with at least a hearing, but it’ll be interesting to see what they do when those hearings begin – and how many vote ‘no.’ For while simple majorities are needed to confirm Cabinet nominees, for the Supreme Court 60 ‘yes’ votes are required (which is as it should be; the appointments can last for several decades, after all). There are only 52 Republicans in the Senate, meaning some Democrats will need to cross the aisle to confirm Gorsuch.

I’m hoping the Democrats will at least fight. I’m not even necessarily saying they should block his confirmation; while I have my reservations about the man, as I write this Tuesday night I don’t know enough about Gorsuch to definitively say one way or the other he shouldn’t be on the Supreme Court. But I just hope the Democrats don’t simply roll over and play dead – something they’ve done a lot of over the years.

The Democrats have too long been the “nice guy” party, attempting to be polite and diplomatic while the Republicans were anything but – and who’s leading this country now? But perhaps Trump’s most recent actions – his horrid ban of immigrants from seven mostly-Muslim countries over the weekend, followed by his odious firing Monday of the acting attorney general after she dared to disagree with him – lit a fire under the Democrats’ butts; the Dems boycotted votes Tuesday on two of Trump’s cabinet picks, Steve Mnuchin’s nomination for Treasury Secretary, and Tom Price’s for Health and Human Services.

I got a kick out of Republican senator Pat Toomey whining that “We did not inflict this kind of obstructionism on President Obama.” Oh, you guys did, Senator. You did it a lot. Mitch McConnell was quite proud of that, in fact.

Like I said, the Democrats have played nice for far too long. For more than a dozen years, I’ve been frankly appalled at some of the actions of national Republicans, as they have shown time and time again there is no low to which they won’t sink. (And it’s important to qualify these as “national” Republicans. The ones I’ve encountered on the local and state level have been reasonable and pleasant far more often than not. It’s when they move up to the national level they all seem to get infected.)

The Democrats have tended to take the high road – when they go low, we go high, as Michelle Obama would say – and while on the one hand that’s admirable, on the other hand – where has that gotten them?

Watching the Democrats ask the tough questions of Trump’s cabinet picks, for example, only to turn around and vote ‘yes’ for them anyway reminds me of that school board or Town Council member who will object strenuously to a motion on the floor – and then, when the vote is called, quietly vote ‘yes’ anyway.

Now, like I said, cabinet picks require a simple majority, so a ‘no’ vote by the Democrats would be largely symbolic. But why not be symbolic?

It’s time to fight fire with fire – time to, as one *New York* columnist put it, stop bringing “a knife to the next four years of gunfights.” It’ll be interesting to see what approach the Democrats take with the rest of Trump’s cabinet picks – and with Gorsuch.

\* \* \*

The Super Bowl is, you may have heard, this coming Sunday. And here’s a cool local connection: some of you may recall that last year, we had a story about Hebron’s Theresa Oei, who had been chosen to be a New England Patriots cheerleader for the 2016 season.

So that means that, like Tom Brady & Co., Theresa is heading for Houston. She and her cheerleading comrades will be rooting the Pats to a hopeful victory.

Theresa, you may remember, has a full-time job as a scientist – specifically, she’s a researcher at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

But this Sunday she’ll be all about the Pats. So when you tune into the game – it starts at 6 p.m., on Fox 61 – be sure to keep an eye out for the cheerleaders on the sidelines. You just may spot one of Hebron’s own.

\* \* \*

Four years ago, Hebron resident Micaela Connolly lost her father Christopher to suicide. He had been a longtime English teacher at Glastonbury High School before retiring in 2010. This April, she will be running in the Boston Marathon to raise funds for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Micaela writes on her fundraising page at [crowdrise.com](http://crowdrise.com), “These funds will be used to improve programs for those who struggle, to educate the public and facilitate events that bring people together and get them talking, as well as for research and improvements in treatment, so that we may reduce the percentage of our loved ones who fall through the many cracks in our current mental health system.”

As part of Micaela’s fundraising efforts, there will be an event at the Manchester sandwich shop Pastrami on Wry next Monday, Feb. 6. On that day, a portion of all sales from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. will be donated to AFSP in Micaela’s name.

Being a Manchester resident, I’ve been to Pastrami on Wry several times – and let me tell you, it is a tasty, tasty place. Great breakfasts (and breakfast is served all day!) and delicious sandwiches and burgers for lunch and dinner. A meal there on Monday will make your taste buds happy – and it will benefit a great cause too. Pastrami on Wry is located at 291 East Center St. Be sure to stop by.

And to donate directly to Micaela’s cause, go to [crowdrise.com/team-afsp/fundraiser/micaelaconnelly](http://crowdrise.com/team-afsp/fundraiser/micaelaconnelly).

\* \* \*

See you next week.

## Colchester Police News

1/21: Colchester Police said at approximately 7:06 p.m., they received a report of an alleged theft of two iPhone 7s at the AT&T Cellular store on Linwood Ave. According to police, the complainant stated that an individual entered the store, ripped the cell phones off the wall and ran. The case is currently under investigation.

1/22: State Police said Ernesto Rodriguez, 35, of 30 Putnam Circle, Springfield, Mass. was arrested and charged with reckless driving and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol.

1/24: Colchester Police said at approximately 9:49 a.m., a victim living in a residence on West Road reported an unknown person had contacted her through multiple phone numbers and social media accounts, attempting to use blackmail for their personal gain. The case is currently under investigation.

1/24: Colchester Police said Brian W. Butler, 42, of 744 Deep River Rd., was arrested

and charged with risk of injury to a child, disorderly conduct, interfering with an emergency call, third-degree assault, and threatening.

1/25: State Police said at approximately 3:36 p.m., they responded to an alarm at the Valero Gas Station on 339 Old Hartford Rd. and are actively investigating a burglary that occurred there. Anyone with any information regarding this incident should contact Trooper Steven Loiler at 860-465-5400, extension 1284.

1/27: State Police said Luis A. Rivera, 24, of 1630 Main St., Apt. 1002, Hartford, was arrested and charged with two counts of illegal possession of a narcotic.

1/27: State Police said John R. Prout, 29, of 185 Pine St., Apt. 90, Manchester, was arrested and charged with illegal operation of motor vehicle under the influence.

1/27: State Police said Christopher Millette, 39, of 35 Grist Mill Rd., Moodus, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

# Osten, Green Address Marlborough Resident Concerns

by Julianna Roche

A small group of Marlborough residents braved the snowy weather Tuesday night to meet with state Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19th District) and state Rep. Robin Green (R-55th District) to voice their concerns and ask questions surrounding the looming legislative season.

