

RIVEREAST

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Wish Granted... Make-A-Wish grantors Tom Boon and Kristin Garrison stand with Hebron resident Teddy Lydon, who was granted his "true wish" of going to Atlantis in the Bahamas during a surprise celebration at ACE Hardware in Hebron last weekend. See story on page 27.

Council, BOE Urged To Stop 'Silliness'

by Elizabeth Regan

The newly-appointed chairman of the East Hampton Board of Finance is asking the town to stop suing itself.

Marc Lambert made what he described as a "public plea" at Monday's finance board meeting when he asked the Board of Education and Town Council to resolve their fight over which group has the authority to fill vacancies on the school board.

Lambert, who was first appointed to the finance board in 2014, was named chairman at Monday's meeting, replacing Alison Tokarz, who resigned from the board a month ago for health and work reasons.

"I would implore the Town Council and Board of Education to get together and come to a resolution on this issue of appointing replacement members to the board so we can collectively stop spending money suing ourselves," Lambert said. "It's almost hard to say those words because it's so ludicrous, the thought of our town doing this."

The Town Council spent \$11,432 in legal fees related to the vacancy controversy as of this month, according to the town manager's office. School business manager Karen Asetta said the Board of Education spent \$24,888 as of March 7.

Finance board member Alannah Coshow also asked the school board and Town Council to "stop the silliness" when she proposed reducing the town's proposed \$144,000 budget for legal fees by \$24,000 in the coming year.

The finance board cannot make changes to

specific line items in the education budget, though it can do so on the town side.

"If the Board of Education stops, maybe the Town Council can cut back its expenses as well and come to a civil agreement," Coshow said.

The expensive argument goes back to a lawsuit filed in December 2015 by the Board of Education after the Town Council refused to pass a resolution formally acknowledging the school board has the right to make its own appointments.

In March 2016, the school board and council signed an agreement stipulating no further proceedings in the case would take place until after the Nov. 8 election, during which the issue would be brought to voters as part of the charter revision process.

As it turned out, those voters rejected a recommendation by the Charter Revision Commission to give the town council the authority to fill vacancies on all boards and commissions.

The referendum question on the November general election ballot failed by a margin of 559 votes.

Board of Education member Joanne Barmasse stood up during the public comment period at the end of the finance board meeting to object to the two finance board members' characterization of the situation.

"The town has spoken by a wide margin that the Board of Education has the right to fill their vacancies," she said. "We have people on the

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Gilead Garden Brings Gold for Girl Scout

by Geeta S. Sandberg

How does your garden grow? For Hebron resident Macey Smith, it grows full of native plants at Gilead Hill School, and led to her Gold Award – the highest achievement in Girl Scouts.

A 13-year member of Hebron Girl Scout Troop 65246, Smith was recognized earlier this month by the Girl Scouts of the USA and Girl Scouts of Connecticut for achieving the award.

According to girlscouts.org, "This prestigious award challenges [Girl Scouts] to change the world – or at least your corner of it."

Approximately 60 to 80 girls achieve their Gold Award in Connecticut each year – and Smith is only the third girl to do so in Hebron in the past 15 years.

In order to earn the award, Smith had to complete a seven-step project that helps solve a community problem; she had to identify an issue, investigate it thoroughly, form a team to support her efforts and help her take action, create a plan, submit a project proposal to the Girl Scouts for approval, then carry out the plan and finally, tell her story and share the results.

For Smith, the issue she chose to focus on was the declining bee population – and her solution was to restore a memorial garden at Gilead Hill School and create a native plant pollinator garden using plants native to Connecticut.

According to the March 17 release on Smith's award, "This results in an environment where pesticides are not needed, watering is greatly reduced, and where pollinator animals are encouraged."

To bring her plan to fruition, Smith worked with local landscape architect Jessica Petro, as well as the Hebron Parks and Recreation Department and the Hebron Board of Education to design, develop and implement the plan last summer; plants were donated from Prides Corner Farms in Lebanon, while Parks and Rec. provided soil and mulch.

Smith said this week, "Native plants obviously help the bee population a lot and that's what I wanted to do – and I've noticed more bees and butterflies in the garden since it's been restored."

She added, "I love how it turned out; over the summer it looked really pretty and hopefully this summer it will be more full and have more flowers."

The garden Smith planted is registered as a National Wildlife Federation certified wildlife habitat and is part of the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge which, according to millionpollinatorgardens.org, is a campaign "to register a million public and private gardens and

See Gilead Garden page 2



Hebron resident Macey Smith (second from right) stands with (from left to right) Janet Ridenour, Senior Director of Mission Delivery for Girl Scouts of Connecticut; her mother and Girl Scout Leader Shannon Smith; her dad Bryan Smith; and state Rep. Robin Green at a ceremony earlier this month where she was honored for receiving her Gold Award.

Council ‘Silliness’ cont. from Front Page

Town Council that are power-hungry that want power over different things, and they want power over the Board of Education. They are the ones that are continuing this fight – not us.”

Town Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson spoke during the same public comment period to remind Lambert and others that the school board started the lawsuit.

“I tried very, very hard, to work with the prior Board of Education chairman [Ken Barber] to reconcile our differences with regard to this lawsuit, but I would like to remind you that the council is a defendant in this case,” she said.

A joint scheduling order, available on the state Judicial Branch website, was filed on March 21 to give the factions 45 days to come to an agreement in order to avoid a trial.

A trial may be held in July if the two sides cannot solve the problem by themselves, according to the scheduling order.

Anderson said Tuesday that the ball is in the school board’s court.

When Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith was asked for comment by the *Rivereast*, he provided a March 23 email from Board of Education attorney Zachary D. Schurin of Pullman and Comley to Smith and Board of Education Chairman Christopher Goff.

In the email, Schurin said conversation with the town’s attorney revealed the council is now deciding if they want to file a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. Schurin said the town would

argue the case is moot since there isn’t a pending vacancy. Schurin called it a “weak argument,” but said it could delay resolution to the case.

It was a previous motion to dismiss, made by the Town Council, that resulted in the agreement to halt proceedings until after the November charter revision referendum.

Anderson and Town Manager Michael Maniscalco declined to comment on any strategy related to pending litigation.

Maniscalco said the council, which had been represented by the law firm of Halloran and Sage, changed attorneys about a month ago to the firm of McGivney and Kluger. He said councilors “just felt they wanted a different attorney representing them.”

The appointment controversy arose after the 2015 municipal election, when the new Republican-led Town Council appointed the GOP’s Michael Rose to the school board seat vacated by Republican Josh Piteo, who resigned upon winning a spot as a councilor.

But Rose ultimately declined the nomination, so members of the outgoing school board appointed former member Jeff Carlson, a Democrat, to the seat – tipping the new board’s majority to the Democrats.

As it happened, Rose was appointed to the Board of Finance last week by the council to replace Tokarz. He was sworn in Wednesday, according to the town clerk’s office.

Gilead Garden cont. from Front Page

landscapes to support pollinators.”

“Seeing the garden to completion made me really proud,” Smith added of her project. In addition she said, “I feel very proud of myself for having achieved this [Gold Award] because it’s the highest that a Girl Scout can earn.”

Smith’s mother – and troop leader – Shannon Smith had similar feelings, saying this week, “We are so proud of Macey and her accomplishment of earning her Gold Award. She dedicated more than 200 hours planning, designing, and planting the garden renovation and teaching the community about the importance of native plant pollinator gardens. Macey embraced the challenges of performing this Gold Award project and I think she would agree, this project allowed her to expand her leadership capabilities.”

Indeed, Smith said since earning the Gold Award she was made a Girl Scout for Life “so hopefully in the future I can become a leader.”

And that desire to lead is something Smith hasn’t always had – but garnered thanks to the organization.

“I never used to want to take a lead in group

projects at school or anything, but Girl Scouts has given me the confidence,” she explained.

Smith said she’s also improved upon her public-speaking skills.

“For the Gold Award I had to speak in front of the Board of Selectmen and Parks and Recreation multiple times,” Smith said. “It was nerve-racking but it taught me about public speaking.”

As for her experience participating with the Girl Scouts as a whole, Smith said she’s enjoyed her time, and stated of her Troop in particular, “We always did a lot of fun trips like camping, and I like hanging out with friends. We did a lot of community service and I really enjoyed that aspect, too.”

She concluded of the Girl Scouts, “it’s a great community and everyone is really encouraging. It’s taught me many skills and I’ve loved it so much and I would encourage others to join.”

* * *

Smith is a senior at RHAM High School and following her graduation she plans to attend the University of Hartford and become a physical therapist.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I’m not sure how many of you were thrilled when the Republicans’ health care bill fell apart last Friday....but I sure was.

Does the Affordable Care Act need some work? Yes. I think even Obama himself would admit that. But this plan, which would have tossed 24 million off health insurance, amid other terrible developments, certainly wasn’t the way to go.

And by the way, let me add to the many who got a good chuckle out of the fact that Republicans talked and talked and talked about chucking and replacing Obamacare for seven years. Then, when the ball couldn’t possibly be any more in their court, they couldn’t get it done.

Now, do I think this is over? Not by a long shot. I just do not see the Affordable Care Act surviving Trump’s presidency. It may not even survive 2017. I’m sure Republicans will get it repealed eventually, and will replace it with something much worse. But for now, this is one small victory. I’ll take it.

* * *

The Andover Historical Society is currently working to document the creation of the Hop River Linear Park – a.k.a. the Rail Trail. And you may be able to help – whether you live in Andover or not.