The two legislators tackled issues related mostly to education and small businesses during the meeting. Osten is serving her third term in the senate, while Green was elected for the first time last November.

The informal meeting came on the heels of Osten's recent proposal of three bills which could potentially alter how superintendent contracts and evaluations are handled in school districts moving forward. (A full story about Osten's proposal appears on page 24 of this week's *Rivereast*.)

"A lot of boards of education around the state are doing verbal executive session [reviews of the superintendent] and I think it's right for people to have the ability to review that," Osten said, especially considering "it's usually the most expensive contract you have in a town."

Last month, *The Hartford Courant* had reported that approximately one-third of school boards evaluate their top school administrator in closed sessions without a written record.

One of Osten's bills would require that all administrative contracts of the Board of Education be filed with the town clerk, posted and

published, and subject to approval at a town meeting in the towns of that school district.

A second proposal, she furthered, would also grant small towns with small school districts, like Marlborough, the ability to eliminate the superintendent position altogether to help cut back costs.

"Small rural towns don't need superintendents," Osten said. "In my perspective, towns are looking to decrease expenses [so] I don't think we need management in schools as much as we need programs for children."

Resident Dave Porteous agreed and asked that Osten and Green "look at not cutting back on what schools are going to be getting in next year's budget."

"[We have gone] from a significant portion of the total cost of public education being paid by the state to a lesser and lesser and lesser amount," he continued, adding "we're getting squeezed at the local level more and more."

Porteous furthered that he believed it a "constitutional requirement that there be state support for good schools for our kids, as it's not only vital to them, but vital to the economy of the state, as is higher education."

Other residents agreed, with one stating that she and her partner moved to Marlborough from Bolton "to grow their family," and when they decide to have children, they want them to "have a great school system to go to."

"We don't want to see our tax dollars going to another town when they should be staying here and be going to our kids and our schools," she furthered.

Osten and Green next went on to discuss issues brought up by two small business owners in attendance, including Sadler's Restaurant owner Kevin Haggerty and Gary Bergeron, who owns Connecticut Trailers Inc. and Bolton Motors in Bolton.

"The smallest businesses have the highest taxes," Haggerty said. "There's no end in sight. ... Can we get some relief?"

Bergeron echoed Haggerty's sentiments, saying he paid over \$500,000 in taxes to the state this year.

"I compete with state employees," he said, adding that hiring and paying employees a reasonable wage is difficult because they can "just go to the state and get twice as much money and benefits."

Both Osten and Green (who owns a small business herself, Discovery Zone Learning Center) agreed that supporting small businesses' growth was important, with Osten adding they look for ways to accomplish that every year.

Osten also said that due to legislation she helped pass several years ago, workers compensation – "which is a major cost for small businesses" actually decreased by 12 percent

in the state across all classifications last year, according to the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI).

One of the final issues discussed during the meeting was related to providing better support to those with intellectual developmental disabilities.

One resident, who did not provide her name, said she moved to Marlborough in 2007 with a family member who had Down syndrome. When she was searching for residential facilities to move them into, the Department on Disability Services (DDS) told her there was a waiting list of 1,000 people and it would take 17 years for the family to make it up the list.

"These were older people [on the list] with disabilities, with parents who were elderly in their 80s and 90s," the woman stated.

Osten said the waiting list "now is worse" with no accurate number, and DDS saying "they can't do a 20-year plan" to help solve the problem.

Osten said another bill she is co-sponsoring would better serve persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities by developing a state-wide list for services and projecting needs 20 years into the future.

"Give us real numbers because there's no real reason not to," Osten said. "We need numbers to do planning."

## Groundbreaking Held for New Hebron Senior Community

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Construction on Colebrook Village, the new assisted living community that's coming to town, was kicked off with a groundbreaking ceremony last Thursday, Jan. 26.

The 113-unit, three-story senior living community on John E. Horton Boulevard marks the first major development in the Village Green District, a 130-acre parcel in the center of town owned by the Horton Brothers LLC. The area was rezoned in 2000 to mixed-use to encourage economic development in town, and town officials have been working to bring development to the area ever since.

According to information provided by the development partner, Optimus Senior Living LLC, the building will contain a mix of independent living units, assisted living units and memory care units.

Each independent unit will have a full kitchen, while the assisted living units will include a kitchenette; each bathroom will contain a shower with a grab bar and fold-down seat, grab bars at the toilet, and a call for aid system monitored 24/7.

Amenities in the community will include a chapel, barber shop/beauty salon, exercise and fitness rooms, a movie theater, a pub and billiards room, several activity rooms for arts and recreation, courtyards, patios, balconies on most upper floor units, and wireless Internet throughout the building. The facility will also include a state-of-the-art emergency call system and door security devices.

In a recent press release on the ground-breaking, Hebron Senior Living LLC along with Optimus said they were "excited to be the catalyst in bringing commercial development, tax revenues, and jobs to Hebron's picturesque downtown area."

The release furthered, "The continuum of care options of Colebrook Villages' three sto-

ries, consisting of varied apartment styles and an abundance of elegant amenities including dining rooms, chapel, theater, salon, pub, and fitness center, will serve area seniors who remain independent but interested in enhancing their lifestyles, seniors in need of personal care assistance, and a specialized neighborhood is being offered for seniors with memory loss."

Colebrook Village will offer full-service dining options, transportation, 24/7 on-site nursing, and certified personal care staff, along with a full-time exercise physiologist in the fitness center that, according to the press release, will be "specifically trained to assist residents who may have physical impairments and chronic medical conditions, to not just participate in robust exercise, but to reap its health benefits as well."

Meanwhile, the activities staff at Colebrook Village "will ensure that its chapel remains busy guiding residents to attend their spiritual wellness while the pub, theater, dining rooms and activity spaces will be kept busy promoting socialization and learning opportunities," the press release said. "The memory care neighborhood will offer Montessori-based programs which guide enrichment activities customized to each resident's capabilities."

Town Planner Mike O'Leary said the development may serve as an important "anchor" in the Village Green District that will create demand for some additional retail and services uses in the area.

In 2013, a market study was conducted to identify potential commercial uses that could be attracted to, or expanded upon, in town. O'Leary explained the study "recommended that one of the keys to economic development in the center would be to create some daytime population in and around the center which in turn would create the demand for additional retail uses." He added, "With the combination



**A groundbreaking ceremony was held last week for the new Colebrook Village assisted living community – the first major development in the Village Green District. A variety of town and state officials, as well as members of the project development team, attended the groundbreaking. Photo courtesy of Windham Region Chamber of Commerce.**

of residents, visitors, employees, etc., [Colebrook Village] would likely help to create that population and demand. In addition, this new development will provide a valuable residential option to seniors from Hebron and surrounding towns."