Society members are gathering information on the major events that took an abandoned railroad right-of-way and turned it into the trail it is today. They said they’re especially interested in obtaining copies of any photographs that show work being done on the trail. Some of the major projects of interest are: the removal of the track in 1975, the removal of the overpass on Hebron Road (1992-3), the Connecticut Army National Guard clearing and grading of the trail (mid-1990s), the Coast Guard Cadets decking of the bridges (early 2000s) and the removal of the Route 6 bridge over the right-of-way near Route 87 (early 2000s).

Now, like I said, you don’t have to live in Andover to help the society out. The society aims to cover the entire 20-mile length of the trail, from Congress Road in Manchester to the Willimantic River in Columbia. The trail ultimately passes through six towns – Andover, Bolton, Columbia, Coventry, Manchester and Vernon – so the information doesn’t need to be just about work done in Andover.

As a bonus, the society is also interested in any photographs/movies that show the right-of-way as an active railroad.

If you have anything that you think may help, email Andover Historical Society President Scott Yeomans at syeom98658@aol.com.

* * *

Have you noticed helicopters in areas that perhaps you’re not accustomed to seeing them this past week? Don’t worry, you’re not seeing things – nor are you being hunted down by the police. (Well, at least, I hope you’re not.)

No, from March 23-31, Eversource conducted aerial inspections of vegetation growing near its high-voltage electric lines in the state. Eversource – formerly known as Connecticut Light & Power – said this semi-annual inspection is an important part of the company’s ongoing commitment to providing reliable electric service. The work involves the use of a helicopter flying low over Eversource’s transmission line corridors to check for any encroachment from trees or other vegetation.

The flights covered many towns – including four in *Rivereast*-land: Andover, East Hampton, Hebron and Portland.

* * *

Speaking of *Rivereast*-land: Did you grow up in Glastonbury but now live in the *Rivereast* coverage area (a.k.a. Andover, Hebron, Marlborough, Colchester, Portland or East Hampton)? Are you in your mid- to late-50s? If so, the Glastonbury High School Class of 1977 may be looking for you.

Members of the GHS Class of ‘77 have been planning their 40th reunion, which they will hold Saturday, July 22, at 6:30 p.m., at Blackledge Country Club, 180 West St., Hebron.

The members are currently updating the contact information for their classmates. If you’re a member of that class, send an email to GHS77Reunion@gmail.com with your name (first, last, maiden and married name if applicable), mailing address, phone number and email address. If you know of a classmate who is not on Facebook, you’re encouraged to pass along their email address too.

The class also can be found on Facebook; search for GHS Class of ‘77.

* * *

NASCAR star Joey Logano is technically from Middletown, but his Portland familial connections run deep – and he’s got a lot of fans around here too. So I’m happy to share some news that recently wound up on my desk: Driving Hope Home, the car show and golf tournament to benefit The Joey Logano Foundation, will be held Thursday, July 13.

The event will take place in Southington; the golf tournament will occur at the Southington Country Club, and the car show – as well as a dinner and auction – at the Aqua Turf in the Plantsville section of town.

Proceeds from the event go to The Joey Logano Foundation, which invests in organizations offering second chances to children and young adults during times of crisis. Its vision is, according to joeyloganofoundation.com, to “create supportive communities where all children and young adults are able to live with dignity in times of adversity.”

Sponsorship opportunities for July’s event are available. For more information, contact Lisa Bozzuto at 203-915-9235 or lbozzuto@joeylogano.com.

* * *

See you next week.

Three Honored for Volunteerism in Portland

by Elizabeth Regan

The wife and children of the late Ralph Paley said he never wanted any recognition for his quiet acts of kindness.

But for his family, that kind of commitment to the community is a cause for celebration.

This year marks the fifth year local volunteers have been honored in Paley's name for their own good works. The award program, which was started by senior center administrator Mary Flood, had been in existence for several years before the Paley family signed on as event sponsors.

Paley died in 2011 at the age of 81.

Kevin Paley spoke at Sunday's Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland award ceremony to say it always brightened his grandfather's day to brighten everyone else's.

"That's really the spirit that keeps the town going," Kevin Paley said.

This year's three award recipients embodied that ethos of unassuming service.

Jane Klemba was recognized for involvement with St. Mary Catholic Church, the Portland River Valley Garden Club, the local Community Emergency Response Team and a rescue group for Labrador retrievers.

Flood read from a nomination letter that described Klemba as someone whose "whole being seems to be about community."

When Klemba stood up to receive her award, she took the opportunity to encourage others to volunteer in the community.

"It really pays back more than you give," she said.

The list of organizations with which honoree Susanne Anderson-Woronoff has been involved led Flood to wonder aloud when the volunteer finds time to sleep.

Anderson-Woronoff has served as past president of the Portland Historical Society and Port-

land Garden Club and has been the treasurer of the Swedish Cemetery Fund. She has also volunteered with the Zion Lutheran Sunday School program and the Portland Fair Committee.

"If you've been to a tea, a fashion show or an auction fundraiser in town, chances are Sue was the force behind it," Flood said.

Mary Garry was honored for a host of volunteer roles with such organizations as the senior center, Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown, St. Mary Church Faith Based Formation program, and Community Emergency Response Team.

Flood said Garry and her husband have taken on one of the "toughest jobs" there is: foster parenting.

"Mary goes about her life of charity and sacrifice with humility and grace. She seeks no recognition, but is more than deserving of it," Flood said as she read from one of Garry's nomination letters.

Garry told the audience one of her most cherished volunteer roles was reading to children at Valley View School. The program paired seniors with young students to promote literacy and community.

Kevin Paley described Sunday's event as a chance to share stories about the honorees and the way their generosity "brings smiles" to those in the community – just like his grandfather's did.

Ralph Paley's daughters, Lori McDermott and Sharon Fleischmann, described the Spirit of Portland namesake as all heart.

"He embraced everyone. He really celebrated life," McDermott said. "He appreciated the very simple things."

McDermott and Fleischmann said the doorbell would often ring at their childhood home to reveal another visitor stopping by simply to thank their father for something he'd done.



Susanne Anderson-Woronoff, Jane Klemba and Mary Garry (pictured from left) were honored at the Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award ceremony Sunday at the Waverly Center.

Paley's widow, Sara, called herself fortunate to have spent 59 years with "a wonderful man."

"He loved to do things, but didn't want people to know he was the one that did them," she said.

His focus was always on the Portland community, according to his family.

For this year's honorees, the well-attended celebration exemplified life in the small town, where everybody knows everybody and a lot

of them are related.

It also gave some out-of-towners a chance to visit.

Klemba said the event enticed one of her aunts to come up from East Haven.

"We don't win the Pulitzer Prize, we don't win the Peace Prize in this family. It's The Spirit of Portland that gets the aunties up here," Klemba said.

RHAM School Board Selects New Superintendent

by Geeta S. Sandberg

At an afternoon assembly for the staff at RHAM High School Monday afternoon, Board of Education Chairman Danny Holtsclaw announced the school board had selected an individual to step in following the retirement of Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski at the end of the year.

The selection was made during a special meeting Saturday, March 25, when the board voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Patricia Law, who currently serves as the Director Of Curriculum And Professional Development in Granby.

Siminski, who has been superintendent since 2005, announced in September he'd be retiring at the end of the 2016-17 school year.

On Monday, Holtsclaw said the entire school board agreed "filling the shoes of Dr. Siminski going forward is going to be a huge challenge, and that only affirmed our awesome responsibility – probably the most important responsibility we had as a board – to recruit and select a superintendent of schools."

Holtsclaw added the process was a "two-way street" and said the board was not only trying to select the right candidate, but was also marketing the success and achievements of the district – all made possible because of the efforts of faculty and staff.

"It is because of the outcomes and the accomplishments and the great things you're doing here at RHAM that allowed us to not just consider candidates but to truly recruit candi-

dates for RHAM, and so I want to thank you all for your efforts and your work and what you've done for the district and for our kids," Holtsclaw told the staff.

Law agreed with Holtsclaw Monday, calling RHAM "an amazing community of teachers and staff and parents and students that have created incredible opportunities for learning both in and outside the classroom."

"That is really what has drawn me here, to continue that work with you," she said.

Law received her executive leadership certification from the University of Connecticut, her doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Hartford, a master's degree in elementary education and reading/language arts from Saint Joseph College, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and philosophy from Saint Joseph College.

Along with her present role, Law has worked 10 years in the classroom as a middle school teacher primarily in West Hartford Public Schools. She also spent two years as the K-12 Science Coordinator and Chemical Hygiene Officer for Suffield Public Schools before acquiring her first position in Granby as the Assistant Principal of Granby High School.

After serving in that role for three years, Law became Director of Secondary Education for a year before being named Principal of Granby High School in 2010. She assumed her present position in 2013.

Speaking to her appointment, Law added Monday, "I cannot tell you how excited I am to

be here and to have been selected as the next superintendent of schools."

She furthered, "This is a great time for us in education as there are so many opportunities for our students, and I look forward to getting to know you, to being in your buildings, to being in your classrooms and hearing your voice throughout the next few months and as we continue to move forward."

In a press release shared Monday afternoon, Holtsclaw added Law "emerged as the board's top candidate after countless hours evaluating and interviewing an impressive list of educational leaders from across Connecticut."

Fifteen candidates submitted applications for the position and nine were interviewed by a search committee made up of the RHAM Board of Education; Law was ultimately selected from a pool of four semi-finalists.

"Selecting a visionary and inspirational leader with exemplary academic and professional credentials was a recurring theme from the nearly 400 community focus group survey responses we received," Holtsclaw explained. "The board relied heavily on the focus group survey results throughout the entire search. RHAM is a well-recognized and high performing school district. Under Dr. Law's leadership, RHAM's excellent reputation will be in good hands [and] new and exciting ways to further enrich the academic experience will be strategically explored."