Similarly, Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Richmond called the development "a wonderful asset to have in the town."

"It appears they're going to partner well with the town. It's going to provide jobs, and I'm liaison to the senior center and over the last few weeks I've already had people asking about it, so it's going to be great."

Meanwhile, Town Manager Andrew Tierney

called the project "my baby" and said he was "very excited" construction was underway.

"We've been looking to get going on that road for a long time and I think it was worth the wait," he said. "I've seen towns where there's mixed-use development and it's kind of sporadic – this is a large anchor business that's going in there and hopefully now that it's broken ground it will attract other businesses to come into town into the area."

Colebrook Village is expected to be ready for occupancy in the spring of 2018, and premium pricing is being offered for those who reserve an apartment before opening.

# Municipal Hub Moves Closer to Reality in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

The Town Council is making up for lost time with the endorsement of the Edgewater Hill development on Route 66 as the location for a new town hall and police department, an innovative partnership that melds residential, commercial and municipal buildings in one development.

Councilors described the proposal as a “creative” response to an “extreme, immediate need.” The move comes on the heels of decades of complaints about the outdated, undersized, non-ADA-compliant and leaky town hall and police department at 20 East High St.

The proposal by Steven and Lisa Motto, of Edgewater Hill Properties LLC, includes the donation of a 5.4-acre parcel overlooking Route 66 for the new municipal complex. They told councilors they envision a 32,000-40,000 square foot building or buildings, depending on the town’s needs.

Steve Motto estimated the project would cost roughly \$15 million.

The full 59-acre development is located about 1.2 miles from the current town hall near the Marlborough border, is currently in phase one of a plan that will include restaurants, shops, offices, single-family homes, townhouses, condominiums and apartments to be constructed over the next decade.

The project is one with both public and private benefits, according to both sides.

According to Lisa Motto, putting the town hall campus on a flat, raised parcel within the development leaves space directly on Route 66 for commercial use.

“It’s our belief that’s one of the best remaining pieces along Route 66 for commercial development – and for tax revenue for the town,” she said.

And though it will be situated behind the businesses, it will be both accessible and visible from Route 66.

“It’s going to be sitting on a pedestal,” Steve

Motto said.

Edgewater Hill Properties will serve as project manager for a fee of 4 percent of the total project cost. The Mottos will work with a building committee appointed by the Town Council to iron out details related to size, scope and cost before the question goes to voters at referendum.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said Tuesday he expects the referendum will be held “well before the end of the year.”

For Town Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson, the project shows the Mottos’ connection to the community.

“We have a unique opportunity in that we know what their work looks like. We know their business ethics. We have good relationship with them. I really love their ideas,” Anderson said.

The town authorized a five-year tax incentive package to Edgewater Hill Properties in 2013 for the development’s initial phase. A daycare facility, real estate agency and 40 apartment units are now complete.

Steve Motto said a positive working relationship with the town, forged through his involvement in the Laurel Ridge and Edgewater Hill developments as well as a medical office building, convinced the couple to propose the property as the location for the new municipal hub.

The parcel is currently owned by George and Mary Loos, who have given the Mottos the right to acquire the land.

Steve Motto said he is removing 17 condominiums and probably one house from the original plan for the development in order to make room for the town hall complex.

Several councilors, including Kevin Reich, commented on the benefits of the location. Reich said employees and visitors will be able to take advantage of the various on-site commercial and leisure options while the whole town benefits from a bigger tax base.

“There’s nothing we need more than prime

real estate being taxed at a prime rate so that we can offer the services we want in this community that we can’t afford now based on the tax base that we have,” Reich said.

Others, like Ted Hintz Jr., worried the move would create a new downtown area that would serve as the last “nail in the coffin to the village center as we know it.”

Hintz has advocated for turning the century-old Center School into a municipal hub, an idea that was abruptly and unexpectedly nixed by five councilors in September when they refused to fund a \$250,000 feasibility study.

Preliminary estimates had put the Center School project cost at \$36.22 million to \$44.40 million.

Councilman Mark Philhower brought up 1,000 parcels he said have been authorized for new construction by the Planning and Zoning Commission but have not yet been built. If all of those approved lots turn into residences over the next 20 years, that could mean about 500 more students in the school system, he said.

It’s an influx the hundred-plus-year-old Center School cannot accommodate based on available space and the cost of renovation, according to Philhower. That means the Center School would likely be abandoned and the town would incur the cost of adding on to Memorial School.

Councilman Pete Brown responded that the issues at the current town hall and police department need to be resolved now.

“I’m not looking 20 years out. I’m looking 20 years back, [during] which I’ve heard we need a new town hall,” he said.

Brown didn’t buy the argument that the village center couldn’t withstand the competition, either.

“I don’t see this as the death of the center at all,” he said. “There’s viable property down there. We could do some creative things with somebody who wants to develop that property.”

Hintz was the lone ‘nay’ vote when council

member Melissa Engel motioned to accept the Edgewater Hill Properties proposal.

The Motto’s proposal was the highest-rated of eight location proposals submitted through a bid process and scored by town councilors. A nearby site owned by Ronald Wallace made it to the final round but did not generate as much enthusiasm as the Edgewater Hill property.

Ronald Wallace’s wife and project spokeswoman, Linda Wallace, said the couple was disappointed but remains optimistic they will find an appropriate use for the 7.85-acre property on Route 66 near Loco Perro Mexican Restaurant and Banquet Room.

“There’s other things we could look into. I’m even thinking that maybe down the road there’ll be a need for another fire department, especially with that area being so populated with the complex that’s going to be there,” Linda Wallace said.

For East Hampton Police Department Chief Sean Cox, the council’s decision was met with relief.

Cox has long complained about deteriorating conditions in the police station and the small facility’s inability to effectively accommodate its own officers and the public.

“A new facility will allow us to better serve our community, as it will offer the proper safe haven to victims seeking safety and comfort in their most desperate hours,” Cox said. “It will help our agency to better serve those members of our community who face physical challenges and hopefully, it will have space so we can have more positive interactions with our local youth, civic organizations and community groups.”

The council will meet next week to interview 13 candidates to fill the nine-member building committee charged with overseeing the project. The committee will also include three ex-officio members who can participate in meetings but cannot vote: the town manager, a Town Council member, and a Board of Finance member.

## How to Fix Center School Boiler in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

Efforts to fix Center School’s antiquated boiler system are gaining steam, though the Board of Finance and the Town Council have suggested different ways of going about it.

The council last week tabled the finance board’s resolution for a \$91,000 engineering study, instead voicing support for a \$30,000 repair project to buy time for a full replacement in 2018.

The boiler itself is 35 years old, according to East Hampton school district facilities director Don Harwood. Portions of the boiler system, like some of the steam piping, date back to the building’s 1913 origins.

A 2008 report from Friar Associates - the architectural, engineering and design firm charged with assessing the condition of the town’s municipal and school buildings - found “the boilers and associated mechanical equipment have exceeded their useful life and need to be replaced.”

Harwood said several other contractors have since recommended replacement.

He cited a rough estimate of \$800,000 to \$1 million for the complete project based on a similar project in the Glastonbury school system.

At the very least, Harwood told councilors, the system needs roughly \$30,000 in repairs to the boiler’s mud drums and related accessories that “might buy you a year or two,” or maybe more.

“It’s a wild card,” he said.

The finance-board endorsed engineering study would produce the design for a heating system replacement based on a review of the entire setup, from equipment to electrical to plumbing to hazardous materials abatement. The detailed project would then go out to qualified contractors through the competitive bid process.

In construction lingo, it’s known as the “design-bid-build” process.

The finance board in mid-January unanimously approved a resolution appropriating the funds from several line items in the capital reserve fund. Such resolutions require approval from the council.

While councilors did not dispute the need to replace the boiler system, they balked at the cost of a separate engineering study. Council member Mark Philhower, a heating and air conditioning professional, recommended looking

into a “design-build” process that takes care of both design and construction services in one contract awarded through the competitive bid process.

Philhower said the engineering would be figured into the total cost estimate in a design-build scenario. He also said there’s an advantage to getting design input from the same contractors who regularly build these systems.

“I still think we’d be better off to go with the design-build, bring in some contractors and get their opinion; ask them how they’d approach it. They’d probably come up with some good ideas that would save the town money,” Philhower said.

Since a complete replacement couldn’t begin until 2018, based on a long and involved process of approvals, preparation and then construction during summer vacation, Philhower said the town should use the next couple of months to investigate the design-build method instead of jumping into a \$91,000 engineering expenditure.

Meanwhile, Philhower advocated for the mud drum repairs to begin as soon as possible. So

did councilman Kevin Reich, a former assistant superintendent of schools in East Hampton who said the town couldn’t order the replacement parts fast enough for his liking.

“The boiler has to go. I know that better than anyone sitting in this room. I had to live with that boinkety-boink boiler for 33 years,” he said.

According to Harwood, the town has spent almost \$80,000 on repairs to the boiler since 2011. That includes an emergency repair from last year that required the school to close for a day.

As councilors discussed where the funding for the repair project would come from, member Pete Brown said the Town Council should send the original resolution back to the finance board for revision.

“I think we should table it and have a conversation with the Board of Finance because I don’t want them to feel like we don’t care about [their] recommendation,” Brown said.

The finance board also would have to make a recommendation in order to pursue a design-build boiler replacement project, according to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco.

# Colchester Family Struggles with Husband's ALS Diagnosis

by Julianna Roche

Looking through family photos of the Turkingtons makes them seem like just like an average family – as Matt and Kelly Turkington flash huge smiles and pose lovingly with their two children, Cole, 9, and Layla, 6, on a tree farm, or at a wedding, or at a beach for vacation.

Cole and Layla each boast a striking resemblance to their parents, sharing in their brunette hair, bright blue eyes and wide-stretched grins.

But in May of last year, the family was hit with some heartbreaking news – Matt was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), better known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

ALS is an incurable, neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Motor neurons in the brain reach to the spinal cord and from the spinal cord to muscles throughout the body.

The disease causes degeneration of those motor neurons, which eventually destroys the brain's ability to initiate and control movement throughout the entire body. With voluntary muscle action progressively affected, people can eventually lose the ability to speak, eat, move and even breathe.

Matt, who was working as a Whole Foods chef supervisor, first started to notice something was wrong when he started to feel weakness in his hands while cooking.

"There were progressively more symptoms,

which he started to notice at work," Kelly said this week. "He started feeling weakness in his hands and his muscles started twitching."

But ALS was the furthest thing from their minds.

"We thought, what are the chances?" Kelly said. "It's not a very common disease."

According to the ALS Association, the disease usually strikes people between the ages of 40 and 70, and approximately 20,000 Americans can have the disease at any given time – though this number fluctuates. In the U.S., approximately two in every 100,000 people have ALS.

Thirty-seven-year-old Matt was referred to several neurologists before they reached a final diagnosis last year.

From the time of diagnosis, the average life expectancy is two to five years, according to the ALS Association, though there are rare cases where the diagnosed person may live longer.

Because of the quickly-progressing symptoms over the last eight months, Kelly said Matt has had to leave work and even give up on his second passion – music, as he used to sing and play guitar in a band called Basecamp.

"It's just really hard," Kelly said. "The disease eventually goes to your whole body, it slowly takes you...but it doesn't take your brain. It kind of sucks because no matter how bad it gets, Matt's brain will always be nor-

mal."

Kelly said she remembers being struck by Matt even the first time she saw him, which was as a teenager.

"I remember when I was 16, I was driving in Manchester with my sister and we passed by his best friend's house," she explained, adding that she saw Matt outside and asked her sister "who's that?!"

Though Kelly was in a relationship at the time, she said following their break-up several years later, she decided to ask Matt out.

"We did New Year's Eve. That was our second date," she continued. "We started dating in 2003 and in 2004, we bought our first house together."

The couple has been together ever since.

"We're complete opposites," Kelly said. "I'm shy and not very talkative. It's harder for me to spark up conversation, but for him he will spark up conversation with any stranger, and talk about everything."

In addition to the changes to Matt's lifestyle, the family has also had to make some quick adjustments, including short-selling their home in Manchester to find a home that is more handicapped-accessible, which ultimately led them to Colchester.

"We really do love it here," she said. "We haven't even been here a full month, and it already feels like we're part of a community."

Unfortunately, Kelly said, ALS is known for being a disease with high medical costs.

"We're doing renovations in the bedroom and the bathroom to try to make it handicapped[-accessible]... the disease also gets really expensive with all the equipment needed," she explained, adding that they'll also need to purchase a wheelchair and a wheelchair-accessible van.