Law's appointment becomes effective July 1.



Dr. Patricia Law addressed RHAM staff Monday afternoon shortly after Board of Education Chairman Danny Holtsclaw announced she'd been chosen the next superintendent of schools.

Wish Granted for Hebron Boy

by Geeta S. Sandberg

When Hebron resident Teddy Lydon headed to ACE Hardware last Saturday – his favorite place to visit on the weekend – it was to find the store filled with much more than the usual goods; it also contained his family and friends, decorations including a sign that read “Congratulations Teddy!” and celebratory pizza from Gina Marie’s.

The fanfare was all for Teddy, and all for good reason: Teddy, 12, was being surprised by having his wish to go to Atlantis Paradise Island Resort in the Bahamas for his 13th birthday granted.

His wish – which includes swimming with dolphins – came true thanks to Make-A-Wish grantors Kristin Garrison and Tom Boone, along with Make-A-Wish Connecticut, and Teddy’s mom Allison shared this week he was “at his happiest” thanks to the surprise.

She added Teddy was their miracle, explaining after she and her husband Mike tried to conceive for five years, their doctor told them “it’s not going to happen.”

But a month later the couple was pregnant with their son.

Fifteen months after he was born, however, their little miracle had a febrile seizure that lasted for more than an hour; he developed temporal lobe epilepsy and was eventually diagnosed with mesial sclerosis, which led to brain surgery in July of last year.

Following the surgery, Allison said they’ve been participating in physical and occupational therapy to strengthen the right side of Teddy’s body again – and the trip to Atlantis is a welcome respite.

The resort, she said, is her son’s “most favorite place in the world.”

“We were definitely surprised,” she added of last weekend’s event. “Looking back at pictures from Saturday makes us realize how much love and support we have.”

She furthered, “It was an amazing day to have everyone in one place just for Ted. Make-A-Wish has definitely put a huge smile on his face and we want to thank everyone for joining and hosting and donating to make Ted’s wish come true – especially Kristin and Tom. We can’t say ‘thank you’ enough.”

But for Garrison, making Teddy’s wish come true was simply part of her belief that life is all about paying it forward.

“If everyone just gave a little of their time to something bigger than they are, our world would be a much better place,” she stated. “I am always reminded about how many wonderful people there still are in this world and how generous they are every time a wish is granted.”

She called Hebron ACE Hardware, Gina Marie’s restaurant, Double Up Dance Group of Fairfield, Wendy Kane photography of Colchester and the Hillman Group “our wish angels,” and said “without their generosity Tom and I would never have been able to pull Teddy’s wish off.”

Garrison concluded, “To be a part of a moment that a child will remember forever is just priceless.”

Allison Lydon said the family plans to make the trip to Atlantis next month, and her son is “counting down the days.”



There was more than shopping going on at ACE Hardware in Hebron last weekend – there was also a surprise celebration for Hebron resident Teddy Lydon, who had made a wish through the Make-A-Wish foundation to go to Atlantis in the Bahamas for his 13th birthday; he was surprised by all his family and friends, and those in attendance celebrated with pizza from Gina Marie’s.

Colchester Woman Charged in Fatal Waterford Crash

by Julianna Roche

A 27-year-old Colchester woman faces manslaughter and DUI charges after allegedly causing a three-car crash in Waterford last year, which killed one Waterford woman and left another seriously injured, police said.



Brianne Colonna

Brianne Colonna of 118 Deer Run Dr. turned herself into police Monday, March 27, on an active warrant for her arrest following investigation of the car crash – during which, police said, Colonna was driving 60 mph with a blood alcohol content three times the legal limit, while talking to her boyfriend on the vehicle’s speaker phone.

According to Waterford Police, at approximately 1:28 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26, 2016, the Waterford Emergency Communications Center received numerous 911 calls for a serious motor vehicle accident on Boston Post Road near Reynolds Lane. Police and the Waterford Fire and EMS services were subsequently dispatched to the scene.

Upon arrival, police said they observed a grey Chevrolet Equinox driven by Colonna, rolled over onto its passenger’s side in the northbound travel lane and a Mazda 3 driven by Olivia

Turowski, 60, of Waterford with heavy front end damage in the southbound lane. The third vehicle, a white Honda Accord driven by Arthur Spence, 27, of New London, had minor damage.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, Colonna’s vehicle had been traveling northbound on Boston Post Road when it entered a construction zone north of Reynolds Lane, and subsequently failed to negotiate a right hand turn in the construction area. Police said the vehicle then crossed the double yellow line and struck the Mazda head on in the southbound lane, sending it backward directly into the Accord.

The three-car crash killed Turowski’s passenger, her daughter Stephanie Turowski, 24, of Waterford, and left Turowski seriously injured. A second passenger in the car, Laura Welp, 27, of Allston, Mass., also suffered injuries, as did Colonna.

Spence did not sustain any injuries.

The four injured women were transported to Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, according to police, with both Colonna and Turowski later transferred to Yale New Haven Hospital for treatment.

Police said Stephanie Turowski was pronounced dead at the hospital and an autopsy by the Chief of Medical Examiner’s office several days later revealed her cause of death was a blunt, impact injury to the torso.

According to statements given to the police,

the three women said the morning of the accident, they had eaten breakfast and were headed to the Ulta makeup store in the Waterford Commons.

A surviving passenger in the Mazda – whose name is redacted in the affidavit – told police she remembered the Equinox being in the wrong lane “for so long” that she “wondered if the other driver was playing a game of chicken with us.”

Police said she furthered that there was nowhere for the driver of the Mazda, Olivia Turowski – who was identified in a police report Dec. 27 – to go, as construction barriers lined the right side of the road.

According to medical records obtained through a search-and-seize warrant, Colonna, who graduated from Bacon Academy in 2007, “admitted to being intoxicated” to Waterford ambulance personnel as they evaluated her on scene.

Police said lab reports also showed that at the time of the crash, she had a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.25 percent – more than three times the legal limit – and a positive reading for THC.

Upon further investigation, police said information pulled from Colonna’s Equinox’s event data recorder showed her vehicle was going 60 mph a half-second before the wreck, and she was neither accelerating nor braking. According to the affidavit, cell phone records also showed that at the time the accident occurred,

Colonna had been talking to her boyfriend through the vehicle speaker phone for nearly 45 minutes.

According to the affidavit, the Mazda’s event data recorder meanwhile showed it had been traveling 31 mph five seconds prior to the crash and slowed to 20 mph when the crash occurred because Olivia Turowski was braking.

The posted speed limit in the construction zone was 35 mph.

Though information regarding the women’s injuries was redacted in the affidavit, a Facebook page titled “Turowski Family Updates” was created by Turowski’s son, Alex, to keep family and friends updated with their progress. According to the page, Olivia Turowski, a teacher at Clark Lane Middle School in Waterford, had multiple surgeries for a broken arm, broken heel and broken vertebrae.

Welp, who was identified as Alex Turowski’s girlfriend, also underwent surgery to repair a broken arm, according to a post on the page. Both women continue their recovery process.

Colonna was charged with second-degree manslaughter with a motor vehicle, two counts of second-degree assault with a motor vehicle, reckless endangerment, driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs, first-degree reckless driving, and failure to drive right in a construction zone.

She posted a \$150,000 bond and is due in court on Wednesday, April 5, in New London.

Colchester Drama Club Strikes Gold with *Treasure Island*

by Julianna Roche

Before I knew it, two narrators from Bacon Academy's cast of *Treasure Island* had dragged me on stage aboard the Hispaniola – where they preceded to hand me a mop and order me to join Long John Silver's mutinous crew of pirates in cleaning the ship.

As the drama club's chosen play this spring, much of *Treasure Island*'s charm derives from that type of interaction with the audience, senior and stage manager Rebecca Johnson told me during rehearsals at Bacon on Monday.

"Even in the first scene, one of our actors comes down through the audience and actually asks people for money and acts like a beggar," she explained.

The play – written by Dan Neidermyer and adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson's 1883 novel of the same title – tells the story of Jim Hawkins, a poor, young English boy who sets sail to Skeleton Island in search of a buried treasure and must fight off a crew of villainous pirates hunting the same loot.

"We were going for another classic storyline that people would recognize," said co-director Olivia Russell. (The club put on *Cinderella* last year.)

Because the drama club is completely self-funded, Russell added that she and co-director Kelly Hahn thought they "could pull off pirate costumes and a set" and that "it'd be fun for the kids to make it."

Both Hahn and Russell also serve as advisors for Bacon's improv club throughout the year.

"It's always so much fun because we [club members] are all sort of misfits almost, the underdogs," said junior Ben Chapman, who plays the lead as Jim.

When describing the role, Chapman said Jim starts off as "sort of hopeless" because the inn owned by his mother doesn't get much business. However, over the course of the play, "as [Jim] is able to go on an adventure, he grows into himself," he furthered.

Despite following the original storyline, the

drama club's version of *Treasure Island* also includes some modern touches – such as casting females in male roles.

Senior Megan Langevin – an improv and drama club veteran – for example, plays Long John Silver, the villainous pirate captain and the story's main antagonist.

"It's a male role usually, but I took it on and I feel fine doing it," she said, adding both Hahn and Russell told her she didn't "need to worry about deepening [her] voice or wearing a beard."

Though Langevin has been involved with improv club the last four years and the drama club's last three productions, *Treasure Island* is especially important, as it will be her last before she graduates later this spring.