Still, Kelly said that Matt, as is his nature, has maintained a positive attitude and has started making bucket lists of things he wants to do, including going to concerts of his favorite bands for the last time.

"We're all trying to stay pretty positive. I try not to think about the future... it's just scary," she said. "Matt doesn't know what his future holds."

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According to their Go Fund Me page, the Turkingtons are looking to raise \$250,000 in donations, which will be allocated toward ALS research to help find a cure, housing to accommodate Matt's handicapped life, purchasing a wheelchair van, and providing funds for Cole and Layla's education. The page launched Jan. 9 and, as of Thursday morning, the family had raised just over \$12,000 so far.

To donate, visit [gofundme.com/24cnchdp](http://gofundme.com/24cnchdp). For more information about the ALS, visit the ALS Association's website at [alsa.org](http://alsa.org).

## Osten Bills Aimed at Education Cost, Transparency

by Geeta S. Sandberg

State Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19th District) recently introduced several education bills to the state legislature – bills she said this week were aimed to address transparency and cost issues.

But Board of Education chairs in the two *Riverast* towns she represents – Hebron and Marlborough – as well as the executive director of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents weren't necessarily on board with the proposals.

The bills Osten introduced would, if approved, result in some significant changes to how school districts operate. For instance, one of the proposals seeks to allow transparency in the process of approving the superintendent's contract by requiring said contract to be filed in the town clerk's office, having notice of the contract posted and published in a newspaper, and making the contract subject to approval at a town meeting.

The next proposal, meanwhile, would require superintendent evaluations to be written instead of conducted verbally, which some districts currently choose to do, and to then make the results of that evaluation available to the public.

Also related to superintendents, Osten proposed a bill that would allow certain towns – those with a population under 10,000, with no more than two public schools and a student population less than 2,000 – to decide to do away with the superintendent's position altogether should they so choose, and instead have a school principal perform the duties of a superintendent.

Lastly, Osten also brought forth a proposal that would allow a town's board of finance to review the education budget and make line item revisions. Currently, finance boards can make changes to the bottom line of the education budget, but cannot make specific revisions.

Regarding the proposal that would allow towns to eliminate the superintendent's position Osten explained, "The largest expense in all towns, but in particular small towns, is the education side of the budget — often over 70 percent of the whole town budget is the Board of Education."

Osten added, "I've had constant conversations with towns that have said, 'Hey listen, we need to take into consideration the fact that on the town side we cut and cut and cut and on the board of education side not so much,' and then

hearing people say they don't have the ability to cut costs on the education side."

But this bill, she explained, would allow for a way to reduce education costs.

Regarding the proposal to have their contract published Osten noted the superintendent's contract is generally the most expensive, "and most people don't get to see it" so this bill would allow for increased transparency.

Transparency was also the reason behind the proposal that would require superintendent evaluations to be written and made available to the public.

"The trend is for boards of education to do those verbally and in executive session, and when residents have any issue with the superintendent and bring it to the board of education, none of their concerns are necessarily taken into account," Osten explained. "This requires the highest-paid person in the town to have an evaluation townspeople can see."

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Despite Osten's reasoning, however, Hebron Board of Education Chairwoman Erica Bromley said she felt the policies weren't necessary, as the Board of Education regularly works to ensure there's transparency.

"Currently the Hebron Board of Education completes a summary document that is made public regarding the superintendent's evaluation," she said. "I believe this creates a level of transparency that allows the public to have adequate and necessary information regarding that evaluation."

As for the possibility of eliminating the superintendent's position, she added while it might work for towns smaller than Hebron (which boasts a population of 9,620 as of 2011), she wasn't sure it was appropriate for their district.

"Having a superintendent for this particular school district has been what I would feel is necessary, and having the ability to have someone to do that work separate from the day-to-day responsibilities of the principal is critical," Bromley stated.

She added, "A superintendent must be able to create budgets, negotiate contracts and run the business of a school district. That role is very different than the role of a principal who has the important task of running a school building and being directly responsible for students in that building on a daily basis. It could be-

come difficult to manage both roles and the last thing we would want to do is compromise the role of the principal, as it is also so critical."

Bromley also spoke to the proposal that would give a town's board of finance the ability to make line item revisions to the budget, explaining, "Creating a budget is difficult and time-consuming and rests on the premise that those who manage and conduct the daily functions of a school system know best as to what is needed for optimal success for our children. Trusting in the process that has been created is important."

Bromley said the school board also works to ensure crafting the budget is an "open process and one that everyone understands."

Marlborough Board of Education Chairwoman Ruth Kelly shared similar sentiments this week, and said she too would be opposed to giving the finance board authority over line items.

"I think it's up to the Board of Education to decide how to spend their money. I don't think that is in the purview of the Board of Finance," she explained. "The Board of Finance can decide how much money the education board needs, they can cut and we can't do anything about that, but I think the people on the Board of Education are in the best position to know what is needed at the school, and I think [changing that] would result in people that aren't really informed making educational decisions."

Kelly also said she would "not be in favor" of eliminating the superintendent's position.

"Several years ago we went to a part-time superintendent, but you need a superintendent to handle certain situations that arise, and you need a superintendent who can build a budget," she said. "Our particular superintendent does a wonderful job providing kids with what they need while being fiscally responsible; I don't know who would handle those things if we didn't have a superintendent."

Regarding the superintendent's evaluation, however, she was more uncertain.

"I'm not sure that that should be a public thing," Kelly said. "The Board of Ed. needs to have a good relationship with their superintendent and they need to be able to provide feedback. I'm not sure how I feel about that one."

More certain that all three of Osten's proposals relating to superintendents were unne-

cessary, however, was Joseph Cirusuolo, executive director at the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents.

Regarding evaluations he explained the majority of school boards continue to provide written evaluations, and once written those evaluations become public. As for those that do provide verbal evaluations, he said residents could easily find out how a school board feels about the superintendent by attending board meetings, or paying attention to whether or not a board votes to give the superintendent a raise or extend their contract.

As far as making those contracts susceptible to approval by the town, Cirusuolo said that posed a problem when thinking about the possibility of arbitration. After the school board approves a collectively bargained contract for teachers, that agreement goes to local officials for approval – but they can also vote to reject it. If the latter occurs, the contract then goes to binding arbitration, the cost of which is paid for by both the teacher's union and the municipality.

"To subject superintendents to this – they need to have some protection," he explained.

If a contract goes to arbitration, "you're going to tell one individual they need to help pay the cost of arbitration?" he asked. "That's foolish."