"I'm so used to looking up to people [and now] I'm a main character and one of the oldest people [in the cast]," she explained.

According to Hahn, both she and Russell "already knew" who would play each role when they decided on *Treasure Island* for this year's production.

"Sometimes you work with somebody enough, you just see them in that role," she said, adding she and Russell had that in mind when picking the play.

The cast includes some newbies as well, including juniors Edward Baxter and Jenna Pan, who play the hermit Ben Gunn and a pirate called Black Dog, respectively. Pan made the jump to acting after working the tech booth for *Cinderella* last year.

"Watching everyone last year be so successful and happy [made me] want to act instead of being on the sidelines," she said, adding that she left the school's cheerleading squad this year "to do other things," like drama club.

"We have a small group of kids, a very diverse group from freshmen to seniors [and] from all sorts of social groups," Russell explained.

Baxter for example, who said since he was little, has always "wanted to play a superhero



The conniving Long John Silver (played by senior Megan Langevin, shown center-right) relays his plan to find the treasure to his crew of unruly pirates, including Black Dog (played by junior Jenna Pan, shown center-left).

in a movie," thought the drama club "would be a good place to start."

"I didn't think it would go as well as it has," he added. "The kids in the drama club are not usually the kids I hang out with, but now that I talk to them and have been acting on stage with them, they're all very nice people."

While the 90-minute play is made up of a small cast of about 15 to 20 people, it's not without its excitement.

"There's lots of running around [for chase scenes] and some fight scenes," Johnson explained, adding that props range from muskets and guns to pirate swords – which she said were actually made by Bacon's manufacturing class and donated for the play.

"We get help from other people around the school... a lot of stuff is donated," she said, but

there "is still a lot of hard work involved" since the club is self-funded.

Drama club "gives people an opportunity to do something they may not have done otherwise," Chapman said. "Even if people don't enjoy acting, they can help out in so many other ways. ... It's people from all over the school coming together."

Treasure Island performances will take place Friday, April 7, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 8, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Bacon Auditorium at 611 Norwich Ave.

Tickets are available at the door. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Children age 5 and under are free. For more information, call the school at 860-537-2378 or contact Kelly Hahn at khahn@colchesterct.org.

Andover Finance Board Works to Whittle Down Budget

by Geeta S. Sandberg

In a budget year that includes plenty of uncertainties and assumptions, the Board of Finance worked Wednesday night to find ways to lower the impact the 2017-18 budget would have on taxpayers.

Although the state budget has yet to be finalized, the two-year budget proposed by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy earlier this year includes cuts to municipal aid and additional costs for the teachers' retirement plan that result in "an overall taxation increase of about \$922,000," finance board chairman Dan Warren explained during the meeting, which included the Board of Selectmen.

"That means the whole town is going to have to make up that difference," he furthered. "That's about an 11 percent increase in the amount that needs to be raised through taxation over last year. ... The bottom line is that's a huge number."

As a result, at a previous finance meeting the board worked to bring that increase down to 7 percent through switching town employees over to a high-deductible insurance plan, using a portion of the general fund to offset upcoming debt, and removing the town's resident state trooper. Another change that came down from the state involves the resident state trooper program – the amount towns are responsible for was increased to 100 percent and in Andover that translates to more than \$200,000.

At Wednesday's meeting, board member Adrian Mandeville explained the town wouldn't

lose coverage from the change as it's a "bar-racks town" covered by Troop K. He added the resident state trooper has office hours from around 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and police are already dispatched from Troop K the rest of the time.

As a result of the above decreases, Warren said, "The Board of Finance is currently dealing with the budget increasing 7 percent – the purpose of this meeting is to talk about where [further] reductions can come from" because "I don't think it's reasonable to go to the town with that."

The finance board shared their goal was to get the taxation increase down to around 3 percent or about \$250,000 – meaning \$500,000 in additional cuts would be needed.

In the discussion that followed between the selectmen and the finance board, First Selectman Bob Burbank said the focus should be on the education budgets – not the town.

"Most of the lost revenue has been from education, and education makes up over 80 percent of our entire budget so it's difficult if not impossible to take the cuts from the town and let the Board of Education come in flat or in the case of RHAM, with an increase," Burbank explained. "I think there needs to be some discussion with both Boards of Education – Andover and RHAM – because the town can't absorb the type of increases you've mentioned. In the same vein, if we're talking about cuts then I don't believe the town – being such a

small part of the budget – is going to make up even a small part of [the reduction]."

Mandeville added in response he'd been attending RHAM meetings along with other members of the finance board to speak against their budget, which was proposed with a 6.21 percent increase and didn't include any state aid due to the uncertainty with the state's budget.

In addition, Mandeville said in discussions with different representatives from RHAM he came to understand there was a goal to get the RHAM budget down to around a 4 percent increase.

Although that was not yet certain, the Board of Finance decided to act with that as the target, thus reducing the impact RHAM's budget had on the town from a 3.5 percent increase over the current year to a .73 percent increase, or down from about \$160,000 to \$30,000.

"I think it's personally reasonable for the board to set an estimate budget at this point," Warren explained. "But that's still only part of the way there."

Along with assuming a lower budget for RHAM, discussion was also held surrounding the local education budget. The Andover Elementary School budget was proposed flat with current year spending, but the finance board elected Wednesday to request the education board go back and evaluate their budget to look for ways to reduce that number further – po-

tentially to the lowest amount possible without risking the loss of state aid, which would be about \$130,000.

"So we're at about \$260,000 of the \$500,000," Warren shared. "We're still looking at over \$200,000" that needs to be reduced.

After discussing specific line items, the board brought that number down slightly further by motioning to reduce the treasurer's salary by about \$11,000, as well as the amount set aside for the new town administrator by \$10,000.

The board also reduced the town clerk's salary by \$1,321 to keep the salary flat with the current year and voted to request an overall wage freeze for employees.

In addition, the board voted to request the fire commission evaluate their budget as well, in an attempt to reduce their bottom line by \$8,000.

Lastly – despite Burbank's earlier comment saying the town would only be able to make up a small portion of the reduction, and selectwoman Julia Haverl adding, "You'll have to look somewhere else. You're not gonna get that [reduction] in the selectmen's budget" – the finance board also motioned to have the Board of Selectmen look to reduce their budget by \$129,000 to make up the difference at their next meeting.

The Board of Selectmen is expected to discuss its budget at next week's meeting, Wednesday, April 5, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

East Hampton Finance Board Members Hungry for Budget Cuts

by Elizabeth Regan

Deliberations by the Board of Finance Monday revealed an appetite by at least some on the board for significant cuts to the combined \$45.96 million budget proposed by the town manager and superintendent of schools for 2017-18.

While no votes were taken, finance board members Steve Ritchie and Alannah Coshow recommended slashing \$272,270 from the education budget, \$15,000 in school security upgrades from the capital budget and \$33,217 from the general government budget.

The finance board is not scheduled to vote on the budget until April 10. A public hearing will be held April 3 to allow residents to weigh in before the finance board adopts a spending plan to send to the Town Council.

The Board of Finance will host a supplemental workshop on the Board of Education budget today at 4 p.m. to get more information on the school budget before next week's public hearing.

Ritchie and Coshow outlined suggested cuts to the education budget that would reduce health insurance estimates by \$100,000 based on expected savings from a new provider. That leaves about \$172,000 in additional reductions for the Board of Education to come up with.

Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith reserved comment on the suggested \$272,000 in cuts during Monday's meeting, saying that was a discussion for the budget workshop. But he said afterward he is hopeful the new health insurance plan will yield the kind of savings Ritchie and Coshow talked about.

"I think I can save \$100,000," he said.

While it is not the Board of Finance's responsibility to identify specific education cuts, Coshow and Ritchie pointed to the proposed addition of a part-time high school music position and assistant coaches for cheerleading and volleyball as areas that should be scrutinized by the school board.

The assistant coaching positions, which would allow for the creation of junior varsity teams in both sports, were not included in Smith's original budget recommendations. They were added by the Board of Education after students and staff rallied for the new positions.

While Coshow acknowledged the school board made cuts elsewhere to compensate for the new assistant coaching positions, she said "in this difficult climate, maybe it's not the time to be adding."

It is also not the time to tackle school security updates all at once, according to Coshow. She recommended reducing Smith's \$30,000 request by half so that the district could approach the upgrades gradually.

Smith told finance board members the money is for shatterproof laminate that has become the norm in most schools in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings.

The clear, protective film can't stop a bullet, according to Smith, but it is designed to stop the glass from shattering and keep intruders out long enough for those inside to go into a lockdown situation.

He said the funding would allow application of the laminate on all ground-floor glass, up to

a height of nine feet, at all schools in town.

The laminate is currently in use around school entrances only.

"I don't think that we talk about safety as anything that can be reduced at this point," Smith said.

The point was echoed by Manda Heltke, the parent of a kindergarten student, during the public comment period. She said it "scares the hell" out of her that the school does not have the safety laminate installed on all the windows yet.

Other changes suggested by Ritchie and Coshow would affect the library: A cut of \$12,000 for books and periodicals and \$3,000 for supplies.

Finance board member Alan Hurst, who also serves as the treasurer of the Friends of the East Hampton Public Library, called the idea "unconscionable." He called the library the second-most utilized resource in town, saying only roads get more use by residents.

Maniscalco's total 2017-18 budget recommendation for the library came in at \$430,973. The line items for books, periodicals, supplies, materials and minor equipment amount to \$83,000.

Coshow also suggested cutting the electricity budget for the town hall and Middletown Avenue annex by \$4,500.

"Turn the lights off, I guess," Coshow said.

East Hampton's total proposed budget is \$45.96 million, an increase of 7.00 percent – or \$3.01 million – over the current budget.

The general government side of the budget, including debt and capital improvements, amounts to \$14.21 million. That's an increase of 2.28 percent, or \$317,021.

The \$30.15 million proposed education budget approved by the Board of Education includes a \$1.6 million "contingency for state budget uncertainty" line item related to Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's plan to assign responsibility for one-third of teachers' pension costs to municipalities. It's unclear at this time if that proposal will make it through the state legislature.

Without the contingency line item – which several finance board members have expressed a commitment to eliminating from the proposed budget – the school budget represents a \$1.09 million increase, or 3.75 percent, over the current year's budget.

This year's budget process is also complicated by the threat of significant cuts to education funding by Malloy and uncertainty about how much of those cuts will actually materialize.

East Hampton is looking at a \$1.63 million decrease in education funding over the current year based on Malloy's plan. That does not include Malloy's idea to redistribute teachers' pension costs, which in East Hampton would shake out to \$1.53 million in the coming year.

But the governor's budget has to make it through the General Assembly first.

State Rep. Melissa Ziobron, R-34th District, told finance board members last week that state lawmakers are likely to wait until the last day of session on June 7 to vote on a budget. She said the actual policy language used to imple-



Welcome Aboard... The newest officer with the East Hampton Police Department, Tim DeRoehn, was sworn in by Assistant Town Clerk Bernice Bartlett Tuesday at a meeting of the Town Council while his father, Mike DeRoehn, looked on. Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said Tim DeRoehn "performed the best out of a pool of 40 applicants who competed in a fast-paced and rigorous selection process." He will start police academy training next month.

ment the budget may not be filed until even later, in a special session.

Officials across the state are faced with a gamble: Go with Malloy's preliminary numbers and risk overtaxing residents if the town receives more funding than expected, or ignore his numbers and risk having to send out a supplemental tax bill if some or all of the cuts go through.

Members of the finance board over the past two weeks have talked about taking out the contingency since it's unlikely the town will end up responsible for the amount Malloy is talking about, if any.

Finance board member Alan Hurst said the town should send out a supplemental tax bill if the state ultimately decides to make municipalities cover a portion of the Teachers' Retirement System.

But regardless of the pension issue, Ritchie said the governor's proposal is a sign of the "changing face" of state funding for education that is likely to put more and more responsibility on local school districts in the coming years – a likelihood officials need to start addressing now by trimming the local budget proposal.

"This year, I don't think anybody's going to be happy with this budget," he said, referring to those who don't want their taxes to go up at all and those who don't want anything cut from the spending plan.

"There's got to be a little bit of both to get where we've got to go," Ritchie said.

* * *

Some education supporters dispute the finance board's authority to make any cuts to the Board of Education budget. They cite the

newly-bifurcated budget process, approved by voters at referendum in November, which separates the education and general government expenditures on the ballot at referendum.

A petition posted at ipetitions.com on Tuesday demanded the finance board send the Board of Education budget to referendum without reductions in order to maintain the "integrity" of the bifurcated budget.

"We believe that the budget as adopted is reasonable, conservative and responsible, therefore we insist that this education budget is presented to the voters of East Hampton at referendum without any changes to the proposed 3.75 percent increase," the petition stated.

It had amassed 119 signatures by Thursday morning.

The new bifurcation language was added to the town charter in the section on town meetings. The only revisions to the section on the Board of Finance's responsibilities came in the form of an "s" added to each use of the word "budget."

The town charter now reads: "Upon receipt and consideration of the town council's policy statement concerning the proposed annual budgets, the Board of Finance shall hold one or more public hearings on the proposed annual budgets and shall with the advice of the town manager, not later than April 15 in each year, present to the council a (sic) complete proposed annual budgets for the ensuing fiscal year. The council may make any alterations or reductions in the proposed annual budgets that they deem necessary, except for increasing the total proposed annual budgets and shall submit same to the town meeting for approval."

Police News

3/21: State Police said Edwin Santana, 36, of 19 Charter Oak Place, Hartford, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol, operating a motor vehicle without a license and speeding.

Hebron Police News

3/21: State Police said Robert Wormstedt, 43, of 223 East Rd., Broad Brook, was arrested and charged with third-degree burglary and sixth-degree larceny.

3/22: State Police said Michael O'Halloran, 24, of 36 Coleman Rd., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault, second-degree strangulation and disorderly conduct.

East Hampton Police News

Between March 13-19, officers responded to 22 medical calls, 10 motor vehicle crashes and two reports of Hazardous Conditions, East Hampton Police said.

Colchester Police News

3/25: State Police said Lisa Beaulieu, 25, of 12 Kohler St., East Hartford, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and violating signal device laws.

3/25: State Police said Eric Madden, 20, of 118 Harris St., Glastonbury, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol, failure to display plates, failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple lane highway, possession of drug paraphernalia, illegal possession of a narcotic, and narcotic kept only in original container.

Two Cars Collide on Route 2 in Marlborough

by Julianna Roche

A two-car crash on the Route 2 exit ramp in Marlborough left three people injured Sunday, March 25, according to police.

State Police said at approximately 4:05 p.m., a Honda Accord LX driven by William J. O'Connor, 42, of 214 Greer Rd., Lebanon was traveling eastbound on Route 2 when it was hit from behind by a Kia Optima Six driven by Luis Enrique Cowit, 21, of 3 Slocum Rd., Hebron.

According to police, the Honda came to a complete stop at the end of the exit 13 ramp, intersecting with Route 66, when the Kia,

which was traveling closely behind the vehicle, collided with its back end.

The two vehicles sustained minor damage, and the Honda was towed from the scene by Northeast Automotive, police said.

Both O'Connor and two vehicle passengers in his car – Dennis Longway, 24, of 223 Southridge Dr., Willimantic, and Joshua A. Morrison, 31, of the same address – were transported by Marlborough EMS to Marlborough Clinic for minor injuries.

Cowit was issued an infraction for failure to drive a reasonable distance apart.

Questions Remain Regarding Middle Haddam School

by Elizabeth Regan

Members of the Town Council said Tuesday there are a lot of questions that must be answered before they can consider buying the 1930 Middle Haddam School and turning it into a town facility once again.

Chief among those questions is whether the building is structurally sound and how much it would cost to refurbish it.

Two councilors – Ted Hintz Jr. and Kevin Reich – were tasked with looking into the issue further. The council was approached last month by members of the Middle Haddam Association (MHA), a small nonprofit with dwindling funds, who were looking to sell or lease the building to the town.

A structural engineering study of the facility, which cost the town \$9,500 in 2007, could provide some answers – but nobody in Town Hall can find it.

When the *Rivereast* requested a copy of the study over a month ago, Assistant Town Clerk Bernice Bartlett said she reached out to staff in the town manager's office, the building department and the public works department but was unable to locate the document.

The firm that conducted the study couldn't find a copy, either.

Michael Sorano, of the architectural, engineering and design firm Friar Associates, emailed Bartlett on Feb. 23 to say he recalled giving his last archived electronic document to former facilities director Frank Gryzb a few years after the final report was issued. He added that the firm only keeps copies of documents and reports for seven years.

"Unfortunately, it appears we no longer have it," Sorano wrote.

He did, however, provide a schematic diagram and a cost estimate for turning the former school into office space for the probate court, health district as well as the town's homeland security department. The design had ample meeting and storage space.

The total cost for the renovation would have been \$4.94 million in 2007. Sorano cautioned one should apply a 4 percent annual escalation on the cost estimate to bring it up to current dollars. According to that calculation, the project would cost \$7.31 million today.

He also noted the estimate did not include hazardous material abatement, as no testing was done.

Town Council meeting minutes from late 2007 show the newly-elected council, chaired by Melissa Engel, decided not to pursue the project.

"If in the future the space at the Middle Haddam School is viable for town space, that could be researched at that time," the meeting minutes stated.

The missing study was noted at Tuesday's Town Council meeting by resident Rowland Rux, who spoke during the public comment period to suggest the town should find it. He said the study could help the town assess the structural integrity of the building.

Rux, who has experience on several local commissions and committees, said he'd had conversations with Gryzb about the results of study.

"If the town manager would contact Frank Gryzb, I'm sure he could hone in on that report," Rux said.

Gryzb could not be reached for comment by the *Rivereast*.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco on Tuesday said he had not received a request for the study until Rux stood up at that evening's meeting. He said he would be sending email inquiries to town staff on Wednesday to locate the document.

Another set of designs, commissioned by the MHA, show what the building would look like as a community center. Schematics by Middletown architect Jeffrey Bianco, of Northeast Collaborative Architects, showed a gym, racquetball and tennis courts, a community room and office space.

According to association records, the plans cost the nonprofit organization about \$8,000.

The proposal was first made in 2010, when the association presented the town council with the idea of turning the school into a recreational center. Last year, Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Hall said he met with Maniscalco and MHA member Ted Rossi in the spring about the idea of turning the former school into a recreation center.

Maniscalco had previously denied any meetings with Rossi regarding the Middle Haddam School.

MHA President Barbara Angelico said Wednesday the association did not commission an engineering study to accompany the archi-

tectural renderings of the proposed recreational center.

According to Margaret Faber, a Middle Haddam resident and member of the state Historic Preservation Council, several architects and builders have attested to the building's structural integrity.

Gregory Farmer, a field officer with the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation who met with Hall last April to discuss stabilization and reuse options for the former school, told the *Rivereast* late last year that the building is "still fairly sound" despite years of neglect.