Cirusuolo also said he felt the elimination of superintendents in smaller districts would pose a problem. He noted many of the smaller districts already have a part-time superintendent, so eliminating the position altogether meant "there's not a lot of money to be saved there."

In addition he said, "Principals have more than a full-time job being principals. Asking them to take on additional responsibilities of the superintendent doesn't make any sense."

Eliminating that position, he furthered, "would reduce the efficiency and effectiveness of school districts and you would not be saving very much money" if it were a part-time superintendent to begin with.

Osten's proposals, he concluded, are "solutions looking for a problem."

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The proposals will now head to a public hearing in the Education Committee, where the committee will decide whether or not to move the bills forward.

# Portland Selectmen to Negotiate Elmcrest Tax Abatement

by Elizabeth Regan

After impassioned pleas from the first selectwoman and the chairman of the Economic Development Commission, the Board of Selectmen this week agreed to negotiate the terms of a tax abatement deal with the developer seeking to revitalize the former Elmcrest Hospital property.

A joint meeting of the selectmen and Economic Development Commission (EDC) was held Wednesday night to gauge selectmen's interest in pursuing a tax abatement agreement and to talk about what that document might look like.

First Selectman Susan Bransfield spoke at length about the blighted, 15-acre property as one that has sat vacant for too long.

"We have to get this development moving," she said. "It's a linchpin in this town. Come over the bridge, you look to the right, it has been abandoned. No use, no jobs, no water and sewer, no personal property, no infrastructure improvements."

She described a tax abatement as a necessary incentive if the town wants Dan Bertram, of Danbury-based BRT General Corporation, to invest \$30 million in his plan for 238 apartments and an 89,400 square foot neighborhood shopping center.

"An incentive is something that will kick-start the improvement to this town," Bransfield said. "Once that project is improved, it gives the signal, it gives the clear message, that this town is business-friendly, that this town recognizes the need to constantly improve its grand list."

The selectmen last year rescinded one tax abatement application from Bertram, and rejected a subsequent application. Both of those failed requests were for a seven-year tax deferral of 100 percent of property taxes on all-new construction and improvements once completed.

Bertram has been in negotiations for the past month with Bransfield on a basic outline for a graduated property tax break on the apartments and neighborhood shopping center he plans to build. The incentive would defer taxes on 100 percent of improvements for the first four years, 95 percent in year five, 85 percent in year six and 75 percent in year seven.

He would still pay taxes on the land throughout that seven-year period. The tax bill would be based on what the land is worth with the new development sitting on it, not what it's worth now.

Bertram has agreed to restore two of the site's most historically-significant 19th century homes to be used as part of the development. A third home would be moved at the expense of a nonprofit group being established through the efforts of the grassroots Elmcrest Campus Advisory Committee (ECAC) and the EDC.

Guild, chairman of the EDC and a founding member of ECAC, took the lead of Wednesday's meeting to ask for the selectmen's help in drafting the language for a tax agreement that could win approval this time around.

"Let's flesh out any remaining issues that need clarity, or need perfection, or need revision. Let's finish this," he said.

According to several selectmen, including Ben Srb, Brian Flood and Kitch Breen Czernecki, there's a lot wrong with the compromise drafted by Bransfield and Bertram.

They complained the language was not specific enough about how the developer would use the two historic homes he has pledged to renovate and how long it would take him to do it. They also expressed confusion about when the tax deferral would kick in.

According to Bertram's application, he is requesting the tax abatement to begin for each individual building in the development once a certificate of occupancy is issued.

Zoning regulations require 50 percent of the commercial construction to be move-in ready before a certificate of occupancy can be issued for the residential portion.

But some of the largest issues voiced by Srb and Flood revolved around philosophical issues with tax abatements, not with the details of this particular agreement.

Srb, who disclosed he received a tax abatement as a minority owner of the LLC behind the Chris Cote Golf Shop, said he is not in favor of abatements for residential or largely residential developments.

He said residential construction should not be incentivized because it is a drain on the town's coffers because of the money that must be spent on educating the children who live there.

Flood maintained tax abatements, in general,

give an unfair advantage to one developer at the expense of other businesses in town. In particular, he said it was inappropriate to reward this project with a tax incentive when the property had been allowed to become blighted over the past ten years.

The site is owned in part by Fred Hassan, a Shelton-based accountant and the investment partner of the late Elmcrest Hospital medical directors and owners.

"I find it troubling that we are essentially implementing a policy where we are going to reward people for not maintaining their property, for allowing it become deteriorated, allowing it to become dilapidated, allowing it to become blighted," Flood said. "Essentially, what we are doing is suggesting to other people with property that the best avenue to take is to allow it to become blighted, and we're going to bail you at at some point, and we're going to allow you to fix the place up, and we're going to give you a tax abatement."

But in the end, Srb and Flood said they were amenable to a meeting between Bertram and the board of selectmen to hash out the terms of an agreement. They insisted the meeting be held behind closed doors, saying it is unwise to discuss financial negotiations in public.

Bertram on Thursday said only that it's clear to him the public overwhelmingly supports the project.

He withheld further comment after his meeting with selectmen, which he said is being scheduled for next week.

## Pursuit through Three Towns Ends in Arrest

by Julianna Roche

A Clinton man is facing multiple charges after engaging police in a pursuit that led them through Colchester, Salem and Bozrah on Jan. 30.

Colchester Police said they were already investigating the suspect – Jason Angell, 36, of 54 Killingworth Tpke., Clinton – who had three active warrants out for his arrest.

Police said they were then alerted Monday afternoon that Angell was seen in the area of Dr. Foote Road in Colchester; however, as they approached the suspect at approximately 4:10



Jason Angell

p.m., he sped off and engaged police in a chase.

The pursuit continued down Route 2, at which point Connecticut State Police became involved. According to police, Angell then led them down Route 11 and through Salem onto Route 82 in Bozrah.

Police said they had placed "stop sticks" – which deflate tires – in the road near the intersection of Route 82 and Noble Hill Road in Bozrah, ultimately disabling Angell's car.

Angell was taken into custody and held on a \$50,000 cash bond.

He was charged with engaging in a police pursuit, reckless driving, interfering with an officer, operating a motor vehicle without a proper license, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, improper registration and failure to meet minimum auto insurance coverage, police said.

## East Hampton Police News

1/13: Christopher Sassi, 41, of 14 Sunset Terrace, Middletown, was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

1/17: Kenneth James Barber, 29, of 8 Midwood Farm Rd., was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

1/19: Eloy Torres, 49, of 47 Iverness Ln., Middletown, was issued a summons for failure to obey a control signal, misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

1/22: After an investigation into a one-car motor vehicle accident on Viola Drive, Ryan A. Roussel, 20, of 35 Viola Dr., was arrested for failure to drive right, evading responsibility, driving under the influence and possession of alcohol by a minor, police said.

## Hebron Police News

1/25: State Police said at approximately 5:53 a.m., they received a report that two vehicles parked at a residence on Old Andover Road, were broken into. According to the victim, a Garmin GPS, a hunting-type knife and a credit card were taken. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Troop K at 860-465-5400.

## Storage Shed Broken Into in Marlborough

State Police are investigating a reported break-in at a locked storage shed on Cheney Road last week.

At approximately 8:44 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, police received a report of a burglary and larceny at the shed. According to the victim, items taken included a red electric leaf blower with an unknown make, an orange extension cord and a gas-powered weed whacker with an unknown make, possibly a Sears brand.

Police said the lock to the shed was cut and the latch was broken.

Anyone with information should contact Officer Julius Ransom at 860-295-9098, ext. 4095.

## LifeStar Called for Car Crash on Route 2 in Marlborough

by Julianna Roche

A Wethersfield man was flown by LifeStar to Hartford Hospital after a single-car crash on Route 2 last weekend, State Police said.

Police said that shortly before 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, a Nissan Maxima G driven by Frank Mendez, 41, of 18 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield, was traveling eastbound on Route 2 near the exit 13 off ramp when Mendez lost control of the vehicle, traveled across the highway and off the right shoulder of the off ramp, police said.

According to police, the Nissan then struck

a streetlight pole on its driver's side before rolling over several times and coming to an uncontrolled final rest on the wooded roadside on the off ramp.

Police said Mendez sustained serious injuries and was transported by LifeStar to Hartford Hospital.

The accident remains under investigation and anyone that witnessed this accident is asked to contact Troop K at 860-465-5400 and reference case number 1700052422.

## Single-Vehicle Crash on Route 2 in Marlborough

by Julianna Roche

On Tuesday, Jan. 23, a Marlborough resident was transported to the hospital for possible injuries following a single vehicle collision, police said.

According to police, at approximately 8:15 p.m., a GMC Envoy driven by Ashley M. Turner, 29, of 34 Hickory Rd. was traveling eastbound in the right-hand lane on Route 2 in the area of exit 13 when she lost control of her vehicle on the icy road surface.

Police said the vehicle then veered left across the left lane and into the grass median

on the roadway.

After complaining of neck pain, Turner was transported by Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department to Marlborough Medical Center. She was accompanied by a 3-year-old who was a passenger in the vehicle at the time of the crash, police said. The 3-year-old was uninjured.

According to police, Turner was found to be at fault for the collision and was given a written warning for failure to drive in the proper lane of a multiple-lane highway.

## Single-Vehicle Crash in Colchester Causes Serious Injuries

by Julianna Roche

On Jan. 18, a 22-year-old Colchester resident was involved in a single motor vehicle accident that resulted in suspected serious injuries.

According to police, at approximately 8:52 p.m., a Jeep Compass driven by Conor F. Egan, 22, of 67 Brindlewood Path drove off Windham Avenue at its intersection with Jurach Road.

The vehicle was towed from the scene by Desmond's Auto and Egan was transported by Colchester Hayward Fire Department to Hartford Hospital for suspected serious injuries, police said.

According to police, Egan was determined to be at fault for the accident and was issued an infraction for traveling unreasonably fast.

## Single-Car Collision on Mill Hill in Colchester

by Julianna Roche

A single-car crash on Jan. 22 left one Colchester resident with minor injuries, according to police.

Police said at approximately 12:11 a.m., an Audi A6 driven by Daisy May Soucy, 20, of 3 Tavern Ln., Apt. 2, drove off Mill Hill Road, at its intersection with Williams Road,

and struck a tree.

According to police, there was dense fog present at the time of the accident and Soucy was transported by a privately owned vehicle to the Marlborough Clinic for minor lacerations to the back of her left hand.

## Obituaries

### Marlborough

#### Pasquale Amodeo

Pasquale Amodeo passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, Jan. 25, with his wife and children at his side. He was born Feb. 5, 1968, in Norwich, the first American-born child of Italian immigrants.



He is survived by his devoted wife of 20 years, Anne, and their three adoring children, Julia, Pasquale (Lino) and Nicolas; also, his mother, Nicoletta; two sisters and their husbands, Maria and Danny and Angela and Tony; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his father, Giuseppe. Pasquale was a brilliant, funny and hardworking man who loved learning. He spoke three languages and traveled extensively for work and pleasure. He graduated *magna cum laude* from Colgate University in 1990 with a degree in Russian studies. He subsequently graduated *cum laude* from Georgetown University Law School and received a master's in tax law from New York University. He was named to *The Hartford Business Journal's* Forty Under Forty in 2005, and received many awards and accolades throughout his career. He was a dedicated attorney, working tirelessly for his clients and helping those in need.

He served for several years on the Board of Advocacy for Patients with Chronic Illness. He served on the local Board of Finance and was an active member of St. John Fisher church in Marlborough, as a lector and as a member of the men's prayer group. He held jobs in New York City, Washington, D.C., and London, UK, before returning to settle in Connecticut to be closer to his family.

Pasquale was a lifelong fan of the Miami Dolphins, despite the near constant grief they inflicted upon him. He was also an avid fisherman and never missed Opening Day. He loved to spend his free time working in the garden. He enjoyed coaching, and helped coach several of his daughter's teams. He was quick to tell a story and brought intelligence and humor to every situation.

Pasquale could make everyone laugh even after telling the same story 17 times. Pasquale was very proud of his coveted "cool dad" status and was a master of the dad joke. Pasquale loved talking to children, he adored their silliness and honesty. He will be remembered for his most famous line, "tell me a story..." and was always grateful when people obliged. He loved spending time with extended family, eating Sunday dinners that lasted most of the day, then playing cards and trading good-natured insults with his opponents.

The family would like to extend their appreciation to all those who reached out and assisted during this tremendously difficult time.

Family and friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, Sunday, Jan. 29. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, Jan. 30, at St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough, followed by burial at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Norwich.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Pasquale's name may be made to the CT Brain Tumor Alliance, P.O. Box 370514, West Hartford, CT 06137.

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

### Colchester

#### Lori L. Lee

Lori L. Lee, formerly from Colchester, residing in Danielson, passed away unexpectedly Monday, Jan. 9. She was born Dec. 5, 1958.