Faber pointed to the former Ecklersey-Hall School in Middletown as an example of successfully renovating a building of a similar age and size for municipal use. The city purchased the building from the Norwich Diocese in 2011 for \$800,000, according to a 2015 article in the *Middletown Press*. The \$4.85 million project cost taxpayers about \$3.4 million after grants and tax credits.

Faber told councilors the town is eligible for planning and construction grants through the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation as well as a grant through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program. If all those grants were received, the funding could total \$755,000, according to Faber.

Tax credits equal to 25 percent of the total project cost are also available through the state's Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program.

Last month, Rossi said the association would be willing to lease the property for roughly \$12,000 to \$15,000 per year while the town figures out how it can use the property.

He said the association will demolish the building in the spring and sell the land if it can't arrive at a deal with the town.

Councilor Kevin Reich was the first council member to offer to meet with members of the association to talk about possibilities for the building.

But he said he needed to know how much time the association is willing to give the town "for a thoughtful review" of the proposal. He also asked for the annual cost of maintaining the building.

"Nothing would delight me more than to get my hands on all of the information, including the report that supposedly might exist somewhere, and be able to come back so that this

group can honestly have all the facts in front of them," Reich said. "We've heard about a number of scenarios. We haven't seen those scenarios. Maybe the previous councils have, but we haven't."

Councilor Josh Piteo agreed there are "a lot of question marks" surrounding the vacant building and what has happened since the doors closed almost 40 years ago.

He wondered if the building couldn't be turned into condominiums, as had been proposed on more than one occasion since the school closed in 1980.

The MHA purchased the roughly 12,000-square-foot brick building in 2005 to prevent it from being turned into condominiums by prominent local developer Wayne Rand. It wasn't the first time concerned citizens from Middle Haddam had thwarted such a proposal, either: In the mid-1980s, they blocked a zoning regulation that would have allowed condominiums on the property by suing the Planning and Zoning Commission and outlasting the town in the legal battle.

"Why couldn't a deal be made back then to save that building for developers or housing or condominiums or whatever?" Piteo asked. "It was originally thought to market it that way, and now we're coming back to the town for remedy."

Acknowledging the financial difficulties of the proposed project, Reich said the town is in the second year of paying off hefty debt from the high school renovation project even as it looks at a potentially higher mill rate increase due to decreased state funding.

Still, he described the association's proposal as "too good an opportunity to ignore."

Council member Melissa Engel conceded the timing of the association's offer is "awful," but said it was worth looking into.

She said she could see the possibility of the town working with the association to, at least for now, "keep it upright."

Reich and Hintz will be meeting with Angelico, Rossi and Middle Haddam Association Vice President Chuck Roberts in the coming weeks, according to Angelico.

Faber and representatives from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation are also slated to attend.

Marlborough Residents Petition for Charter Revision

by Julianna Roche

Two Marlborough residents eager for charter revision have organized a petition urging the Board of Selectmen to get the ball rolling on appointing a Charter Revision Commission to review and revise the town charter – something that hasn't been done in over 30 years.

But First Selectwoman Amy Traversa said while it's their "right to do so," she felt "incredibly put off by it," considering the petition to be "poorly-timed" in a period of so many unknowns in regard to how Gov. Dannel Malloy's proposed cuts to town funding may affect this year's budget.

"I've committed twice publicly in [selectmen] meetings to doing charter review after this budget is put to bed," she explained. "The budget is the only thing on my mind right now."

Traversa added, "And if I don't do [charter revision], hang me with it."

Residents Louise Concodello of Millstone Drive and Richard Denno of Jones Hollow Road pioneered the petition and as of Thursday morning have collected just over 200 signatures.

To be able to present the petition to the selectmen, the pair will need to obtain at least 442 verified signatures; according to the town charter, a petition needs to be signed by 10 percent of the town's registered voters before it can be presented to the selectmen. Currently, there are 4,419 voters in town, the town clerk's office said Thursday.

Concodello said she and Denno are aiming for 450.

Once the petition signatures are verified, the selectmen would then have 30 days to put a Charter Revision Commission in place.

Revisions to the town charter were last approved in 1985. The charter was reviewed by a commission in 2001 and 2002, but the suggested revisions were never approved. Over the course of 16 months, the commission had drafted the charter revisions and submitted them to the Board of Selectmen in July 2002, and the revisions were placed on the ballot that November.

At the time, however, the selectmen decided to compile all of the proposed revisions – which included expanding the Board of Selectmen from three members to seven – into a single 'yes' or 'no' question. The vote failed, meaning none of the revisions passed.

Concodello explained the "all-or-nothing" style is detrimental to the voting process and per the petition, asked that the revised charter not be voted upon as a single question, but multiple questions.

Other requests included in the petition are for the selectmen to establish a charter revision commission with no less than seven members, voting on the town budget by referendum rather than a town meeting, instituting automatic charter revision with prescribed intervals at which time it would be revisited, and increasing the Board of Selectmen from three to five members (currently seated on the board are Evelyn Godbout, Dick Shea and Traversa).

With more members, Concodello said, "There's a little bit more of a chance of maybe having someone else help you, or look into stuff for you" and it would bring people with "different expertise" to the table.

"We're looking at our town government and after 32 years, it's changed," she continued, adding "it's time" to appoint another revision commission to review the outdated charter.

Traversa agreed charter revision was "much needed," and again emphasized she is committed to doing so "right after the budget" is done.

Among the requests in the petition, the "key, hot-button" issue Denno explained is to change the charter to allow residents to vote on the town budget by referendum rather than at a town meeting.

As is, the budget is voted on during a meeting in the spring from 7 to 8 p.m. – a small window both Concodello and Denno agreed can often conflict with residents' work or life schedules and prevent them from being able to vote.

Traversa shared that she too felt moving the vote on the budget to an all-day referendum was a necessary modification.

"It's unfair that people who work second shift don't have a chance to vote," she said, adding the current setup was "an unfair and outdated practice."

Concodello added that parents with children also have trouble making the meeting.

"Parents are with their children [then]. They're not going to leave their children to come

here to vote because their children are going to be done playing sports around 7 or 8 o'clock," she said. "So we lose all that population that we need here to vote."

According to Traversa, the board could potentially put that question on the ballot for the upcoming election and return to the charter to make other changes afterward.

"If we pull that one question out, which we certainly can do, we can have that one question be on the ballot for this election ... we can change that one thing," she said. "Even after that, if we decide to move forward with opening up the charter, we can take a long, hard look at what [else] it is that needs to be changed." Furthermore, per state statute, once the charter revision commission is appointed, they must consider any recommendations included in the petition.

The first selectwoman explained that in addition to changing the voting system for the budget, the charter also currently has "things that are superseded by state statute" and "parts that are incredibly ambiguous."

And of the petition, Traversa said Concodello and Denno "have told me what they want."

"They've told me what they've decided [should be in the charter], but it's not up to me, it's not up to them," she continued, adding that it would ultimately be up to the charter revision commission to make revisions.

Concodello added, "It's about what's best for the town. It's all about Marlborough."

Obituaries

East Hampton

Irma Weinzierl

Irma Nina Weinzierl, 72, passed away Monday, Feb. 13, in Fort Myers, Fla. She was born Aug. 30, 1944, in New York City, New York, the daughter of Gelindo and Sandra (Blier) Michelini.

On Oct. 1, 1966, she married her husband of 50 years, John J. Weinzierl, in East Hampton, CT. She lived in NYC and East Hampton, moving to Vermont in 1976. She graduated from Bacon Academy in Colchester, and from 1971-1976 was co-owner of the White House Motel in East Hampton. She was employed in Human Resources as a Community Outreach Specialist with HCRs in Springfield, Vt. for 30 years.

She was known in her community and church as an encouraging person, always sending cards and notes. She was an avid gardener, tending to her flower and vegetable gardens. She always shared her harvest with neighbors. She volunteered many years with the Meals on Wheels program and was very active at Athens Community Christian Church.

She is survived by her husband, John "Jack" of Rockingham, Vt.; one son, David Weinzierl of Bellows Falls, VT.; one daughter, Julie Strong of Rockingham, Ct.; two brothers, James Michelini of Port St. Lucie, Fla., William Tarn of Farmington; six grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 29, at Athens Community Christian Church, 26 Brookline Rd., Athens, Vt. The Rev. Harold-Noyes will officiate. All are welcome to come. Burial will follow in the Meeting House Cemetery in Rockingham, Vt.

Contributions may be made in her memory to a grandparents' day fund to Claremont Christian Academy, 97 Claremont, NH 03743 and Athens Community Christian Missions Fund, One Miller Rd., Athens, VT 05143.

Arrangements are under the direction of Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt.



East Hampton

Dan Egan

Dan "Guddy" Egan, 59, of East Hampton, passed away suddenly Saturday, March 25. He was born Aug. 24, 1957, in Bridgeport, and grew up in Trumbull. Dan is the son of the late David and Lillian Egan. He is survived by his wife, the love of his life, Catherine "Cap" Egan, of East Hampton.

Dan worked at Safety Kleen in Portland for 20+ years. Dan was an avid boater and enjoyed cruising Lake Pocotopaug on the "PEP." He enjoyed camping on Lake George with his good friends Pam and Gary Greenwald. Although Dan was new to the community, he was always willing to lend a hand (while sporting his crazy hats) and was an active member of Old Home Days and was co-chair of the annual parade. He was also an active member of Friends of the Lake Pocotopaug and was a member of CERT. He participated in the most recent Turkey Plunge and was loved by many in the community. He enjoyed socializing with friends, music and dancing with Cap.

Dan is also survived by his sister Patricia Turner and her husband, Michael Turner, of Cromwell, and his nephew, David Turner and his fiancée, Kayla Seltzer, of Cromwell. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Vanessa Rourke of East Hampton; his niece Ashley Turner and her fiancé, Travis Wolf, and his great-nephew and best little buddy, Hunter Turner, of Marlborough; and also his sister-in-law, Linda Lannan of Wallingford; his niece, Morgan Lannan of Wallingford and her boyfriend Peter Kovach of Hamden; nephew Scott Lannan and wife Kelly Lannan of Seymour, and their son, his great-nephew, Dublin Lannan. He is also survived by his aunt-in-law, Kay Fletcher of East Hampton.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, April 15, from 1-5 p.m., at the VFW in East Hampton, 20 N. Maple St, East Hampton, CT 06424. We ask that you dress comfortably and if you have a wacky hat, please wear it in his honor.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Dan's name to Friends of the Lake Pocotopaug, Inc., P.O. Box 360, East Hampton, CT 06424 or Old Home Days, P.O. Box 213, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Andover

Robert Paul Elliott

Robert Paul Elliott, 74, a longtime resident of Portland since 1979, passed away peacefully with family by his side Tuesday, March 21. He was the beloved husband of the late Sally Elliott, the love of his life. Robert was born June 28, 1942, in Hartford, a son of the late Stanley and Cecilia (DeGrasse) Elliott.

Robert enjoyed his time boating, antiquing, motorcycle riding and trips to Maine. His family brought him his greatest joys in life. He was a loyal Teamster, working as a truck driver for many years. He used his "truck driver expertise" to teach most of his kids to drive, trucker style. He also enjoyed having dinner at his daughter Sarah's restaurant and insisting he made much better meatballs than Billy! He was adored by all who knew him.

Robert will be remembered as "Archie Bunker" to all of his friends and family, who knew the tough and gruff exterior did not reflect what was on the inside. He was a jokester to everyone he cared about, so having his service on April Fools' Day is fitting. Although he may be leaving behind many unfinished projects he has started over the years, he leaves behind a complete life full of love.

Please bring your best jokes and one-liners to the service to share with all.

He is survived by his children, Robert "Tommy" Elliott and his wife Leah of Tolland, Kimberly Elliott of Manchester, Missy Haagensen of Colchester, Michael Elliott and his partner Kay of East Hartford, Sarah Elliott-Caratasios and her husband William of Portland; 11 grandchildren, Ashley, Victoria, Thomas, Kasey, Kenneth, Richard, Ryan, Ella, Charlie, Chris and Alex; four great-grandsons; sister Sandy Sirotnik and her husband Doug; brother Stanley Elliott and his wife Lois; stepdaughter Stacey; best friend Maynard Bouchard; several nieces and nephews; and former wives Linda King and Carolyn Lauro who had been a good companion and close friend these last few years.

In addition to his parents and his beloved Sally, Robert is predeceased by his brother, Herbert Elliott; mother-in-law, Minnie; and his faithful, four-legged canine companion Louie, who only predeceases him by two weeks.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, April 1, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., with a memorial service to follow immediately at 1 p.m., at Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury, CT 06033.

To view the full obituary and to leave an online condolence, visit glastonburyfuneral.com.



Colchester

Delvina P. Cormier

Delvina P. Cormier of Colchester passed away Friday, March 24, at Marlborough Health Care Center, with her daughter Rachel Cormier and grandson Eric Blackman at her bedside. She was 92 years old.

Delvina was born in Springvale, Maine, on Jan. 28, 1925. She was a daughter of the late Alphonse and Marion (Bosse) Perreault. She married Joseph Cormier on June 29, 1946. The couple shared 46 years of marriage before he predeceased her May 31, 1993.

After high school, Delvina attended secretarial school. Moving to Connecticut with her family, Delvina worked for many years at Case Brothers in Manchester. When the company was bought out by Litton Industries and moved to Vermont, Delvina was relocated and promoted to office manager. She was very independent and hard-working, proud of her position, and enjoyed her work immensely.

After retirement, Delvina moved to Colchester, where she became very involved as a volunteer for over 20 years with the Colchester Senior Center. Some of her work there included: secretary of the Craft Guild, mentor for the intergenerational program, AARP volunteer, and member of the Golden Glow Singers. She was also a member of the Colchester Lions and the Red Hat Society.

Delvina will be remembered by many for all that she gave of herself to benefit others. She had an infectious energy and loved life.

She will be sadly missed and always loved by her children and their spouses, Michael and Karen Cormier of Bradenton, Fla., Diana Cormier of Waterbury, Rachel (Cormier) and Jeffrey Smith of Andover; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family and friends.

A Memorial Mass and celebration of Delvina's life will be held Thursday, April 27, at 10:30 a.m., at St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough. Donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with these services. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Hebron

Ethel Rose Zott

Ethel Rose Zott, 93, of Hebron, formerly of Montvale, N.J., widow of the late Frederick D. Zott, Sr., passed away peacefully Wednesday, March 22, at home. Born March 14, 1924, in Brooklyn, N.Y., and raised in Bloomfield, N.J., she was the daughter of the late Robert and Annie (Rose) Hosek.

Ethel spent most of her life, and raised her family, in New Jersey. She went to post-secondary school for secretarial and office management skills and had a career working at Rockland Psychiatric Hospital.

Ethel was particularly interested in family history, both by volunteering at the Family History Library in Manchester and actively pursuing genealogical research of her own family, traveling to many places to gather information. She also enjoyed oil painting, of which she was especially talented, as well as making dolls and dollhouses.

She is survived by her three children and their spouses, Pamela and Lanny White, Valerie and Bruce Stubaus and Frederick and Roseann Zott, Jr.; four grandchildren, Jennifer Wilk, Tracy Popolizio, Samantha Schadtler, and Frederick Zott III; six great-grandchildren, Ashleigh, Robert, Alexis, Daniel, Grace and Robi; five great-great-grandchildren, Lileigh, Maria, Elliot, Logan, and Andy; as well as many extended family and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by two brothers, William Hosek and Robert Hosek; son, Frederick R. Zott; and grandson, Jeffrey White.

She was laid to rest in the family plot at George Washington Memorial Park in Paramus, N.J., Monday, March 27.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Masonicare Hospice, P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492 (masonicare.org) or to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111 (cthumane.org).

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



Portland

Elsie Dadario

Elsie T. Dadario, 87, of Portland, died Saturday, March 4, at Hartford Hospital. Born in West Hartford Jan. 10, 1930, where she lived for the first 23 years of her life. She was the daughter of the late Angelo and Columbia (Mazanti) Vergnano.

Elsie was a resident of Portland most of her adult life and a member of St. Mary's Church for over 50 years. Elsie was an avid Red Sox fan. She loved listening to the games at night on her radio. Growing up, she was an accomplished athlete who was the captain of the Aetna basketball team and played short shop for Cromwell's women's softball team. In Portland, she was known as the number one fan for the girls' and boys' basketball teams, having her own seat with her name on it.

Over the years her home and her flowers were things she took great pride in. She worked hard all her life and retired from EIS Brake Parts after 20 years. In her life and especially in retirement she loved spending time with her family and friends and enjoyed sitting on her porch working on her Word Seek puzzles. She will be missed greatly by her family and friends.

She is survived by her loving family, two sons, Albert W. Dadario Jr. and daughter-in-law Linda Dadario of East Haddam, and Michael P. Dadario and daughter-in-law Mary Kaye Dadario of Haddam Neck; a sister, Peggy Mascola of Kensington; three grandchildren, Emily Dadario, Kate-Lyn Dadario, and Antonio Dadario; and also several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by three brothers, Lelio Vergnano, Charles Vergnano, Joseph Vergnano; and two sisters, Rosemary Linville and Jane Niedzwiedz.

East Hampton

Yolanda P. Baker

Yolanda P. Baker, 89, of East Hampton, formerly of Hartford, died Monday, March 27, at Middlesex Hospital Hospice, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born Aug. 23, 1927, in Pittsfield, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Domenic and Catherine (Modolo) Pellizzari.

Yolanda was retired from Hartford National Bank, where she had worked as a clerk. After her retirement she lived in Hartford at Capitol Towers, where she worked as a building security assistant. Yolanda moved to East Hampton in 2013 and was a member of the East Hampton VFW Post Women's Auxiliary. She loved bingo and bowling and was an expert at crocheting and puzzles.

Yolanda's family would like to thank the staff and volunteers at Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit for the extraordinary care their mother received during her time there.

She is survived by her two sons, David "Crazy Eagle" of Texas, Paul and wife Cathy of Portland; daughters, Paula and husband Robert of Vernon, Roberta of Windsor, Linda and husband Cliff of East Hampton, Sandra and husband Mike of Maryland; 10 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren; and extended family in Adams, Mass.

She was predeceased by a son, James Baker; a brother, Domenic Pellizzari Jr.; and a sister, Rose Gancarz.

Services will be private.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Toni M. Etheridge

Toni M. Etheridge of Portland passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family Wednesday, March 1, along with her good friend Cathy Lyman.

She was predeceased by her father, Jiggs Edgell; his mother grandma Nannie Mounts; maternal grandparents Sylvia and Richard Etheridge Sr.; cousin John Jarzabek Jr., and her baby girl Sioma Precious Jade Vereen.