She graduated from Bacon Academy with the Class of 1976, and retired from SNET.

She was a mother of two boys, Michael L. Fellows, Jesse L. Fellows, also leaving behind her mom, Antia L. Lee, and two sisters, Deborah and Al Estell and Roxann and John Rush.

There will be no calling hours. Burial will be private for the family, where she will be laid to rest with her dad, Woodrow (Buster) Lee, in the spring.

### Colchester

#### James Allen Januszewski

James Allen Januszewski, 52, of Colchester, formerly of Salem, died unexpectedly Thursday, Jan. 26. He was born in Bronx, N.Y., on Nov. 2, 1964, to the late Allen and Maryjane (Clark) Januszewski.



Jimmy was a graduate of N.F.A.'s class of 1982; he was a self-employed contractor and his many talents made him marketable in the construction field doing various jobs. He loved the outdoors, he was an avid salt water fisherman who loved the beach and camping but most of all he cherished the time he spent with his granddaughter "Lulu."

Jimmy is survived by his daughter, Stephanie Lynn Januszewski of Bristol; his son, Matthew James Januszewski of Salem; grandchildren, Lacy Rose-Marie Januszewski and Jason Jr. Januszewski; his sister, Kim Molcan of Colchester; and his best friend and former wife Ann Januszewski of Salem.

In addition to his parents, Jimmy was predeceased by his brother Eric Januszewski.

A 10 a.m. memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, on Saturday, Feb. 11. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Belmont Funeral Home has been entrusted with Jimmy's care. Please visit [belmontfh.com](http://belmontfh.com) to send condolences to the family.

### Colchester

#### Patrick Clifford Duclos

Patrick Clifford Duclos, 51, of Colchester, beloved father, brother, son and boyfriend, died Sunday, Jan. 29, at Yale New Haven Hospital. Born July 2, 1965 in Manchester, he was a son of Margot and Ed Sr.



Pat grew up in South Windsor, graduating from South Windsor High School, Class of '83. He continued his education at Manchester Community College and Central Connecticut State University with a degree in math and engineering.

Pat began working at Industronics, and spent the past 22 years at Paradigm Precision, working in the aerospace industry. Pat was a mechanical engineer and had a wonderfully curious nature. He questioned how things worked and loved to solve problems.

Pat married Justine "Carrie" Ray on March 2, 1996. Their son Ryan was born May 6 of that year. Pat and Ryan had a very special father-son relationship.

Pat also loved sports, especially any sport that Ryan played. He coached rec basketball and Little League baseball, and even held the downs markers at Bacon Academy football games.

Pat loved fishing and his dogs, Chase and Banjo. He always had a project, most often tinkering on cars or any other mechanical problem.

Pat is survived by his mother and son, his girlfriend, Alice Bartha, and siblings, Sandy, Ed Jr., Jackie Cusson, Mark, Margo-Ann DeGiacomo, Maureen, and Rich. He was also survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Pat was predeceased by his wife, Carrie, and his father, Ed Sr.

Pat's smile and laugh, his caring nature, and his friendship will be dearly missed.

Pat's family received friends for calling hours Thursday, Feb. 2, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral will be held today, Feb. 3, beginning at 10 a.m., with a funeral home chapel service at 10:30. Burial will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to benefit the Colchester Rec. Baseball or Basketball organizations, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

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

### Colchester

#### Mary Moon

Mary (Savalle) Moon, 89, affectionately known as "Mom" and "Grandmother" to many, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family Saturday, Jan. 28, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born Aug. 23, 1927, in Colchester, she was the daughter of the late Vincent and Sylvia (Brown) Savalle.



She leaves her loving companion (and high school sweetheart), Richard "Dick" Rankl, with whom she spent the last 30 years; nine children, John Rutchick, Charlie Rutchick, George Miller, Peggy Perham, Gloria Moon Schweizer, Allyn Miller, Richard Miller, Texas Moon and Parker Moon Jr.; 23 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; her brother, Charlie "Moe" Savalle; and numerous extended family members and friends. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Parker Moon; daughter, Georgia Smith; two infant children, Vincent and Mary; two grandchildren, Devin Rutchick and Jeannette Perham; sister, Margo Costello; and two brothers, Vincent and John Savalle.

In addition to raising 10 children, she had worked in food service to help support her family. Mary achieved her lifelong dream of owning and operating her own restaurant, Mary and Aili's in Amston, from 1970 to 1986.

Mary was an avid fan of NASCAR and UConn women's basketball. She loved Yankee Candles, traveling throughout Amish country and always was up for a good flea market. She enjoyed tending to her gardens at home and daily visits over coffee with her brother, Moe. Her greatest joy was found in being "Mom" to all; for which we thank you and will forever love you – for you were a woman who always put others first, giving them your all.

The family would also like to acknowledge and thank her doctors and other health care professionals that cared for their Mom, as well as them, throughout her illness.

Friends called Monday, Jan. 30, at the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 S. Main St., Colchester. The funeral assembled at the funeral home Tuesday, Jan. 31, before a chapel service that morning. Burial will follow in the New Lebanon Cemetery.

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

### East Hampton

#### Dennis G. Erickson

Dennis G. Erickson, 90, of East Hampton, died peacefully at his home Wednesday, Jan. 25. Born Oct. 18, 1926, in Lubek, Maine, he was the son of the late Charles and Winnie (Wright) Erickson.

Dennis had proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He had worked as a tool designer for Fafner Bearing until his retirement. Dennis was a life member of the East Hampton VFW Post, a legacy member of the VFW, a past member of the VFW Honor Guard, a life member of the Anchor Masonic Lodge in East Hampton, past commander of the East Hampton VFW, past district commander of VFW, past department chief of staff, a member of the American Legion Post 65 in Lubek, Maine, a member of the Ancient Scottish Rite in Bangor, Maine, and a member of the Democratic Town Committee.

Dennis was predeceased by his wife Ida Thompson in 2012. He is survived by his loving companion Mary Jane Boyce and his adopted family Brandie and Paul Nelson and family, Tina and Dave Varni and family, and his only cousin, Maxine Nugent of Bangor, Maine.

Friends called at the East Hampton VFW Post, 20 North Maple St. in East Hampton, on Sunday, Jan. 29. A funeral service was held at the VFW Post Monday, Jan. 30, at 11 a.m. The family received friends before the service. Burial with Military Honors will follow in the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Fowler Dix Park Post 5095 VFW, 20 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

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