Here to mourn her loss she leaves her mother, Kim Etheridge of East Hampton; her sister, Samantha Seamon of East Freetown, Mass.; her daughter, Amber Montanez and her son Derrick Vereen, both of Middletown; also, her two grandchildren, Aziah Rose Montanez and Amir Ja'sean Cherry, who knew her as "Bracky"; her auntie, Jodi Jarzabek of East Hampton and her daughter Holli of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; auntie Crit of East Hampton and uncles Richard Etheridge Sr., Darold Etheridge; auntie Jeanine and D.J., Nick, and Tommy; aunts Agnes and Joyce Mounts and uncles Chet and Clayton Mounts; and several more aunts, uncles, cousins: Alan Scaplem and his boys Chris and Jay.

There are no calling hours. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

Portland

Frederick Goff

Frederick D. Goff, 74, of Middletown, died Tuesday, March 21, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Nov. 2, 1942, in Middletown, he was the son of the late Clarence and Florence (Hills) Goff, Sr.

Frederick was raised in Portland and attended local schools, before moving to Wallingford 30 years ago. He was a former member of the Portland Fire Department and was an avid Red Sox and UConn girls' basketball fan.

He was survived by his loving family, a brother Robert (who died two days later) and sister-in-law Sharon Goff of Portland; a sister Eleanor and brother-in-law Clifford Robinson of Portland; and also several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Clarence Goff Jr. and Herbert Goff.

Obituaries continued

East Hampton

Nicholas E. Battit

Nicholas E. Battit, 101, of East Hampton, died peacefully after a brief illness Thursday, March 23, at Chesthelm Health and Rehabilitation Center in Moodus. Born March 11, 1916, in Boston, Mass., he was the son of the late Elian and Deibe (Harouk) Battit.



He graduated from Cambridge Rindge Technical High School and received his undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts College of Art and a master's in education from UConn. Nick proudly served in the U.S. Navy as a Carpenter's Mate during World War II between 1942 and 1945 and was stationed on the USS Columbia, which saw action in the South Pacific, and the USS Takamis Bay, which tested pilots for carrier operations. In 1944, he married Nancy Caldwell, who was serving in the Women's Army Corps. In 1946, he and Nancy relocated from Boston to East Hampton where they started a family and Nick began his teaching career in art, graphic design and industrial arts.

In 1955, he accepted a position developing the industrial arts program at King Philip Jr. High School in West Hartford and continued on at Sedgwick and Talcott Jr. High School until his retirement in 1976. Nancy and Nick raised three good children and were active, contributing members of the community, but by 1964 their work together was completed and they moved on in different directions.

In 1967, Nick married Jean Crosbie who shared many of his artistic interests. They spent the next 40 years together travelling between Stowe, Vt., Round Pound, Maine, South Yarmouth, Mass., but always returning to their East Hampton home.

Nick possessed a great combination of technical and creative abilities, which manifested in many endeavors. He was a master carpenter, designing and building the Summit Street home and was equally proficient in fine wood-working. The flower and vegetable gardens were bountiful! He produced spectacular watercolor and oil paintings, breath-taking photography and some of the best Middle Eastern cooking (just try to match his hummus or Kibbeh!). He was a classically-trained violinist, accomplished oud player and studied the cello in his 70's.

A boating and sailing enthusiast, he loved Opening Day fishing. No one had more passion for the automobile and he fiercely defended his right to drive. A beloved educator and mentor to many, rarely did anyone leave a conversation with Nick without gaining some new piece of knowledge.

Despite the numerous losses and indignities of life, Nick's resiliency and optimism persisted through his quick wit, twinkle in his eye and genuine interest in others. It was impossible not to feel special and loved by this man!

He is survived by his son, David Battit of Cambridge, Mass., and his daughter, Anne Battit of Everett, Mass.; his brother, George and his wife Judith Battit of Belmont, Mass.; and his sister, Jeannette and her husband John Van Blarcom of Stowe, Vt.; his grandson, Demian and his wife Deborah (Brady) Battit of Middle Haddam; his granddaughter, Erica and her husband David Fullerton of Worcester, Mass., and granddaughter, his Angela Juarez of Worcester, Mass.; as well as great-grandchildren, David, Brady, Julia, William, Henry, Samuel, Jayden and Alexander; and many adoring nieces and nephews.

Nick was predeceased by his wife, Jean; his former wife, Nancy Marzullo; and his son, Alan; as well as his sisters, Mary George, Nezzie Battit and Lillian Sakey, and his brothers, Captain Beshara Battit, David Battit and Charles Battit.

Nick's family wishes to extend sincere gratitude to all who became the fabric of Nick's life after Jean's death. A special thanks to longtime caregiver Barbara Zoldak and friends Bill Helveston and Joe Visco for their consistent visits and assistance.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the staff at Chesthelm Health and Rehabilitation Center who provided such exceptional, loving care throughout Nick's stay there.

Family and friends will gather at Spencer Funeral Home for a memorial service Saturday, May 6, from 10-11 a.m., with the service at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at the Lakeview Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Community Renewal Team (CRT) (Meals-on-Wheels, East Hampton), Development Office, 555 Windsor St., Hartford, CT 06120, or to the St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church/Convent of Saidnaya. The convent in Syria supports the orphanage there. Your donation may be sent to St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church, 8 Inman Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 OR Mrs. Zahie Mabardi, 300 Fitzmaurice Circle, Belmont, MA 02478.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Pamela Hall Olson

Pamela Hall Olson, 58, of Colchester, passed away Sunday, March 26, at Hartford Hospital, due to a sudden illness. Born in Middletown July 5, 1958, she was a daughter of the late William and Norma (Hall) Olson.



Pam had been an accomplished equestrian and talented rider until she was stricken with multiple sclerosis as a young woman. Several years ago, she was unable to continue working but faced her physical hardship with courage and a positive outlook.

She will be sadly missed but always loved and remembered by her companion of many years, Robert Karpe with whom she made her home; sister, Doris Hanford and her companion, Jeff Johnston of West Yarmouth, Mass.; her niece, Heather Hanford of Hamburg, Germany; nephew, Jason Hanford of Coral Gables, Fla.; and several extended family and many friends.

A celebration of her life and calling hours will be held Thursday, April 6, from 3-5 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial will be private.

Donations in her memory may be made to the National MS Society, P.O. Box 4527, New York, NY 10163 (nationalmssociety.org).

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Robert E. Goff

Robert E. Goff of Portland, passed away peacefully Thursday morning, March 23, at Middlesex Hospital with his loving wife of 40 years by his side.

Robert was born on April 11, 1941, in Middletown, son of the late Clarence and Florence (Hills) Goff Sr. He lived in Portland all of his life. A Vietnam-era veteran of the U.S. Army and served the Portland Fire Department for over 40 years, he was a fan of all sports, but most avidly the New York Mets and New York Giants.

He is survived by his wife Sharon (Dean) and two sons Timothy and Andrew, a sister Eleanor and bother-in-law Clifford Robinson of Portland and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by three brothers Clarence Jr., Herbert and Frederick.

Funeral services were held Sunday morning, March 26, at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be in the family plot in Center Cemetery, Portland at a later date. Friends called at the funeral home Sunday morning, before the service.

The family would like to thank nurses and doctors at Middlesex Hospital Hospice for their care and kindness during Robert's illness.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Portland United Methodist Church or the Portland Fire Department.

Colchester

John Albert Knutsen

John Albert Knutsen, 81, of Colchester, formerly of East Greenwich, R.I., widower of the late Marie T. (Soderlund) Knutsen, passed away Tuesday, March 28, at Gladeview Rehabilitation Center in Old Saybrook.



Born Feb. 27, 1936 in Brooklyn, N.Y., John was the son of the late Knute and Margaret (Jensen) Knutsen Klevin. While growing up, he made family visits to Norway, which fostered and nurtured his Viking Pride.

After completing his service with the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Saratoga and at Quonset Point, R.I., John began work at Pratt & Whitney. During his 25-year career (before retiring as a senior product quality support analyst), he traveled extensively across the country as well as to Europe and Asia, providing support to manufacturers of jet engine parts. While raising his family in Colchester, he was active in the community serving as President of both FISH (Friends In Service Here) and the PTO.

Following his successful career at P&W, he was able to retire early. During his "retirement," he enjoyed working at the former Lebanon Sports Centre, visiting family and friends and taking long walks on the Air Line Trail. An avid outdoorsman, he especially loved to fish and shared that passion by teaching inner city kids to fly fish with "Trout Unlimited" and assisting the CT DEEP stocking local rivers and streams with fish.

Along with his beloved wife of 57 years, Marie, who predeceased him on Dec. 29, 2016, John was an active member of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in East Greenwich. He was well-known for his mission of making countless inspirational "Sailor's" Crosses – outward symbols of Hope, Love, and Salvation and his deep faith.

He leaves three children, Debora Knutsen-Sterling and her husband, Jon Sterling, Laurie Anne Knutsen and her husband, Ed Marman and Paul Knutsen and his wife, Amy McGuire-Knutsen; grandchildren, Edward, Jenifer, David, Courtney, Olin, Jessie, Cori, Nicholas, Vander and Maja Grace; two great-grandsons, Eddie and Steven; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and special family friends, Manu, Ray and Keven.

The family would like to send special thanks to both the Colchester Senior Center for providing transportation, friendship and Meals on Wheels in his later years, as well as the team at Gladeview, who have become extended family members while providing care for John as well as Marie.

Visitation will be held 5-7 p.m. today, March 31, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Funeral services will be observed at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 1, directly at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 118 Division St., East Greenwich, RI. The family will receive guests at the church from 10-11 a.m. Saturday, prior to the service. Burial with military honors will follow in the Glenwood Cemetery, East Greenwich.

Donations in his memory may be made to the First Evangelical Lutheran Church Pastor's Discretionary Fund, 118 Division St., East Greenwich, RI 02818.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.